

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Community Hall
10 Galena, Alaska
11 November 3, 2015
12 8:15 a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Jack Reakoff, Chairman
18 Ray Collins
19 Timothy Gervais
20 Don Honea
21 Carl Morgan - (Telephonic)
22 Pollock Simon
23 Darrel Vent

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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Galena, Alaska - 11/3/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So we're going to bring the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. We're having some problems making quorum. But we can't vote on anything at this point. We need to get at least another Council Member on the phone. And Tim Gervais has been having problems with some logistical problems getting out of Fairbanks also. So we're going to establish a quorum at this point or call roll -- excuse me -- for who is actually here. And Melinda.

MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Jenny Pelkola is not able to be with us. Jenny sends along her sincere apologies. She had an invitation to go to a wonderful event in Russia for a couple of weeks, so she sends along her sincere apologies she's not able to be here. And she says she'll be thinking about us this week as we go through this meeting.

I will go ahead and call the roll for Jenny for right now.

Robert Walker is not here. Robert was not able to get a flight. We had some logistical difficulties on this trip.

Don Honea.

MR. HONEA: Here.

MS. BURKE: Pollock Simon, Sr.

MR. SIMON: Here.

MS. BURKE: Ray Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MS. BURKE: Jack Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. BURKE: Darrel Vent.

1 MR. VENT: Here.
2
3 MS. BURKE: Tim Gervais will join us
4 later. James Walker is unable to be here due to
5 illness. Jenny Pelkola is not here and Carl Morgan was
6 not able to make it.
7
8 Mr. Chair, currently we have five
9 members. Hopefully we will get at least a couple of
10 folks joining us on the phone and Tim later today to
11 establish a quorum.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.
14
15 And so, Ray, would you like to give the
16 invocation?
17
18 (Invocation)
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll welcome an
21 introduction.
22
23 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, Erica Frankson,
24 the Second Chief, will be joining us a little later to
25 do a welcome from the Tribe and from the community.
26 But I think we should just go ahead and do the in the
27 room and on the phone introductions. And as folks come
28 in, we can ask them to come up and identify themselves.
29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll have the phone
31 people give their introduction first.
32
33 Is anybody on the phone.
34
35 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Good morning, Mr.
36 Chair. My name is Jeff Estensen. I'm with the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game. I'm the fall season
38 manager for the Yukon Area. I'm calling now from
39 Fairbanks this morning.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jeff.
42
43 Go ahead.
44
45 MR. ILLINGWORTH: Good morning. This
46 is Kevin Illingworth from UAF Tribal Management
47 Program.
48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Kevin.
50

1 Anybody else on there.
2
3 MS. MORAN: This is Tina Moran, with
4 the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. I'm the Deputy
5 Manager and I'm calling from Fairbanks.
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Tina.
8
9 MS. MONCRIEFF: And this is Catherine
10 Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
11 Association.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,
14 Catherine.
15
16 MS. MONCRIEFF: Good morning.
17
18 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill Klein
19 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, calling in
20 from the Commissioner's Office.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Jill.
23
24 MS. KLEIN: Good morning.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anyone else on the
27 phone.
28
29 Okay. And so we'll go around the room
30 here and introduce our Staff. Just stand up and call
31 your name.
32
33 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas with the Office of
34 Subsistence Management.
35
36 MS. INGLES: Palma Ingles, Office of
37 Subsistence Management also.
38
39 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Office of
40 Subsistence Management.
41
42 MS. JULIANUS: Erin Julianus, BLM
43 Central Yukon Field Office.
44
45 MR. KEITH: Chris Keith, Central Yukon
46 Field Office, BLM.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, Refuge
49 Subsistence Coordinator -- let's see if I get it right.
50 Kanuti, Arctic, and Yukon Flats.

1 MR. HAVENOR: Jeremy Havenor. I'm out
2 of Galena Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the Regional
3 Subsistence Coordinator here.

4
5 MS. PETRIVELLI: BIA Subsistence
6 Anthropologist out of Anchorage.

7
8 MR. MOLLNOW: Ryan Mollnow, Fish and
9 Wildlife Service out of Anchorage.

10
11 MR. MOOS: Good morning. Kenton Moos,
12 Refuge Manager for Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko
13 Refuges.

14
15 MR. REBARCHIK: I'm Bob Rebarchik. I'm
16 the Deputy Manager for the Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko
17 National Wildlife Refuges.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Seth Wilson with the
20 Department of Fish and Game Subsistence Division.

21
22 MR. SCOTTON: And I'm Brad Scotton, a
23 Supervisory Wildlife Biologist and a pilot for the
24 Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko Refuge here in Galena.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Staff.

27
28 And I hear a couple more beeps on the
29 phone. Is somebody else on there.

30
31 MS. RATTENBURY: Good morning, Mr.
32 Chair. This is Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service
33 in Fairbanks.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Kumi.

36
37 Anyone else.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that is
42 our people on the phone and in the room here. And we
43 can't adopt the agenda unless we have a quorum.

44
45 We can't adopt the minutes.

46
47 We can do Council Member reports. And
48 so we'll go around the table here with the five Council
49 Members that we have.

50

1 And go ahead, Don.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 Can you guys hear out there pretty
6 good? I don't know how this is. It's okay -- okay.

7

8 Well, good morning, everyone. It's
9 good to be here in Galena. I appreciate the housing.
10 We always have pretty good housing up there. And also
11 the feed that the community put on last night. I
12 appreciate that. I appreciate the outgoing -- the
13 personality of the Refuge Manager and his Staff here in
14 Galena. And appreciate the transportation. It was
15 kind of iffy, but -- coming. And I really hate to see
16 any of our Members not here because I actually don't
17 know what's going on their community. That's why when
18 somebody is missing, like Carl from Aniak or the Walker
19 guys from the -- I don't know their problems. I don't
20 know what they're facing.

21

22 And also while I'm at it, I just wanted
23 to say that -- you know, that I enjoy it in the
24 communities wherever we go for public comment. I think
25 that's real important. I mean, you know, maybe we
26 could reiterate that throughout the meeting, but public
27 comment whether it seems trivial or not is important.
28 To me it's important. To -- I believe to the Council
29 to hear what your concerns are. And even though
30 there's no one here right now, I'd just like to be able
31 to repeat that. I'd like to hear public comment. I
32 think it's important.

33

34 I was at the Eastern Interior RAC
35 meeting a couple of weeks ago and I think it's
36 important that, you know, if we are in that area or
37 something to support each other's proposals. I got a
38 good, warm welcome from them and I believe it makes a
39 lot of difference when we are in public and not just
40 supporting that. And I also -- also any proposal I
41 believe are important. If someone is there to testify
42 on the behalf of the proposal. I seen where they've
43 run into proposals by some village or something and no
44 one is online or anything to support those proposals.
45 I think that's really important because I don't know if
46 they're, you know, really serious about that or not.
47 So I think that -- you know, that we gain a foothold
48 with other RACs and I think that's -- to work together,
49 to support each other I think is a good thing.

50

1 It's good to hear Kevin Illingworth on
2 the phone here. I think in the next couple of weeks,
3 about the middle of the month, there's going to be Co-
4 Management Symposium for a couple of days put on at the
5 university. And I actually invite the Council Members
6 if they wanted to attend. I mean I attended the Tribal
7 Management Hunting and Fishing Task Force thing when I
8 was up there prior to the Eastern RAC meeting. And,
9 you know, even though I've been on here a number of
10 years, there's still a lot to learn and digest about
11 this whole system. So, you know, it's not like that --
12 you know, that there isn't something that we can get
13 out of it.

14
15 That concludes my report. But I'd just
16 like to say the numbers were high -- fishing I -- I'm
17 actually looking for fish. I mean if anybody in the
18 Galena area want to sell me some fish or give me some
19 fish, whatever. But I don't want that to be a part of
20 the report, but.....

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. HONEA: But the hard thing I think,
25 you know, was -- it was pretty good. I think everybody
26 -- you know what I mean? I've just been hearing about
27 it. And anybody trying to ask for a winter hunting or
28 something like that that's Refuge stuff. And I believe
29 everyone is taken care of in that respect.

30
31 Again, I really wish that the -- the
32 Council Members, I feel like we're a skeleton crew.
33 And if we can't do action items then at least we could
34 give our reports.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Those
41 are some very important points you've brought out.
42 That should be -- you know, the local villages that
43 are going to have proposals near their areas should be
44 on the phone with the Councils to dialogue during the
45 deliberation process. I do think that that's so -- for
46 some of these proposals we have, if some of these
47 affect certain communities we should get them on the
48 phone, call them up and make sure they're on the phone
49 so that they can have input. I do want to see that.
50 And I would encourage more radio release as well we're

1 meeting here so that we can people come in to comment
2 on various things. I mean there's some fellows showing
3 up here right now. They might have some comments here
4 in a little bit. And so I think you did make some real
5 valid points there.

6

7 So Pollock, do you got your Council
8 Member report. Go ahead.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Good morning. My name's
11 Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket.

12

13 For a couple years we have been doing
14 wolf predator control, the State was doing it and this
15 year (indiscernible) so that's the (indiscernible) is
16 working. Now, if we can get the king salmon back we
17 can get some king salmon for our diet for our Native
18 peoples. There's so many rules and regulations, we
19 can't take king salmon for our personal use. It always
20 has been take as needed, take the fish that we needed
21 but the State and then the Feds came in and took over
22 management and king salmon disappeared. Now, we want
23 to eat king salmon but we can't take it because so
24 hopefully (indiscernible).

25

26 At this meeting has been the first week
27 in October for years and now the meetings are moved all
28 the way to November and the meetings in the villages
29 could be kind of crowded, I have to go home and stay
30 home for three days and then just rush to a meeting in
31 a village so I'm a little tired from working but I
32 traditionally trap, that's my livelihood and hunting
33 season -- the season is still open, you know, the trap
34 line (indiscernible) but that's my livelihood.....

35

36 MR. RIVARD: Excuse me for
37 interrupting, if I am. But this is Don Rivard calling
38 from Anchorage. For the last five minutes or so, I
39 have not been able to hear anything.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, they're
42 turning up the mic on Pollock's phone there -- or mic
43 there.

44

45 Try that, Pollock. Go ahead.

46

47 MR. SIMON: Okay. So.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hear him
50 now?

1 MR. RIVARD: Yes, Jack. I can hear you
2 well.
3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can hear me.
5 But can you hear Pollock?
6
7 MR. RIVARD: I just can hear you.
8
9 MR. SIMON: Okay. So the meeting
10 dates.....
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you hear Pollock
13 at all?
14
15 MR. RIVARD: It's very, very faint.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Very, very faint.
18 Can you turn that mic up, hmm.
19
20 Try that, Pollock.
21
22 MR. SIMON: Okay. Can you hear me?
23
24 MR. RIVARD: I can hear you now. Yes.
25 Thank you.
26
27 MR. SIMON: Okay. I was talking about
28 the meeting dates. I wish this meeting would go back
29 to the first week in October so that they have one
30 meeting just about every month. Like I was saying, I
31 trap, go out on trapline in November, it's my
32 livelihood and now the first week and second week of
33 November go to meetings. I lost two weeks already.
34
35 So that's my comments.
36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sorry about that.
40 Thanks for bringing that to our attention, Don. I'll
41 try and get the Council Members to speak into the mics.
42
43 And is your mic all the way up? Let's
44 turn that thing up there? Okay. Try that, Ray. Go
45 ahead.
46
47 MR. COLLINS: Okay. The red light, is
48 it on, yeah, okay. Yeah.
49
50 Well, I'm sorry that we lost the battle

1 to try to keep the Innoko Refuge open in McGrath. But
2 they did leave one position there. Claire Demintieff,
3 who is from Holy Cross, so she's familiar with the
4 villages on the Yukon and in the McGrath area, which
5 really helps. There was a lot of use of the Refuge
6 again by hunters coming through McGrath. Willow Air
7 sets up there and flies hunters out. Mostly non-
8 residents out of McGrath. But Willow Air does do a
9 good job of bringing meat back and distributing it in
10 the community, which is very useful. They have some
11 Staff in McGrath that stay there through the season and
12 they call around. And we got calls as elders whether
13 we wanted meat or not, but I'd already gotten my own
14 moose. So I'm glad to see that's working and I'm
15 hoping that at least they keep that token Staff there
16 in McGrath.

17

18 And we're hearing good reports on the
19 bison. I was at a school board meeting over in
20 Shageluk and the bison were -- the plane that went in
21 before us, they had to wait for them to get off the
22 runway. And when we landed they were all -- at least
23 part of the group was right alongside the runway
24 because the grass has stayed on longer. In fact, I
25 still got moose. When I left in about the 20th of
26 October, they were still coming in eating grass in my
27 yard. The moose cows and calves, there are some of
28 them that stay right in McGrath.

29

30 I represent the Western Interior
31 Council on the Kuskokwim Salmon Working Group and this
32 year because the low escapement we kept the kings
33 pretty well closed all season except for a limited
34 amount of take per community. And I've argued for
35 years that there should be higher escapement in the
36 Upper Yukon -- or I mean the Upper Kuskokwim. The
37 people at Nikolai used to put in a fish fence there and
38 I had a report of somebody in 1950, they put up 1,600
39 king salmon over at Salmon River. And that's about all
40 the fish that were getting back in recent years. But
41 they put a weir in this year and we had that closure
42 and the number jumped up to 6,800. And that's off of
43 low returns, so if we get that population up maybe we
44 -- but we're going to have to keep it up for -- it's
45 been two years now that they've had the early closures.
46 They're the first in the river. So I know the people
47 down river have to pay a price, but it really pays to
48 try to get that spawning numbers back up again.

49

50 And that's the same I think what

1 Pollock is saying. If they can get those spawners up
2 there and it'll help in the Koyukuk River, too if they
3 can make it to the spawning grounds. So that working
4 group's well and now there's a new fishery group being
5 formed there. And I think we're going to hear about
6 that a little later in the meeting. That has more
7 Tribal involvement. But we've got to continue the
8 efforts I think and pay the price now for better
9 returns in the future of keeping the catch low on king
10 salmon.

11
12 In terms of wildlife on Federal lands,
13 I'm also on Denali Park SRC. And we did get approval
14 for a winter hunt for the people in Nikolai and Telida,
15 who historically used part of the Park extension. And
16 they've got a winter season approved. And on the State
17 side we've got a winter season approved, too, for them
18 to hunt. And they can take up to ten. It was open for
19 five sheep this year. But we're running into problems.
20 It's no aircraft. They have to travel on the ground.
21 And it wasn't safe to travel. Still isn't safe now.
22 So I don't know when all the creeks are going to freeze
23 up and we're going to get enough snow that somebody
24 could make it up the mountain. But hopefully they'll
25 be able to go out under State regs and hunt or make a
26 trip out of Telida to go into the Denali Park extension
27 there where they can get some sheep in the winter.

28
29 Historically, they went out there when
30 they opened the trap lines out to the Range. And they
31 would around Christmastime get a half a dozen trip or
32 so and bring them back and share them with the whole
33 village. So everybody in the community benefitted from
34 it and that's why we were trying to establish that
35 winter season again.

36
37 I guess that's all I have for now.

38
39 But -- yeah, I'll continue to represent
40 the group on the Working Group for Salmon Management on
41 the Kuskokwim.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
44 the work you've done on the Kuskokwim River Salmon
45 Working Group, Ray. The protections have caused up
46 river returns that are necessary to get good recovery.
47 And so we -- I mean we're under-represented on the
48 Kuskokwim on the Council and so I really appreciate all
49 the hard work you've put into that representing the
50 Western Interior Region.

1 And Darrel, you've got your report.

2

3 MR. VENT: Let me turn my microphone on
4 she says, turn it on. All right. Okay.

5

6 I think since the meeting we had in
7 Fairbanks earlier this year, I thought that was a good
8 meeting because we got all -- everybody's, you know,
9 problems voiced. I know we learned a little from the
10 other Advisory Councils. It's a learning process for
11 me. This is my second meeting. I haven't been here as
12 long as some of these guys here, so I appreciate all
13 the information that I get from them. It's -- let's
14 see here. How should I put this.

15

16 Well, you know, I always address our
17 issues from our area and I try to voice it through Jack
18 or Pollock because I know they're in our areas. And it
19 seems like that -- you know, that that's very helpful.
20 So now we had this meeting in October on co-management
21 and it seems like, you know, there's a lot of things in
22 there that addresses some of the issues that we can't
23 get across when we're on the Federal and State level.
24 It's something maybe that might be key for us to get in
25 there and maybe equalize everything and make sure that,
26 you know, our voices are heard. Because sometimes we
27 have that problem where we get lost in the woodwork
28 when we're trying to address a problem and it's not
29 taken care of.

30

31 For instance, you know, the State, they
32 didn't have a meeting with us for our advisory for
33 almost a year now. So, you know, there's no way to
34 address our concerns. And me and Jack are on the
35 Advisory Council and I know, you know, we get some
36 email. That's good for some of us, but not a lot of us
37 can get email, you know, so I'm hoping that we get
38 something done this December in a meeting. And also
39 that we're going to have a bigger Federal Subsistence
40 Meeting coming up maybe in March or something. So I'm
41 kind of excited about that. That gets to address the
42 whole Alaska on that one and see other people's
43 problems. See how they addressed it and maybe we can
44 learn how to address our problems in our area.

45

46 So far, you know, in our area we still
47 have been having a lot of problems with our moose. We
48 do have a lot of hunters in there. We don't know what
49 the count is. I haven't heard any numbers for what the
50 cow/calf ratio or the moose -- the bull moose

1 population. And it's kind of concerning because we've
2 been noticing that, you know, there's been a lot more
3 predators. And especially since I remember when we
4 used to go out when we were about in the '80s, we never
5 used to bring a rifle out. Maybe a shotgun or a .22,
6 but, you know, now when we go out, we have to bring a
7 rifle every time because we've been having problems
8 with the grizzlies. I mean these -- they've been going
9 everywhere. And when we started seeing their tracks on
10 the beach, we never used to see a lot of that a long
11 time ago. But now it's, you know, becoming a concern.
12 And I know they've been working pretty hard on those
13 cow/calves, so the ratio down there is probably pretty
14 low on account of them. And so once you start hunting
15 the moose up there -- you know, the ones with the big
16 horns, that's the breeding stock there. And you're
17 going to kind of affect the cow and calf ratio because
18 they don't have a better chance of survival because the
19 strain is not there.

20

21 So some things that we need to address
22 in our area is that.

23

24 And also with the caribou, we used to
25 have caribou coming over -- I remember when they were
26 telling stories in the early 1970s that the caribous
27 come right over into the village. Well, once they put
28 the Pipeline in that kind of affected us. We don't see
29 that caribou no more. But we have one herd that comes
30 from the other way, from the Kobuk River Valley. And
31 they used to come into the valley from that side.
32 Well, the last two years we haven't seen any. We've
33 seen a few, but not -- you know, not like we used to
34 see it. You know, that's kind of concerning to me.
35 Because we live on these animals and, you know, it's
36 our subsistence. And it's a priority class. And once
37 you don't start seeing these and they start affecting
38 our people, you know, we have a lot of people. I mean
39 our population's growing up there. It's not declining
40 like everywhere -- a lot of other villages. We're one
41 of the few fortunate to have a, you know, increase in
42 our village, but it's affecting us in a bad way right
43 now because we can't use our subsistence as much as we
44 want to.

45

46 And the fish, there's been a little bit
47 of kings I heard, but not like back earlier when there
48 was a lot of fish. But, you know, still we're glad to
49 see that. But we've been noticing, you know, in our
50 area that we have some problems up there with the pike.

1 They've been eating our ducks. They've been eating our
2 muskrat. They've been eating the baby fish. I mean
3 these pikes are not small anymore. They're getting up
4 in size where their mouth is big. They can eat a whole
5 duck almost with some of the pikes we've been catching
6 up there. So we noticed that we had an increase in
7 that and we never used to have that problem, but the
8 only thing that stopped us from catching the pike in
9 the springtime is we used to block off the creeks in
10 the early spring. That way we would get the whole
11 bunch of them right there. We'd, you know, stop the
12 breeding. I mean, you know, keep them from
13 multiplying. But now we can't do that because they've
14 been taking our nets because you can't block off the
15 streams.

16
17 So that's been affecting us and
18 nobody's been you know, trying to take care of this
19 problem. And I think we're going to have to address
20 this one of these times because it's getting an
21 overabundance. And that's an invasive species, so, you
22 know, it comes in and there's no way stopping them.
23 Unless you do what we've been trying to do. But we're
24 not the only ones that's going to have to address this
25 issue pretty soon. It's going to have to be the State
26 or whoever applied these rules that you can't block the
27 streams off. They're going to have to figure out how
28 to help us out on this. And I think that's one of the
29 issues that's predator management.

30
31 Also, with our moose we don't have
32 predator management plan. There's no way of decreasing
33 their predators. If you're going to increase the moose
34 hunting you've got to work on the predators. You can't
35 leave it up to the people in the villages. It's pretty
36 costly. It's -- you know, if you're going to put --
37 you're going to take the money out for moose hunting or
38 something, please, you know, think about doing a
39 maintenance program with the predators.

40
41 That's my report.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
44 Darrel.

45
46 When Koyukuk gives a report maybe you
47 could go over where the Western Herd is in relation to
48 Huslia. I know the Western Herd's way west the last
49 couple of years, so to bring the Council up to speed
50 where the Western Herd is.

1 There's a lot of people in a lot of
2 places. Anaktuvuk Pass didn't have any caribou at all
3 this fall. They were killing moose. They don't hardly
4 ever kill moose. They're eating moose and people are
5 in hardship. And the people are always wondering where
6 the caribou are at. So when we get a report maybe we
7 can go over basically where Teshekpuk and Western
8 Arctic is for the Council's edification, so people can
9 go home and talk about where the caribou are actually
10 at.

11

12 And -- yes.

13

14 MS. BURKE: I know we have had a couple
15 more folks join us on the phone. I want to see if any
16 of those callers are Council Members. Any of the
17 Walkers? Or Tim? I know he was going to try to join
18 us between him flying here this afternoon.

19

20 Any Council Members on the line who
21 would like to identify themselves and give their
22 report.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any new people join
27 the call though. We want to list those also.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've been hearing
32 the phone bleeping. And are there more people than had
33 previously signed in.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Okay. So I'll
38 give my report. I -- well, our meeting was in early
39 March. And the Board of Game passed significant
40 caribou regulations after our meeting, so I submitted a
41 proposal which we will review to align Federal and
42 State regulations on caribou in the -- for the Western
43 Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou. And that entailed
44 multiple game management units. And that was to get a
45 placeholder for the Councils in the Federal program to
46 review the caribou regulations and to talk about the
47 declines of those two herds and the agreed upon
48 restrictions. And so that's one thing that I did.

49

50 I participated in the .804 priority

1 requests that were on the -- for the Kuskokwim and the
2 Yukon River and made comments on those. And when were
3 those. Those were like in early March -- or
4 correction, early April-ish. And then this Council
5 participated in the pilot program for InterTribal
6 management on the Kuskokwim River. And on August 17th
7 I was on a conference call with Regional Director Geoff
8 Haskett and his Staff regarding that preliminary plan
9 that they've been working on that this Council will
10 review. But in the off season I'm also dealing with
11 these kinds of issues.

12
13 I've been tracking the State's progress
14 on the sheep issues with the Board of Game and working
15 from the Koyukuk River and this Council also made
16 comments on the Board Proposals last -- at our last
17 meeting. The Board has made a -- I think it was
18 October 12th, the Board of Game is delineating a work
19 group. And I've wanted to have the Koyukuk River meet
20 on that, but that work group is going to have its first
21 meeting on the 5th of December. So the Regional
22 Council has received an invitation. And I would like
23 to represent the Regional Council to that work group
24 because currently there's mis-matched management
25 objectives within the Alaska Department of Fish and
26 Game. And we have guiding issues on the State BLM and
27 private lands, we've got -- there's a whole bunch of
28 problems with dall sheep and the dall sheep population
29 has declined significantly in different areas. And so
30 when we get a quorum I would like the Council to make
31 an appointment to that work group. It's a very
32 important working group. And to work out sustained
33 yields, management for healthy populations of dall
34 sheep. And so that's dall sheep in the northern part
35 of the Western Interior and the eastern portion of the
36 Western Interior for the Alaska range portion are --
37 dall sheep are important to this Council.

38
39 The conditions -- we had an early break
40 up timing. I saw lots of moose calves born. I see
41 lots of moose calves -- the moose calved on time.
42 There was bringing the food -- feed when the cows had
43 the calves and the dall sheep had the lambs. And for
44 the moose, they moved off the Valley Corridor and they
45 moved, disbursed and so the bears had a harder time
46 concentrating on the moose calves. And so I see decent
47 numbers of moose calves this fall. I also see that the
48 size of the calves and the lambs are very large. And I
49 talked to Jim Dau and they weigh the calves for caribou
50 crossing the Kobuk River and they were the largest they

1 had ever weighed for like 20-something years. And so
2 that's reflecting also. So the 2014 on time break up,
3 very rainy fall or summer allowed those cows and
4 females to be very healthy and fat and produce good
5 calf weights and then the spring was good for them, so
6 not everything is dark with these populations.

7
8 The caribou have declined, but I'm
9 hoping that we're going to start into a turnaround.
10 But the down side is we've got four inch, three inches
11 of hard snow. We've got eight inches of snow and then
12 it rained on top of that and the snow is glazed in the
13 southern edge of the Brooks Range. And the Central
14 Brooks Range is softer snow, but the snow is not real
15 deep right now. And so we're hoping for good winters
16 to get recovery on these -- for grazing animals, dall
17 sheep and caribou, that's going to be a big deal. For
18 moose that doesn't -- no effect. Other than moose fall
19 on ice. Darrel you fell down walking over here. Moose
20 fall on ice. They get broken legs a lot. You get an
21 icy year like this, you get a lot -- moose get hurt a
22 lot. And so that's not a good thing. But in general
23 it's a good year for the moose.

24
25 And so that's all I have right now.

26
27 And we'll -- for when Tim or Robert or
28 any of our Council Members come online, we want to get
29 their report also.

30
31 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, Jenny just
32 wanted to pass along to the Council for her community
33 report there are still concerns from this community and
34 from the Tribe about outside hunting and some of the
35 different issues that come from that. I do have
36 Resolution Number 30 from Louden Tribal Council that
37 she would like submitted into the record. And perhaps
38 I'll hold onto this and perhaps Erica Frankson, when
39 comes to give us a welcome, perhaps she'd like to
40 submit it to the RAC. But Jenny wanted to pass that
41 along.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

48
49 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I have one thing
50 to add to my report you -- that I had forgotten, too.

1 I'm aware of that working group that's
2 being formed and I have put in an application. They're
3 meeting today to choose the members of that by audio
4 conference and they had an October 26 deadline for
5 application. But we could go ahead and act on your
6 behalf, too. But if I'm appointed today, then I would
7 be one source of getting input in on that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you would be for
10 the McGrath Advisory?

11

12 MR. COLLINS: Well, no. They asked --
13 I made an application and I mentioned that all my
14 involvement in Fish and Game -- they're looking at all
15 those issues. I've been involved on the State level
16 and I've been involved on the Federal level.
17 Personally have hunted sheep and actually assistant
18 guide at one time. But they're meeting today in an
19 audio conference that you can listen in on, but they
20 will be choosing the members today, is my
21 understanding. That's the email I got back from them.
22 Sometime today.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Well, I was
25 told by Board support that the Councils would have
26 additional time to make appointments.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Oh.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so they -- I
31 think that maybe it's the individuals, but the Advisory
32 Committees and the RACs have additional time to make
33 appointments, I think. That was my understanding
34 talking to Board support for Fish and Game.

35

36 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, would you like
37 me to hand out the letter from October 20th from the
38 State? From Kristy Tibbles, Board of Game, about the
39 sheep group.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

42

43 MS. BURKE: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Since we're on this
46 issue, the Council can review this letter. And so it
47 delineates, outlines what the work group is. And it's
48 an invitation. And they were of the understanding that
49 this Council was going to meet after the selection
50 process of individuals. You know, there's going to be

1 individuals that are going to have like non-game use of
2 dall sheep and then there's going to be individuals
3 that represent the Alaska Group Council and there will
4 be all these various individuals. But the Advisory
5 Committees and the Councils were getting these
6 invitations and so they didn't fall under that time
7 constraint of October 26th. That was my understanding.
8 And so when we get a quorum here, then we'll address
9 that.

10

11 So the Council members that are here
12 can review that letter at your leisure.

13

14 And so we've covered the -- did we get
15 another Council Member. Are you on the phone, Robert
16 Walker?

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm looking for
21 another Council member here. I hear none. So we'll
22 continue on with public and Tribal comments on non-
23 agenda items. And we've had several people walk into
24 the back of the room and at this point we invite you up
25 to the mic if you want to speak to the Council about
26 any issue that you're having here that's not on the
27 agenda or just speak your mind. I'm requesting anybody
28 in the back of the room that wants to come up here.

29

30 Got something to say, Fred? Well,
31 you've got to come to the mic though. It's got to be
32 recorded. Come to this table.

33

34 MR. DEMOSKI: Good morning. My name is
35 Arnold Demoski. I work for the Nulato Tribe. You guys
36 were talking about moose hunting and how we're having
37 trouble with outside hunters. I was talking to one of
38 our Tribal members in Nulato and he suggested how come
39 we don't put a corridor along the Yukon for outside
40 hunters. That would protect Native allotments and it
41 would easier for the residential hunters to hunt
42 because the outside hunter would have to go beyond the
43 corridor. I told him I'd bring it up to you guys here
44 and see what you guys thought about that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anyone want to make
47 comment on that.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Federal
2 regulations only cover Federal public lands. And so we
3 can't make a corridor on -- well, you know, what you
4 would be talking about is a closure to non-subsistence
5 use on Federal lands, is what that would actually
6 entail. And if you look at the Innoko Refuge there is
7 not very much Federal lands. It comes right up against
8 the river. And so that's kind of the problem. So
9 there would be this checkerboard. Basically there
10 would only be that, on the map I'm looking at, real
11 small areas just below Nulato where that actually would
12 apply. The State and Corp lands fall under State
13 regulations and so it really wouldn't do entirely what
14 you would like it to do.

15
16 That's what the problem is.

17
18 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you've got a
21 State-controlled use area, but the State of Alaska's
22 not prone to making exclusive use areas for rural
23 residents. So that's why that has not happened.

24
25 And does that address your question?

26
27 MR. DEMOSKI: No. Yeah. I told them
28 I'd bring it up and get an answer from you guys. And
29 I'm sure there's something that's going to be -- I was
30 sure there was going to be something like that said,
31 but I told them I'd bring it up and see what you guys
32 thought. I thought it was a pretty good idea, but if
33 we can't do it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we understand
36 that, you know, the people are having a hard time
37 getting their moose, but, you know, we get all this
38 State and Federal land overlap, especially like that
39 Innoko area where there's just hardly really very much
40 Federal land. It really wouldn't do -- we could pass
41 it, but then people would be -- the non-local people
42 would still be hunting on the State and private lands.
43 So the State will not make a closure like that.

44
45 We've tried to get -- on the Corp lands
46 up by Allakaket we tried to get winter hunts on the
47 corporation lands and the Board of Game will not
48 approve them. So unless the Board of Game approves it
49 on the Corp lands, it was a no go. So we've tried
50 things like that before.

1 Do we have any other comments, Arnold?

2

3 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Sure.

6

7 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, can I.....

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

10

11 MS. BURKE: I just wanted to just from
12 my perspective here as a coordinator, it's been really
13 awesome to see Arnold the last couple of years
14 participating in our processes. The Board meetings,
15 I've been honored to attend a Tribal consultation and
16 community meeting out in his area and it's just really,
17 really encouraging to see someone Arnold's age taking
18 leadership roles in this process in his community. And
19 it's just really wonderful to see. And I know he's
20 been encouraging others -- other younger folks to apply
21 to be on the RAC and to get involved, so I think he's a
22 really great example of what the State needs as far as
23 these processes goes and the real link we need from in
24 between the generations.

25

26 So I just wanted to give him those
27 kudos while he's sitting here.

28

29 MR. DEMOSKI: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 also want to commend Arnold for attending the one we
35 had in Fairbanks. And also I kind of want to echo
36 exactly what he's saying. I mean I've heard that from
37 Tanana. I've heard it from other villages also. But I
38 believe the thing is enforcement in this whole thing.
39 I mean, you know, the guy from Tanana was talking about
40 corridors -- special corridors to be cordoned off or
41 whatever, not to be used or something. But, you know,
42 all the lands that we are looking at now that fall --
43 you know, like corporations and something until there's
44 something like the AHTNA case where it could be turned
45 into Federal jurisdiction if it went that far, you
46 know, the State would still have to -- we're speaking
47 about State jurisdiction and it's kind of messy.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 But I appreciate that. And, you know,
2 I mean that echoes a lot of sentiment out there. That
3 echoes -- a lot of what you're saying is true, you
4 know, and people are asking about that. So eventually,
5 you know, whether it goes into jurisdiction -- into
6 Federal jurisdiction or not, it's something that, you
7 know, I think we have to be up on.

8

9 Thank you though.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

12

13 MR. VENT: Hey, Arnold. I'd like you
14 to, you know, give your opinion of what made you
15 request for Federal -- you know, how did you go about
16 the process.

17

18 MR. DEMOSKI: For just what I talked
19 about?

20

21 MR. VENT: Yes. To invite the Federal
22 people down to Nulato.

23

24 MR. DEMOSKI: Okay. Well, I don't
25 know. I just felt like I think it was a smart idea
26 when it was brought up to me. I felt like we'd have
27 more control. The residential hunters would have more
28 control of our areas because we're having a lot of
29 trouble with outside hunters. There's a lot in our
30 area. Just thinking there's something we can do to
31 lower the numbers.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't have a
34 delineation of what those other lands are. I know what
35 the Federal lands are, which are not very many, but
36 those other lands must be Native Corp lands. You can
37 make your own corridor. You close those lands to but
38 shareholders. And you're the only one that can hunt
39 there from the mean highwater mark above that. Those
40 are your lands. You can control who can go on those
41 lands. And that's how you make this corridor, is
42 actually you make your own corridor. You close those
43 lands to non -- and you post them. And then no one --
44 no non-local people can hunt there period.

45

46 So it doesn't have to be the Federal
47 government. It can be -- Nulato Native Corporation can
48 actually do that. Those are your lands. And under
49 reality, the State of Alaska has been requested to make
50 Federal -- or a rural priority for the people who own

1 the land. So you can make -- you have a reason, you
2 just have problems with people trespassing on your Corp
3 lands. That's what the problem is. And you need to
4 post your lands. And then you make your own corridor.
5 That's where you -- you know where the Federal lands
6 are and you know where your lands are at. And no one's
7 supposed to be hunting there but you period. So that's
8 what you -- you have the control already because it's
9 your land. But you have to know where -- you can't
10 close the State lands and you can't close the Federal
11 lands, but you can close the Corp lands, which I think
12 are probably the majority of the lands right in Nulato
13 -- across the river and around Nulato I think that's
14 mostly Corp land.

15

16 And that's what empowers the
17 Corporations. They can actually close their lands and
18 then no one else can hunt there period. Of course the
19 State doesn't like that. You know, they like to say
20 that they're in control of the management, but if I go
21 down to Montana and I see a deer out in somebody's
22 pasture, that's that guy's pasture. I can't shoot that
23 deer unless he gives me permission to go hunting there.
24 That's the way it is down in the States. Those are
25 your lands. It's the same thing. You're the rancher.
26 You own that land and you can control the access of who
27 goes there. So you can go back to Nulato and talk
28 about that.

29

30 Go ahead, Melinda.

31

32 MS. BURKE: Yeah. And I just wanted to
33 follow up with that Darrel was asking. I think you
34 might have been asking some particulars of how Nulato
35 got the Tribal consultation with -- is that? And
36 Orville Lind, our new Native liaison, is not here at
37 this meeting with us, but we do have a new Native
38 liaison in our office, Orville Lind. Orville has been
39 with us for just a little over a year, I believe, and
40 consultations can be requested at any time from any
41 community. We've had really wonderful participation
42 from Federal Subsistence Board members. We had a
43 really great gathering in Nulato first with the Tribe
44 and then Jeremy accompanied us and we were able to have
45 a community meeting. Had a really great question and
46 answer session with them regarding the special action
47 that the community was submitting. And it was a really
48 great discussion and we hope to see more that. We
49 don't want Tribes to hesitate on giving Orville a call.
50 He's there in the office. He serves all of the Tribes

1 within the State. And consultations are happening and
2 they're at your service to hold these sessions.

3
4 So it's not just those regularly
5 scheduled telephone sessions that we've been having
6 pre-RAC cycle and pre-Board meeting. We encourage the
7 Tribes. Give Orville a call if there's an issue, he
8 can direct you to the right person and have whatever
9 actions the Tribes feel appropriate.

10
11 So just wanted to throw that out there.
12 There's a lot of folks who still don't realize that
13 Orville is with us and we do have a full time
14 designated Native liaison now. So never hesitate to
15 give Orville a call. And there's still some parts of
16 the State he'd like to have more interaction with. So
17 Orville Lind is a really addition to our Staff and he's
18 there to serve the Tribes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Thanks for
21 pointing that out, Melinda. Orville's a real good guy.
22 He seems to be very active and out doing stuff and I'm
23 real happy with him.

24
25 Any anybody else want to come up to the
26 mic and talk about any issue around Galena here. Can
27 you hear me back there. I can't shout any louder.

28
29 Come on up. Turn the mic on and give
30 us a chat.

31
32 MR. EVANS: Yeah. We've got a problem
33 with hunters -- airplane hunters.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to state
36 your name for the record?

37
38 MR. EVANS: This is Dick Evans from
39 Galena. I've been here 76 years. I'll give you an
40 example right off the bat. This -- you would have to
41 land over there and there's hunters that come in and
42 trespass. They've got float planes. And this is just
43 before dark. I was coming back. I see one of the
44 local guys had a moose there. So I stopped to give him
45 a hand. And I can hear a plane take off from Galena.
46 A float plane. And we started listening and it was
47 coming straight to that moose. Where he got that
48 moose. So that airplane hunter had to be watching that
49 moose. And there are no lakes on it. It's flats in
50 there. And I told the guy he was -- this guy had that

1 moose spotted. So you know doggone well he's not going
2 to wait until the next day to go get it if he spotted
3 it or get to the river. Because they had a boat ready
4 to come over. And as soon as he saw it he just did a
5 180 and back to Galena.

6
7 And that's happened quite a few times
8 because we can't be in all the spots where our land is
9 at. You know, because you've got to work. You've got
10 things to do. And you've only got certain days when
11 the weather is too rough. But that's one of the main
12 problems there is airplane hunters. Those guides.
13 They go everywhere around there. People see them, but
14 nobody calls it in. The cell phones don't work out
15 there. We thought the cell phones would work when they
16 got that tower in there. We were saying oh, boy, now
17 we can call in. But nothing yet.

18
19 But that's what I'd like to see, more
20 control over those guys.

21
22 That's all I've got to say because it
23 makes everybody mad.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
28 comments, Dick.

29
30 Yeah. The.....

31
32 Do you got something to say there,
33 Darrel, go ahead.

34
35 MR. VENT: Yeah. I think some of the
36 issues that's going to be up and coming is that, you
37 know, I don't know about the regulations on
38 transporters. Because it seems like, you know, you can
39 get a transporter. They can come from anywhere and
40 bring someone in. And I haven't heard any regulations.
41 You know, I'm kind of concerned about it because I'm
42 noticing more and more transporting happening up in our
43 area, so I figure that's probably happening in all
44 these other areas, too. And it's something that, you
45 know, I think we should have more input on. I mean if,
46 you know, somebody advises on this, tell us, you know,
47 this is what they can do and this is what they can't
48 do. Because it seems like they can fly in from
49 anywhere and there's no regulations on it. Maybe we
50 have to start looking at ways to address it. I'm not

1 sure how that will be done though.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

4

5 Any other comments from the public.

6

7 Fred.

8

9 (Phone interruption)

10

11 MS. BURKE: I just want to remind the
12 folks on the phone, if you have a mute button it's
13 really helpful to keep the background noise from coming
14 in through here in the room. Thank you. Or pushing
15 star six also mutes your line via the teleconference
16 system.

17

18 Thanks, everybody.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

21

22 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. I'm Fred
23 Huntington from Galena. I've been living there for the
24 last 40 years. I've been born and raised in this area,
25 so I'm familiar with what Arnold and Dick Evans is
26 talking about when we're having the impact of outside
27 hunters. It's not necessarily on Federal lands we're
28 talking about, the local villages in our area, we have
29 a bunch of hunters come up from Wasilla and they camp
30 here until, you know, first day of moose season till
31 the last day of season. And they've got an airplane
32 flying recon and they've got three or four boats on
33 standby. And they're going -- you know, as long as
34 there's daylight, they're out there. And they get 20
35 to 30 moose a season right out of Galena. And it's not
36 necessarily on Federal lands. It's on -- you know,
37 between the villages. And it's not all Corporation
38 lands either. So they're familiar with it.

39

40 They've been using this practice for a
41 few years. They don't have to go to the control use
42 area to check in and check out. They bring their moose
43 in. Fly it out of Galena. And what it does, it's
44 taking away the local hunters' availability to get
45 moose because their resources are, you know, with
46 aircrafts. And one of my friends said he went to one
47 of the sloughs and the airplane was just taking off.
48 And so he reported it. He called Fish and Game and I
49 don't know if they followed up on it, but that's what
50 these two previous guys were talking about with outside

1 hunters coming into our villages and hunting. It's not
2 necessarily on Federal public lands, but it's in the
3 local areas where they have a clear avenue to do what
4 they do, except to use their spotter planes, which it's
5 a -- we talk to State troopers about it and it's hard
6 to nail them down because they're out there flying
7 around.

8

9 And we see them taking off from here
10 and then a few minutes later or a few hours later a
11 boat takes off and, you know, they camp over not too
12 far over here. And they've been doing this for the
13 last five years. And more apparently so now because
14 they're taking out more hunters. I mean it's like non-
15 licensed guide taking out hunters. A guide has to go
16 where he's permitted to, but these guys, they just go
17 right in this local area where there's abundance of
18 moose. And it affects the villages because of the
19 competition of the moose. So.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it -- you know, I
22 don't have a delineation of the lands around Galena
23 here. I see the Innoko Federal lands. I see some BLM
24 lands. But are those mostly State lands?

25

26 MR. HUNTINGTON: No. It's fragmented.
27 It's fragmented. There's State and Doyon and Gana'Yoo.
28 And up toward north is Refuge, you know, off to the
29 south is Innoko.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But you know what
32 the problem is the State of Alaska doesn't have a guide
33 selection process. And so it could be a registered
34 guide hunting on State lands. There's no control on
35 the State lands at all.

36

37 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Well, actually
38 there's not too much State lands. But the corridor --
39 the transportation corridor is all State, you know.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hmm. Yeah. That's
42 been a big problem in a lot of different areas.
43 It's.....

44

45 MR. HUNTINGTON: Well, I think what
46 we're looking for, since it's a co-management situation
47 that maybe we're asking the Feds to have a -- take a
48 look at what else is going on because all these Tribal
49 Councils are actually Federally funded. And they're
50 the ones that need to go ask Federal Subsistence Board

1 to have a look and see if this co-management view could
2 come in and take a look at some of these things that
3 the State doesn't have no funding to work on that. You
4 know, they're very -- State is very limited. And I
5 talk with them pretty often and they're -- you know,
6 they don't have extra people sitting around in the
7 office. They're out there doing something someplace
8 all the time.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah.
11 Without Federal lands, the Federal Managers don't like
12 to step on the toes of the State at all. And as far as
13 the current regime is, the Corp lands are managed by
14 the State of Alaska. So the area that I'm looking at
15 is real white around Galena, meaning it's primarily
16 State and Corp lands. And so the Federal government
17 can't do a heck of a lot about that. They can control
18 the -- that's the beauty of the Refuge system. They
19 have a guide selection process. Guides have to put in.
20 They have to not have any violations. A whole bunch of
21 hoops to jump through. And then they only usually
22 allow one guy to one area so they're not competing with
23 each other trying to kill every last live animal that's
24 there.

25

26 Like I have around where I live, it's
27 State and BLM lands and the guys are shooting every
28 last live dall sheep that's even close to being legal
29 because if they don't kill it somebody else is going to
30 kill it. And they've told me that. If I don't kill
31 it, that other guy is going to kill it. So I've got to
32 kill it.

33

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that's the
37 problem on this. And so we were hoping there was going
38 to be a commercial services board and a guide selection
39 -- a guide use area bill and the Legislature was going
40 to pass. But the Legislature last year didn't fund it
41 and so it's fallen flat on its face. And we've got
42 many areas like you have around that have guides that
43 are unrestricted. Wait until you've got about ten of
44 them all competing with each other for the State lands.
45 Then they really start killing off the country then.

46

47 So moose are big money now. That's the
48 problem. You know, moose \$15,000, \$20,000 for a moose
49 hunt. So they -- you may be starting to see a
50 development of a guide problem, is what you might see.

1 These guys are not recreational hunting. If they've
2 got four boats and camps and they're here all season
3 with airplanes, they're getting paid a lot of money to
4 do this. And so I was lobbying to get that guide use
5 area in the Legislature passed, but the Legislature
6 failed to fund it. And right now it's -- and so the
7 local communities need to keep requesting their
8 representatives to pass that guide selection process to
9 get it back under control because right now there is no
10 control on the State. And a lot of guides have no
11 qualms about hunting on the Corp lands. If there's
12 nobody watching them, they'll hunt the Corp lands, too.
13

14 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. Last spring we
15 sat down with the Corporation and starting to develop
16 policies to address this. This is strictly on
17 Corporation lands. But outside the Corporation lands
18 -- and if this thing doesn't affect Huslia because it's
19 in the Refuge, it affects, you know, these villages on
20 the Yukon River where there's an abundance of moose and
21 there's an abundance of hunters and then there's an
22 abundance of outside hunters coming in. And that's
23 what these two guys were addressing, you know.
24

25 So far, last couple of years we've been
26 working on trying to get a handle on it. And there was
27 some contractor or some -- somebody sank some of their
28 boats last year, which was not proper, you know. We
29 got the -- the local community got the black eye,
30 saying well, it was Native guys who went down there and
31 sunk their boats. We don't know who sunk their boats,
32 but it was due to the fact that -- the reason they were
33 sunk was because they were bringing in ten or twelve
34 moose already while the locals didn't get any. You
35 know, and they had to use their airplanes, so they --
36 during the season they come in -- people come in and
37 they go out with these same guys and they fly back out.
38

39
40 And there's a loophole that these are
41 unregistered hunting guides. You know, it's like me
42 taking out my family, going out moose hunting. And
43 then I come back and I take another branch of the
44 family to go back out so they get their moose. And I
45 know it's not cheap to buy, you know, 100 gallons of
46 gas. And out here it's right around \$800 for 100
47 gallons of gas. And every \$800 you get one moose, it
48 gets pretty expensive.
49

50 And so the competition for getting

1 moose in the local area becomes a situation where it's
2 eventually impacting the moose population. You know,
3 there's -- last fall I went out local area. I probably
4 saw 50 or 60 cows and, you know, about half of them had
5 two calves and one or two bulls during the whole
6 season. So there's a lot of moose out there, but the
7 bull ratio and the cow ratio after a hunting season is
8 not as basic as the moose count you have, you know,
9 during the moose count.

10

11 So that's all I've got. I'd better
12 stop while I'm ahead.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
15 it, Fred.

16

17 All right. The Council always wants to
18 hear about what's actually going on in the local areas.
19 And that's what this Council's about is getting local
20 input about problems. Some problems we can address and
21 some we can't, but there's ways to address things.

22

23 Darrel.

24

25 MR. VENT: Yeah. Thanks for bringing
26 that up, Fred.

27

28 You know, I also had one concern about
29 the way things are making it easier and more economical
30 to go hunting. You know, instead of using an airplane,
31 you know, like down in the States the way they herd
32 their cows and stuff with choppers and stuff, well now
33 they've got this thing called a drone. And I don't
34 know if it's inexpensive or it's expensive to use, but
35 if you could herd a moose with a drone, you would like
36 make it a lot more easier for them. More fish and
37 hunting. But I think, you know, we're going to have to
38 start looking at this in maybe for our future because
39 if you could use a drone to, you know, get that moose
40 to where you want it to go to or anything like that,
41 that would be considered something that maybe we could
42 put into our regulations.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's illegal
45 to harass wildlife, so that's already covered under
46 reg. If somebody is driving moose with a drone, then
47 they're -- that's illegal to do that.

48

49 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I think last
50 year the Board of Game passed regulations prohibiting

1 the use of drones whether you're spotting game or
2 anything.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. So they're -- they
7 are acting on that.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It's
10 basically like the same thing. The same the airborne
11 spotting and the helping or assisting to take a game
12 animal. Plus if they are driving the moose, that's
13 harassment. And so it's illegal to do that, so that
14 would be multiple violations.

15

16 MR. VENT: Well, the thing I see with
17 that is, you know, how do we spot these kind of
18 things. And those are pretty hard to spot when they're
19 out there in fields. You know, it's how do we keep
20 track of these drones, is the thing that we're going to
21 have a problem.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, one more
24 comment?

25

26 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah. You know, when
27 you're speaking of using drones, on Federal lands it
28 could be demolished. Like I'm saying the impact of us
29 in the local area, it probably -- you probably wouldn't
30 be able to stop them unless the State stepped in and
31 says no. You know, we're in a window where we got
32 unregistered guides coming out here already and taking
33 moose. There's nothing that says they can't use a
34 drone either.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's a regulation
37 that was passed that they can't use drones to spot
38 game. So -- but the other thing about where you're at
39 here, you know, this use of aircraft, that's what
40 happened in the Koyukuk and that's how they got a
41 controlled use area. The Middle Yukon could actually
42 request a controlled use area to not use aircraft to
43 extend the Koyukuk controlled Use Area down to the
44 south of and including the Yuki Flats there and the
45 Innoko Flats. That's one thing you could -- as the
46 middle Yukon, you could request that. But the Board of
47 Game is not prone to make any more controlled use
48 areas. But because you're -- it's right on top of
49 Koyukuk and Galena, you might make some headway. But
50 that's about the only way to get that aircraft's use

1 under control out of Galena is with a controlled use
2 like you have on the Koyukuk Flats.

3

4 So -- but this Council and the Federal
5 Board can't really control anything on the State and
6 Corp lands. So that's just we're up against the wall
7 on that one. And the guide -- you know, what you're
8 telling me is somebody's paying a lot of money to go
9 moose hunting. Twenty, thirty moose, that's somebody's
10 paying a lot of money. There's some illegal guiding
11 activity. Or are there actually a registered guide
12 that's hunting on State lands? That's legal. You
13 could go into the State of Alaska website and find out
14 who's registered to guide. And find out who that
15 airplane's registered and find out if they're not a
16 hunting guide. But it sounds like a hunting guide
17 operation is what it sounds like. That doesn't sound
18 like somebody that's taking their buddies out for a
19 little gas money. You know, that's a lot of expense.

20

21 So thanks a lot, Fred. Appreciate it.

22

23 And Melinda.

24

25 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
26 see if -- I know Tim's got a few hours yet before his
27 flight is going to come and bring him to Galena.

28

29 Tim, are you on the line? Tim Gervais?

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. BURKE: Robert or James Walker,
34 have you been able to join us today?

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. BURKE: Okay. I don't hear anyone,
39 Mr. Chair. It seems like we still don't have a quorum.

40

41 There are a couple of things that we
42 can take care of this morning. I do want to also -- if
43 there's anybody who hasn't identified themselves yet.
44 Any new callers to the line. I know we have Mary
45 McBurney from the National Park Service who's joined
46 us.

47

48 Is there any other brand new callers to
49 the meeting.

50

1 MR. SHARP: Yeah, Melinda. This is Dan
2 Sharp with BLM. Good morning.
3
4 MS. BURKE: Good morning, Dan.
5
6 MR. LIND: This is Orville Huntington,
7 Tanana Chiefs Conference.
8
9 MS. BURKE: Good morning, Orville.
10
11 MR. WILBER: Rick Wilber with the
12 Tanana Chief Conference.
13
14 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Rick.
15
16 MS. SCHMIDT: This is Stephanie Schmidt
17 and Sabrina Garcia with Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game, Yukon Summer Season Manager and Assistant
19 Manager. We're in Anchorage.
20
21 MS. BURKE: Good morning, ladies.
22
23 MR. ELLIS: Good morning. This is
24 Mitch Ellis. I'm with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
25 Service here in the Anchorage Regional Office with the
26 Refuge Program.
27
28 MS. BURKE: Good morning, Mitch.
29
30 And to let the TCC guys know, we are
31 still on public and Tribal comments on non-agenda
32 items, so if there's anything that you gentlemen would
33 like to add, please feel free to take some time here.
34
35 MR. LIND: Yeah. I have a couple of
36 comments. This is Orville.
37
38 MS. BURKE: Yeah, go ahead Orville.
39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Orville, may I interrupt
41 for a minute.
42
43 MS. BURKE: Oh, Tim.
44
45 MR. GERVAIS: Melinda, this is Tim
46 Gervais. Just calling in to the WIRAC.
47
48 MS. BURKE: Okay. Perfect, Tim.
49
50 MR. GERVAIS: All right. Say hi to

1 everybody.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Great. After we finish up
4 Orville, maybe we can take care of a couple of voting
5 items. Agenda, minutes and whatnot. Awesome.

6

7 Thank you, Tim.

8

9 Okay, Orville.

10

11 MR. LIND: Yeah. Just a couple of
12 comments. I certainly have appreciated all the local
13 comments and Jack's response. I just wanted to say
14 that we're all here for the conservation of our
15 resources be it fish or wildlife. I just got appointed
16 to the State Board of Fish Federal Committee, so I'll
17 be working on regulations that tie into fisheries with
18 the Federal government. And we'll probably have a
19 committee meeting in December.

20

21 There's certainly a lot of talk about
22 controlled use areas and if you're going to do that, I
23 would suggest you do that if you can justify it with
24 conservation of resources because that's the way it was
25 passed a long time ago and it also extended the Federal
26 controlled use areas within the Federal lands. It
27 stirs up some trust issues, we haven't resolved those
28 yet, so it'd probably be a good idea to wait a little
29 bit.

30

31 As far as rural determination, the
32 Board of Fish and Board of Game, that's the part that
33 we're going to have a joint meeting from the State side
34 and take care of these issues and will be asking the
35 Federal government (indiscernible - distortion).

36

37 As far as problems with the commercial
38 services board that I heard those comments, and really
39 the guides, there's not much you can do, I always
40 support the Department of Public Safety as much as I
41 can -- actually (indiscernible) Board of Fish now, the
42 commercial services board and we had a lot of problems
43 with some of the actions taken historically and we need
44 to try to find some way to correct those issues.

45

46 That's all Tanana Chiefs has for today.
47 I really appreciate what the Council is doing. I'll be
48 calling into to hear the proposals as they come up.

49

50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Orville.
2 Appreciate those comments.

3
4 And so yeah, I know that, you know,
5 there's no cure all for the guiding on State and
6 private lands -- BLM lands, but there's got to be a
7 better system of selection of at least a control to one
8 guide per area instead of just a free for all. But
9 appreciate your comments.

10
11 Ray.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. In that
14 regard I think if all of the communities that are
15 concerned would really address the Legislature and push
16 them to get back into controlled guiding because the
17 Board of Game has nothing to do with the guiding
18 industry. But that legislation would have to be
19 passed. And I remember when that was in effect and the
20 guides then had an incentive to take care of their area
21 because they limited the number of people coming in,
22 they were going to come back there every year. Now
23 there's no incentive to take care. They'll just move
24 somewhere else. So I don't know if there's really an
25 effort by all of the rural villages to get that
26 affected to get that legislation passed. And I think
27 that's one route that could encourage them to take.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It is an incentive,
30 but I don't think a lot of communities understood what
31 -- the larger picture of what it would actually do.
32 And through Statewide to control the number of guides
33 on all the lands then. But we do hear the community
34 here with the problems that -- you know, this
35 developing problem here. And so I do think that there
36 are some -- probably some statutory things that could
37 happen, but those are big hurtles. But this Council is
38 constrained to the Federal land and the Federal Board
39 is. So.....

40
41 And Don.

42
43 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
44 that is a great idea and I also believe -- I mean that
45 being said by Mr. Collins that maybe perhaps we could
46 as an action item look into something like formulating
47 a letter to such.

48
49 Thank you.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don. Yeah.
2 I'm going to have to think about that one for a little
3 bit.

4
5 So Melinda.

6
7 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Now that
8 we have five bodies in the room and Mr. Gervais on the
9 phone, I think it would be really great for us to take
10 care of a couple of action items. First reviewing and
11 adopting the agenda. I have a few additions.

12
13 Tim, do you have a copy of the agenda
14 there in front of you, sir?

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,
17 Tim?

18
19 MS. BURKE: He might be taking himself
20 off mute.

21
22 MR. GERVAIS: Negative, Melinda.

23
24 MS. BURKE: Okay. I'm going to -- I'll
25 just really carefully as I can read over the changes.
26 And if it sounds okay, I'd love to go ahead and take a
27 vote on that.

28
29 Mr. Chair, this morning under new
30 business -- and I think we can do this while Tim is on
31 the phone. I'd love to do the appointment to the Sheep
32 Working Group if we can. And also we have a request
33 from National Park Service to reappoint Pollock to the
34 SRC seat. He's been serving them for quite some time.
35 So if we could just pencil that in right under reports
36 right here and take care of that this morning, that
37 would be great. Two appointments there.

38
39 Another thing to add also under ADF&G
40 there, under the reports we've got Seth Wilson who will
41 be providing a research update for us. Under ADF&G
42 there, at the very end of reports. And YRDFA is
43 usually a boiler plate item and they were mistakenly
44 left off of this agenda. YRDFA always has a spot here
45 at the end under reports as well. And we might do a
46 little shuffling of the Regional Proposal presentations
47 just to make things as concise as possible and to lump
48 together the different discussions on the resource
49 issues.

50

1 That's all of the additions that I
2 have. Mr. Chair, I'm not sure if any of the Council
3 Members or any of the other Staff has any additions or
4 modifications or if anyone on the phone has any.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The SRC appointment
7 and the Sheep Working Group were my additions on my
8 list also.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 Any other additions to the agenda.

13
14 Tim -- or Ray.

15
16 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chair, I'll
17 make the motion then to adopt the agenda as just
18 described, with the additions and changes.

19
20 MR. VENT: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel seconded.

23
24 Do you have any additions, Tim, or
25 under discussion.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there,
30 Tim?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need you there
35 for the vote.

36
37 (Laughter)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you are there.

40
41 MR. GERVAIS: I do not have any
42 additions to the agenda, Jack.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

45
46 And so any further discussion.

47
48 MR. VENT: Question.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's being

1 called. Those in favor of approving the agenda as
2 amended, signify by saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
7
8 (No opposing votes)
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion passed.
11
12 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
15
16 MS. BURKE: While the Council is
17 reviewing the -- should we wait on the meeting minutes
18 until Tim can get here and get a copy of the book in
19 front of him?
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We can forego
22 that right now.
23
24 MS. BURKE: Okay. So let's -- right
25 now I'm handing out to the Council a letter from Marcy
26 Okada from Gates of the National Park and Preserve.
27 It's the usual language that we get for our
28 appointments. And Tim, this is to reappoint Pollock to
29 the Gates of the Arctic SRC. This is the standard
30 language that we receive. And also I'm handing out the
31 letter inviting -- and I've already handed out the
32 letter inviting a member of this Council to serve on
33 the Sheep Working Group, so if we can take care of
34 those two as well while Tim's on the phone.
35
36 MR. COLLINS: And Mr. Chair, I'll move
37 that we reappoint -- well, that we appoint yourself to
38 the Working Group -- the Sheep Management Working Group
39 and reappoint Pollock.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to this
42 as a block? We can do it as a block. Yeah.
43
44 And so Ray has a motion to reappoint
45 Pollock Simon as Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
46 Resource Commission member and to appoint me to
47 represent the Council for the Sheep Hunter Work Group
48 to the State of Alaska.
49
50 Do we have a second.

1 MR. VENT: Second.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded.
4
5 Any comments, discussion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
10 Those in favor of the motion, signify it by saying aye.
11
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Have we got an aye
16 there, Tim?
17
18 MR. GERVAIS: Aye.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So motion
21 passed. And we're unanimous on that.
22
23 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we have a couple
24 of folks who are landing at the airport. I would
25 suggest a ten to fifteen minute break. We have a
26 couple of mics we need to switch out. And we'll be
27 back on the record in about fifteen minutes.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll have a
30 fifteen minute break.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 (Off record)
35
36 (On record)
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I have a blue
39 card here for Eric Huntington wanted to speak to the
40 Council. And are you in the room, Eric?
41
42 And then Percy Lolnitz from Koyukuk
43 wanted to speak to the Council, also.
44
45 Are you here, Eric, come on up. Turn
46 on the red -- the button on the front of the mic. And
47 when it lights up red then speak directly into the mic.
48 Go ahead.
49
50 MR. HUNTINGTON: My name is Eric

1 Huntington. I've lived in Galena most of my life. My
2 mom and dad are Gilbert and Margaret Huntington. My
3 paternal grandparents are Sidney Huntington and Angela
4 Huntington. My maternal grandparents are the late
5 Roger Dayton and Annie Dayton. I come here before you
6 as a credible participant in subsistence fishing. This
7 summer I fished with my family, my parents, and my
8 uncle Fred Huntington, Sr., sitting behind us. We
9 fished for a month straight and provided for the
10 social, cultural, and spiritual well being of perhaps
11 100 or more families in our State.

12
13 I am here before this Council to
14 propose that we allow our Tribes to begin to assume
15 criminal jurisdiction over subsistence regulations.
16 And that I challenge our Tribes to draft these
17 regulations. I request funding from the Federal and
18 State governments to assist us in this area. And that
19 we can have our own judges, our own game wardens to
20 self-govern this very important issue.

21
22 This is very personal for me. I grew
23 up in camp and I did not see very many game wardens or
24 fishing wardens, but I did see a lot of my fellow
25 Native people, particularly elders, who governed this
26 issue very well in ensuring that we responsibly harvest
27 our food. This is what I see for our people in the
28 future. That we are answerable to our Tribes and our
29 Tribes alone.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Does any Council
34 Members have any questions.

35
36 MR. HUNTINGTON: I can answer
37 questions.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I had a comment.
40 Should I do it now or wait until we get into fisheries
41 stuff.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We could talk
44 about this later on with fisheries, but since we're
45 open for comments from the public, we'll -- I would
46 like the Council to ask any questions of the commenter.

47
48 Go ahead, Darrel.

49
50 MR. VENT: Yeah. Currently.....

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I just wanted to
2 state that the U.S. Supreme Court's upheld in
3 Washington State that affirmed that most of the
4 Washington Tribes were co-managers along with the State
5 regarding fish and shellfish in 1974 in Bolt decision.
6 That was reaffirmed with appeals in '75 and '79, so
7 it's pretty firm legal basis on that on Tribes that had
8 specific treaties with the U.S. Government. So this is
9 a little beyond my knowledge of how it plays out in
10 Alaska, but there's definitely -- in the Lower 48
11 there's definitely legal basis for Federally recognized
12 Tribes to be co-managers of the resources. So I think
13 this is issue is something that needs to be discussed
14 and I appreciate those comments being brought forward
15 that that's a desire of some of the folks there.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim.

20

21 There's the Kuskokwim pilot program co-
22 management and we'll get into that issue later on for
23 the Kuskokwim. But it's good to hear from the people
24 here on the Yukon about that issue.

25

26 Darrel has a comment.

27

28 MR. VENT: Yeah. You know, currently
29 we are trying to form a co-management with Ben Stevens.
30 You know, if you want more information, I'd advise you
31 to get a hold of Ben Stevens out at TCC and see how we
32 could address these issues. We're all concerned about,
33 you know, how much regulations we got here. We've got
34 a lot of regulations from the State. We've got a lot
35 of regulations from the Federal and we've got the most
36 regulated area in the whole United States. You know,
37 Alaska has got a lot of regulations and we know that.
38 So we're currently looking at how we could be able to,
39 you know, help through both the State and Federal
40 government through the Tribe side, so we're going to be
41 working on this right now.

42

43 So if you need more information, I
44 would advise you to contact Ben Stevens.

45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: I have researched this
47 topic extensively for the last -- since my beginning
48 years of college. I have not found that our Tribes
49 have signed away our right to self-governance in any
50 issue. Again, I firmly challenge the Tribal leaders to

1 go home and propose this Tribal jurisdiction over
2 subsistence regulations.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don, go ahead.

5

6 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 Hey, I really enjoy I mean, you know,
9 your concept here. I mean I could -- it's a forward
10 thinking thing. And I think surely the time has come
11 for something like that. And I think what Darrel had
12 mentioned, that the co-management type of thing that's
13 coming up on the 19th or 20th, I wish you could attend.
14 I'm hoping maybe Arnold could attend, too. And maybe
15 we could find out some of the -- because these are some
16 great, big ideas. I mean I just don't know how to
17 actually propose doing that. If you had.....

18

19 MR. HUNTINGTON: The first step would
20 be to draft the regulations just relative to your home
21 communities that -- the way you have historically
22 governed your own subsistence resources. And that
23 should your people -- after you draft these regulations
24 you should be able to employ someone to enforce those
25 regulations. And if one of our own people decides upon
26 themselves to violate or over-harvest that we should be
27 able to bring them to our Tribal courts and grant them
28 due process in our Tribal courts, which would basically
29 end the Federal and State maze of regulations we have
30 in our land.

31

32 MR. VENT: I understand where you're
33 coming from there, Eric. But like I said, you know,
34 we've got all these regulations from the State and
35 Federal and we have to comply with their regulations.
36 But the thing that we could understand is that if we go
37 into a co-management, that puts us at the same level
38 to, you know, voice our opinions. We're not sitting
39 down there being advisors anymore. We'd be at the same
40 level where that we could, you know, put our input in
41 and it would be understood. And I see where you're
42 coming from on that. And if you could attend this
43 symposium that's coming up -- I think it's November
44 18th and 19th at UAF, you know, they'd listen to your
45 advice there. I think that's a good, key concept
46 because you're talking about all the villages. And
47 this is where it's happening at. This is where you'll
48 understand where we're coming from there. And I advise
49 you to go attend that meeting. If you could get a hold
50 of Ben Stevens, he'll give you that information there.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Melinda, at some
2 point in this meeting we're going to get an overview of
3 the Kuskokwim pilot project. I know that's at what
4 point?

5
6 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, we actually have
7 Greg Roczicka, who is flying in this morning. I just
8 got word from Stewart the flight is slightly delayed.
9 So while Stewart and Ray are here today, we will be
10 covering that item today before the end of the day.

11
12 Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So there is a pilot
15 project on the Kuskokwim to address this co-management
16 issue. And so if you attend later on today, we're not
17 sure -- probably after lunch at this point, you can get
18 an overview of that.

19
20 Go ahead.

21
22 MR. HUNTINGTON: I totally agree with
23 co-management. I'm not against it. I'm absolutely for
24 it. It has to be co-managed for the responsible
25 development of our resources and what I -- my idea
26 isn't against co-management, it is for jurisdiction to
27 self-govern these subsistence issues.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Not being an
30 attorney, there is various jurisdictions on these lands
31 so we have to rely on the Federal solicitors to advise
32 this Council on the (indiscernible) the Federal Program
33 is looking at.....

34
35 (Teleconference disconnect)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think the
38 conference call -- wow.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So they're eating up
43 all the bandwidth or something.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But everybody can
48 hear me now, what do you know.

49
50 So the conference line was eating up

1 part of the system or something. We've got some
2 technical problems with audio.

3

4 But what I was going to say is that
5 jurisdictional boundaries with State and Federal
6 government, those are ongoing and even up to the
7 Supreme Court. And so -- at this time. And so -- but
8 I do think that the Federal program has been working on
9 a co-management pilot project on the Kuskokwim that
10 we're going to discuss later on in this meeting after
11 lunch. And so we can look at that. And during that
12 discussion you can -- when Greg is here we can have
13 further dialogue with you at that point.

14

15 Don.

16

17 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
18 know, I'm not discouraging you or anything, but, you
19 know, that's the first time I've heard that and I think
20 it's a great idea. Especially with the -- you know, if
21 we could do something in the fishing areas especially.
22 You know, maybe -- because I mean with the -- actually,
23 I myself don't even have one fish put away. So I think
24 maybe in the fishing realm there that obviously you put
25 a lot of thought into this whole thing. So, you know,
26 I mean I just, you know, want you to keep pursuing that
27 and getting it out to the Tribal Councils, whether it's
28 by -- you know, by a letter or something because like I
29 said, this is the first time I've heard of your idea
30 and I think it's great.

31

32 So I thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

35

36 So appreciate your comments, Eric. Go
37 ahead.

38

39 MR. HUNTINGTON: I'm sorry, but I have
40 to go work. But just a rebuttal to your comment is
41 that the jurisdictional boundaries, that our Tribal
42 governments are sovereign. That if they choose to go
43 this route that the Federal Government or State
44 Government can only take the Tribes to court if the
45 Tribes allow themselves to be taken to court.

46

47 That's all I have to say.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

50

1 And Percy wanted to talk to us also.
2 He didn't get a chance when we were.....

3
4 MS. BURKE: What's the last name.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lolnitz. You're
7 going to spell your last name? Go ahead. Push the
8 little button on the mic. And we've got lots of
9 bandwidth now.

10
11 MR. LOLNITZ: All right. Good morning.
12 First of all, I want to thank you, Jack, and your
13 Board for allowing me to speak. Giving me the
14 opportunity. And I -- sounded like you made something
15 happen there. I don't know what happened, but we're
16 beginning to hear you a lot better back in the back of
17 the room. So whatever you did -- or she did -- it
18 improved your system.

19
20 Well, first of all I just want to point
21 out that I didn't really like this P.A. system we have
22 set up. I was hoping that maybe if you had mics set up
23 on each corner -- standing mics -- we can just stand up
24 there and, you know, give it a shot. Because this kind
25 of reminds me of being in court. You know, I'm
26 standing before the judge.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 But this past last winter I went up and
31 I testified before the Northern Pacific Fishery
32 Council. And this was the exact way they had their
33 meeting set up, but it was much, much huger. You know,
34 much bigger. Anyway, I want to say that I represent
35 Koyukuk Tribal Council. I've been there all my life.
36 And I also represent the TCC Fish and Task Force that
37 became -- that was created in 2013. I know some of you
38 here. I met some of you. You know, we know each other
39 pretty much all our lives as we roam around a little
40 bit.

41
42 Being a subsistence user, I pretty much
43 kind of rely on my own knowledge and which was passed
44 on from my parents and, you know, down the line. Of
45 course we're all always over-regulated. That goes back
46 after the State became -- you know, the Statehood. And
47 then came along that -- you had that ANILCA in '71. So
48 I went to a training up there in Fairbanks and it kind
49 of opened my eyes a little bit because you see how much
50 land we have in the State, which isn't very much. You

1 have the BLM and all these other Agencies. The State,
2 they own a big portion of it. And the Feds. And then
3 of course you've got the Corporations and then you have
4 your Native allotments and so forth, which isn't -- you
5 know, if you look at the State there's not that much --
6 we don't have that much land period.

7
8 So you talked about co-management this
9 morning and I heard some really good comments on that.
10 That young man, Eric, he made a good point there. I
11 totally agree with him. Somehow we've got to get in
12 there. And I know Darrel was talking about this about
13 a week ago. We've got to get in there and we've got to
14 try to figure out ways. We've got to have our voice
15 heard. And how many years have we been trying this.
16 How many years have we been talking about it. Maybe
17 over 20 years ago, Jack, we were down there in Koyukuk
18 and we -- you know, it was in the light. We were
19 talking about stuff like this. And, you know, with all
20 your work you did for us and, you know, you have
21 accountability in the past 20 years that, you know, we
22 have to have respect for that.

23
24 We put leaders up there for one reason.
25 And in my mind that reason is to try to help the
26 people. Try to help them to put food on the table is
27 the bottom line. And we're also dealing with the high
28 price of just about everything that went up. You know,
29 if you go out. You take a boat ride, it isn't a boat
30 ride anymore. You have to have something to go out
31 there for. You can't just jump in the boat and spend,
32 you know, \$7 a gallon gas and say you're taking a boat
33 ride. You have to have something you're going out for.

34
35 So this fall I went up the river. I
36 went about 90 miles up from Koyukuk. That's around
37 Kateel area. Well, in my mind I was thinking I'm going
38 to go up there. I'm going to -- I knew where I was
39 going to set camp. I know the country pretty well. I
40 mean, you know, by river. I don't know it once you get
41 back on the land, but you know where you're at when
42 you're on the river. But then I ran into a camp here.
43 And then go around another bend. Then I thought well,
44 I'll go back to this place they call Old Cutoff.
45 There's a good lake back there. I went back there and
46 there was two big camps set up back there. So I turned
47 around. Went up the Koyukuk River. Another bend, and
48 there was another moose kill here. So, you know, what
49 I'm getting at is we're still being -- it's a
50 competitive basis out there that we're up against.

1 You heard it this morning from Fred and
2 you guys talk about it among yourself about this
3 competitiveness about these hunters. I was thinking
4 about the last 20 years that we fight with these
5 people. And I seen improvement. Because the influx of
6 hunters went down. I don't know how much moose are out
7 there. I was hoping we'd get a report prior to this
8 Tribal comments and so forth, but we never got a report
9 from the State. I see they're on the agenda. I don't
10 know if they're going to give a report for this year's
11 moose harvest up in the Koyukuk River area.

12
13 So, you know, that's one of my concerns
14 is what else do we have to do. Take the fisheries, for
15 example. We followed that regulation and we do what
16 they ask us to do. And we're continually sacrificing
17 year after year, living with regulation, dealing with
18 regulation, being in compliance with regulation because
19 if you break the law then you know what's going to
20 happen. And, you know, there's no fish out there.
21 We're just talking about fish that's not even there. I
22 mean they'll meet the quota. It goes up to Canada to
23 meet the quota. But, you know, what else are we
24 supposed to do to make sacrifices other than sit at
25 home.

26
27 And, you know, we have the fall chum.
28 We're fortunate that we have the fall chum. And that
29 will bring us through the winter. Because once you're
30 done with the fall chum, you're pretty much done for
31 the year. You can go with whitefish, but I was trying
32 for whitefish this fall. There's no whitefish. And I
33 know there's some scientists here for the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game and the other, you know,
35 fish biologists, whatever. They might know. They
36 might have answers.

37
38 But what about the airplanes. Take
39 that for an example. The airplanes are flying around.
40 We don't even know where they go. We don't know what
41 they're up to. And I heard a comment this morning that
42 there's under the deal -- under the table deals that's
43 going on. We know that. We know who they are
44 probably. But we're not saying anything because we
45 have friends. We have people that may be involved or,
46 you know, there's -- when you see -- if you're -- take
47 me for example. When I'm up Koyukuk River about maybe
48 80 miles up and I'm sitting there maybe around the 8th
49 of September and I count the boats that's going up and
50 the boats that's coming out. The boats that's coming

1 out, they're taking maybe about four moose horns. Four
2 moose horns in a big boat, which is a really huge boat.
3 And you've got other boats following it and, you know,
4 that sort of thing. And I also see another boat
5 running up there, running back down, running up there,
6 running back down. I don't know what the heck they're
7 doing, but I know something is going on. But who am I,
8 supposed to go over there and ask questions. So we
9 need some enforcement to figure out what these people
10 are doing.

11
12 And I just want to, you know, conclude
13 by saying that I haven't been to this RAC meeting in a
14 long time. I know this, Honea, Don has been on board
15 for a while. And you, Jack. You've been Chair for
16 some years. And Darrel has just been on for a couple
17 of years. Pollock has been in there for a few years.
18 But in my mind, I would like to close by saying that
19 you guys have the power. Okay. You have the power to
20 say what's right and what's wrong, whether you have to
21 draft up proposals, resolutions, whatever it's going to
22 take. But then you take it to the Federal Subsistence
23 Board and see how much meat you have there. And once
24 that's done, then, you know, it's all up to -- it's
25 kind of hard for people in Koyukuk to come up here.
26 And if they have issues they can't come up here and --
27 you know, there's no money to fly around.

28
29 And, you know, so I just wish you guys
30 farewell and good luck on your other meetings. And,
31 you know, just remember that there's people out there
32 that you never heard from. You never heard from them
33 or you probably never will because like I've been
34 hearing, you know, people are really quiet. They have
35 a lot of issues, but they're really quiet. And we just
36 have to visit them. Go around and visit them. You
37 guys will be here for a few days. You know, feel free.
38 This is not my community, but feel free to go find some
39 elders or, you know, whoever you -- you know, you want
40 to talk to. They might bring up some really important
41 points that's not coming to this table.

42
43 Anyway, that kind of drums it all up.
44 So I want to thank you guys again and good luck.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate all your
47 comments, Percy. And what this Council could do is we
48 have an Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board.
49 And I'm hearing that a lot of people of this area would
50 like to have a co-management say in management. And so

1 I think that this Council should include that in our
2 Annual Report that the Federal program look at a co-
3 management system for the Yukon River like they're
4 doing on the Kuskokwim.

5
6 And so Darrel, you got a comment on
7 that.

8
9 MR. VENT: Yeah. My comment is our
10 representation from their area. We don't currently
11 have any representatives from the Koyukuk, Nulato,
12 Kaltag area. I mean there's representations from other
13 areas, but I think he's got a point there that maybe we
14 should try to address this problem and try to see if we
15 can get a representation from their area.

16
17 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, with your
18 permission, just to follow up Darrel. There is the
19 open application period that's happening now. I have
20 copies of the application in the back to serve on this
21 Council, if you'd like to carry a copy or two home with
22 you. Feel free to call us with any questions or if we
23 can assist anyone in filling out the information. Your
24 Tribe can also nominate someone from the community if
25 there is someone who would like to serve on this
26 Council. So we have plenty of information and feel
27 free to call us anytime if there's any help we can
28 provide on getting someone from your community on this
29 Council.

30
31 MR. LOLNITZ: Yeah. Thank you for
32 sharing those comments. Because, you know, if you
33 figure out where you're at on the river, we're right at
34 the confluence of the Koyukuk and where the Yukon runs.
35 So you're going to get some pressure and, you know,
36 personally I've been feeling this pressure just about
37 all of my life after -- after the '70s when law and
38 regulations started coming out. Prior to that we were
39 able to just go out and get what we want. We get what
40 we want. We take it home. We share it. If we don't
41 have enough, we'll go out and we'll get another one.
42 And the same way with fish. People in our area, they
43 share what they got.

44
45 And then they started a commercial
46 fisheries and that kind of -- you know, it was just one
47 of the factors that blew things out of proportion.
48 Because there was always greed. You don't get enough,
49 you know, you were able to sell the eggs and then you
50 want to make more. You know, that type of thing is

1 kind of detrimental to the resources. And we have a
2 lot of excuses and, you know, I think we're done
3 pointing fingers at each other. We're done with that.
4 And we're willing to sit at the table. We're kind of
5 calm now. We're not radical like we used to be .
6 Maybe we've grown older, but that doesn't mean we're
7 just going to go away. We're not going to go away.
8 We're going to be here forever.

9

10 So we have to -- those people out there
11 that makes the laws, regulations down in Juneau, you
12 know, they have to realize that we're not going to go
13 away. We're going to be here forever. And they need to
14 stop and think and deal with us. About 20-some years
15 ago I was over in McGrath. We did a predator control
16 testimony. And Peter Kelly -- he's still a Senator
17 down in Juneau. He was over there. And there was an
18 idea brought up saying why don't these lawmakers go out
19 and live the Native life. You know, just go out in a
20 village and be welcome. And go out in the woods and,
21 you know, get a taste of it. Not very many of them did
22 that. So they're still making laws and regulations,
23 that sort of thing, and we don't have no choice but to
24 live by them. But they need to get a taste of our life
25 before they can -- you know, I think that's the reason
26 why we always bring up co-management. It's not a new
27 thing. We've done it. We've been doing it for years,
28 as a matter of fact. We managed our own resources
29 before even the State became a state.

30

31 So, you know, Jack, I think you guys
32 have your work cut out. And, you know, bring this --
33 you know, you're going to go to other meetings, so
34 bring this message to your -- that has other powers to
35 put it in place.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Percy.

40

41 So is that agreeable to the Council to
42 include that as action item on our Annual Report to the
43 Federal Subsistence Board to look at like the Kuskokwim
44 pilot project. We're still working through that, but
45 using that as a template for the Yukon River.

46

47 MR. VENT: Also, I think Copper River
48 has a project going on like that, too, for co-
49 management.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not familiar
2 with the Copper River. That's Southcentral.

3
4 So thank you for all your comments,
5 Percy. And.....

6
7 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, I'd like to say
8 something.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

11
12 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 Percy, sitting here comes back to
15 memory of one of our Council Members' comments, Carl
16 Morgan, from Aniak, just a few years ago saying, you
17 know, we've been going through this ten, fifteen years
18 -- how long I've been on this Council -- and we're just
19 asking for piecemeal. We're just still facing the same
20 issues. And, you know, some of the issues like
21 excessive hunting in this area or wherever, I think --
22 you know, I'm just trying to look at it in a way as
23 some kind of individual or just a -- you know, one of
24 us could do it. And, you know, I think we've got to
25 pressure the State to -- like the drawing permits and
26 stuff. And I realize that's been cut down from 70 to
27 35, whatever. And I -- you know, it's something like
28 well, why aren't the people of Galena, you know,
29 applying for those. But then there's some drawbacks to
30 that, too. You have to hunt in a specific area or
31 whatever they are.

32
33 But, you know, as a Council, we're just
34 always open to some way to maybe just to bring the
35 numbers down. You know, the hunters. Because I agree.
36 I mean, you know, we have to worry about predator
37 control. We have to worry about all the things that
38 the hunters from Homer and Wasilla and -- you know,
39 they get to come out here and, you know, do what they
40 want on this.

41
42 But, you know, when it comes down to --
43 you know, and the rural preference, it's never going to
44 be. I mean I don't think by the time we ever get that
45 -- you know, the State is never going to give us rural
46 preference. So, you know, I think we just have to find
47 ways, you know, just to -- just to try to bring the
48 numbers down or, you know, and share with it.

49
50 Because when I was at the RAC meeting

1 in McGrath I didn't even know that Koyukuk and Nulato
2 were having, you know, bad years for hunting a couple
3 of years back. And, you know, I mean if I don't even
4 know, you know, as a RAC member what -- you know,
5 what's going on one part, I think we have to maybe
6 support each other when we do proposals or, you know,
7 share our AC's notes and stuff like that and help each
8 other. I mean because -- I mean if there was a way to
9 curtail some of these numbers, pressure Glenn Stout or
10 something, you know, I'm open to it.

11

12 But I really appreciate your comments.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, could I speak
15 to Percy's comment.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. Regarding action
20 items to the WIRAC regarding co-management, we need to
21 ask the Federal Subsistence Board to specifically
22 address the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the
23 Interior regarding that the subsistence users are not
24 getting a fair share of the available fish. I mean
25 we're -- everybody on the rivers is standing down for
26 the king salmon, but we're still getting that Bering
27 Sea, Aleutian Island trawl fleet still harvesting
28 15,000 to 20,000 prohibited species. King. And the
29 Gulf of Alaska trawl fleet has their own quota in
30 addition to that. So when we try to address it when we
31 had our North Pacific Council Members in our meeting in
32 Fairbanks in March, but they're saying that they're
33 already taking all these actions to curtail it, so
34 they're continuing to let it go on.

35

36 But the crux of the issue is that the
37 subsistence users are not getting a fair share of the
38 available fish, which is something that needs to be
39 changed. It's not okay to have everybody in the rivers
40 standing down on fish and still allowing bycatch,
41 prohibited species by-catch in commercial fisheries.
42 So I would request for you to add it to the -- I think
43 it should just be its own action rather than in
44 addition to the co-management discussion which we need
45 to get into more because there's a lot about it that I
46 don't understand.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We'll add
49 that to the action items for the Annual Report. We're
50 developing that list as this meeting is progressing, so

1 that's doable.

2

3 Percy, you had one more comment. Go
4 ahead, Percy.

5

6 MR. LOLNITZ: Yeah. I just wanted to
7 end by saying I want to thank all the Council Members
8 for your patience and your honesty. And thank Don for
9 pointing out that small crash we had last in our moose
10 season, but fortunately this year it kind of changed
11 around. I'm assuming everybody had good luck this
12 year. And it may be due to the forest fires that we
13 had over this past course of the summer. And, you
14 know, one last message I want to point out for all of
15 you is that, you know, just carry this message with
16 respect and let the people know that the Tribes are
17 ready to go to work. You know, we're just waiting.
18 Waiting for a seat to co-manage their resources.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

23

24 And I think we've covered most
25 comments. Do we have any other comments from the back
26 of the room. One more comment.

27

28 Then we're going to be going to the
29 Refuge Proposed Rule on Hunting after that. And I'm
30 hoping that Mitch is still around the phone.

31

32 So come on up, Fred.

33

34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 I heard some good comments this morning, you know,
36 based on what Percy just said and what Eric said
37 earlier. And those kind of open your eyes as to what
38 was really going on with our resources and our Native
39 people in the local area, that we have a competition
40 bid for harvesting our resources today.

41

42 Well, years long before the State
43 became a State and before the land claims became the
44 Land Claims Settlement Act, our Native people had the
45 Tribe governments prior to those where they were
46 regulating their Tribes as to -- you know, it wasn't
47 each family went out and got a moose for themselves.
48 We didn't have no freezers. You know, times were
49 different and the villages were a lot smaller. Well,
50 on one Sunday the community got a moose in August. It

1 was shared throughout the whole community. Same way
2 with fish. When you got fresh king salmon in the
3 river, everybody in the community get a share of that.
4 So there were no contacts with outside users or any of
5 that sort then.

6
7 But we did have a regulated
8 organization whether you'd call it a Tribal Council or
9 not prior to State and the Land Claims Settlement Act.
10 And when you start talking about co-management, you
11 know, it's -- in my mind, it should have been, you
12 know, Native Tribal Council and Native leaders, the
13 State and the Federals. Basically right now it's just
14 the Federal and the State who's the co-management. We
15 have a say so. We have to ask. Us Native people have
16 to continuously go after organizations like this to ask
17 for our leeway to harvest our resources as we always
18 did. And to continue to protect that right to harvest
19 our resources.

20
21 You know, one of the things mentioned
22 was money involved. Well, you know, when you go out
23 moose hunting as myself perhaps go check in at the
24 check station. Go up the Koyukuk River and there's
25 another boat there beside me. They're -- a lot of
26 times they're permit hunters. They have to harvest a
27 bull moose larger than 50 inches. And a lot of times a
28 lot of those guys are out of State, which pays the
29 State good money for getting a harvest ticket and a
30 license. So you see a large boat down here passing
31 through, one boat would probably pay \$1,200 cash just
32 for the gas to go up the Koyukuk River and come back to
33 the gas station and buy another \$1,200 worth of gas to
34 go back up to the bridge. So there's a lot of money
35 involved in harvesting our resources, but there's a
36 fact that our local people don't have all that money to
37 harvest and the competition becomes greater.

38
39 This year we had an abundance of moose
40 and most of our villages harvest, but prior years to
41 that, it was -- you know, a lot of people had to share
42 their moose. And that's -- in the village it's like
43 that. You're more than, you know, likely to share your
44 harvest with somebody who didn't get a moose. Or if
45 you know a family that didn't get a moose, they would
46 not go without moose meat the winter. They would --
47 somebody would give them some moose meat. And that's
48 the way we traditionally live. A family with a bunch
49 of kids got no moose meat, well somebody is going to
50 help them to go get a moose for them.

1 So, you know, what I'm hearing this
2 morning is the co-management and the harvest of
3 resources. I like the idea that my nephew Eric
4 Huntington spoke of, that if the Tribal Councils can
5 step up to the plate and start working on some of these
6 things to help co-manage at a greater sense than we
7 have now would probably be in some means great. We
8 have a shortage of our king salmon, which I'm pretty
9 involved in fisheries with YRDFA. And so it always
10 comes down to when you can't fish no more. The word
11 gets out and something's got to be done. This has got
12 to be done. This has got to be done. It comes down
13 when a Tribal Council came up to the table and says we
14 want a proposal moratorium on chinook salmon. And all
15 the Tribal Councils stepped up and said yeah, we want
16 to stop everybody from fishing. But there's no local
17 Yukon River fisherman sitting at that table. They get
18 impacted. They're the ones that get impacted by what
19 the Tribal Councils just said, what they just done.

20
21 What they just done is they gave co-
22 management system the right to close it down next year
23 if it need to be. So now there's two years in a row we
24 haven't been able to fish chinook salmon. Yet this
25 year there was almost 80,000 went up past the sonar at
26 Eagle River. I was able to get 20 chinook salmon and
27 spread -- it spreads out among our family and some of
28 the villages at the potlatches. It's not only for
29 myself. I'm only one person in my home right now and
30 so I could split it up and give it out as I choose.
31 But what I'm saying is now this -- it gives the Fish
32 and Game Department the right to close down the king
33 salmon as it's coming up the river because we set the
34 policy the year before that we gave them the permission
35 to do that. And we granted it to them. Now it comes
36 probable that we can't pull that back. Nobody realized
37 that, but we can't. This resolution saying we want to
38 fish regardless if there's no fish at all. And that
39 don't work that way.

40
41 So when this co-management gives and
42 take a little, it's like one way direction. The
43 fishermen didn't have a say so that's doing the fishing
44 on the river. I tried to prevent that, but when
45 there's only one fisherman at a conference meeting
46 saying these things, they look at you and said no.
47 This Tribe, this organization, this is what they want.
48 Well, it's basically what is causing the fish to
49 decline as it is. Well, for sure it's not the
50 subsistence fisherman that can't fish no more that's

1 causing the decline. There's a lot of things that's
2 causing decline. One of it is the high sea fishing.
3 You know, they're still harvesting pollock in the
4 Bering Sea with bycatch of chinook. And there are
5 still fish going up into the Yukon River. Up in the
6 head waters to spawn. And they're still, you know,
7 come close to 100,000 chinook salmon coming in the
8 mouth of the Yukon, yet they're saying we can't fish.

9
10 You know, we're the ones that suffering
11 and sacrificing. Our co-management system need to step
12 up to the plate and take a look at some of these things
13 we just said today. I don't know what makes more sense
14 than to sit down at the table and hash these things out
15 for everybody. The State does not hear. You know, we
16 should have some representation from the State or --
17 you know, over them Tanana Chiefs. There's nobody
18 there from Tanana Chief. That should be here at this
19 table with us today. We need to start coming to think.
20 To getting together a little bit more often.

21
22 I appreciate this RAC Committee of
23 Western Interior group coming to Galena and listening
24 to us. Otherwise we have hardly no say so.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for all your
29 comments, Fred. And this is published as a game --
30 primarily game proposals. That's why a lot of fishery
31 people aren't here. But we do like to hear about the
32 fisheries issues because we deal with both fish and
33 game. And so we are listening to all your comments and
34 we'll incorporate that into some of the things that
35 we're going to accomplish during this meeting. So
36 appreciate that.

37
38 But we do have a large agenda and we do
39 need to be moving along here. And so any other
40 comments from the back of the room.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do have the -- we
45 need to move on to the Refuge Proposed Rule would be
46 the next thing on this agenda.

47
48 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair and everybody in
49 the room, I call your attention to the materials on
50 page 15 of the meeting book. That's where the

1 materials are found. And also in the back of the room
2 you'll find copies of a Power Point presentation as
3 well. I think there's plenty of paper copies in the
4 room, so I will just leave it at that and I'll hand
5 those out for the Council to insert in your section.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go right ahead if
8 you want to give an overview. State your name for the
9 record.

10
11 MR. MOLLNOW: Will do. My name is Ryan
12 Mollnow, with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National
13 Wildlife Refuges out of our Regional Office in
14 Anchorage. I'd like to talk to the -- well, I'd like
15 to say good morning and thanks for letting me present.
16 And I appreciate all that you folks do to help inform
17 management on National Wildlife Refuges.

18
19 Mitch Ellis is.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

22
23 MR. MOLLNOW: Oh, sorry.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was going to ask
26 Mitch if he's on the phone there.

27
28 Are you still on the phone there,
29 Mitch?

30
31 MR. ELLIS: Yes. Thanks, Jack. Mr.
32 Chairman, I appreciate your time and for allowing us to
33 be on the agenda as well.

34
35 And Ryan's going to give an overview
36 and an update on the process. But I'm going to remain
37 on the phone and if there are follow-up questions or
38 discussion I'd be happy to help.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
41 that.

42
43 Go ahead, Ryan.

44
45 MR. MOLLNOW: All right. Thank you,
46 Mr. Chair. I think everybody has -- this is the
47 handout presentation that we'll be going through.
48 There's also a -- for anybody that's interested,
49 there's a two-pager that has the grizzly bear on it
50 that is a really quick and short, succinct synopsis of

1 what we'll be going through today.

2

3 If I can find my notes here. So the
4 Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of updating
5 regulations governing non-subsistence take of wildlife
6 and closure procedures on Alaska National Wildlife
7 Refuges. And this is found in our Code of Federal
8 Regulations, Chapter 50, part 36.

9

10 The Fish and Wildlife Service is
11 mandated to conserve fish and wildlife populations and
12 habitats in their natural diversity and to maintain
13 biological integrity, diversity, and environmental
14 health on Refuges. The Division of Wildlife Service is
15 also required to, you know, concern species and
16 habitats on Refuges, you know, for the long term, you
17 know, benefitting not only present day, but also future
18 generations. I think that's what we're all striving
19 for. In Alaska this includes ensuring, you know, the
20 opportunity for continued subsistence uses.

21

22 ANILCA requires that Federal Agencies
23 manage wildlife consistent with the conservation.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to come
26 a little bit closer to the mic?

27

28 MR. MOLLNOW: Oh, sorry.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're starting to
31 fade.

32

33 MR. MOLLNOW: Is it good now?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You're starting to
36 fade just a hair.

37

38 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you.

39

40 But to manage wildlife consistent with
41 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
42 wildlife. The legislative history defines this phrase
43 as a maintenance of fish and wildlife resources in
44 their habitats in a condition that assures stable and
45 continuing natural populations in a species mix of
46 plants and animals. So we're trying to maintain that
47 natural mix out there.

48

49 We strongly support sustainable, you
50 know, harvest of fish and wildlife. And we manage

1 these activities to ensure consistency with Refuge
2 mandates. Over the past year we have been talking with
3 the Regional Advisory Councils all throughout the State
4 and with many of the Tribal Corporations and also
5 Tribal governments to, you know, just get input into
6 this process that we're going through in trying to
7 update regulations. And you guys have provided, you
8 know, a lot of comments and that's helped us adjust
9 things in our process as we move forward. So we thank
10 you for that and we'll continue to have those
11 communications.

12
13 If you go to the next slide, if you
14 will, or the next piece of paper, it says what are the
15 proposed changes, part one. The proposed Refuge
16 regulations that we're considering can be broken up
17 into really three main parts. The first component is
18 pertaining to the clarification of our existing
19 mandates under ANILCA and also the National Wildlife
20 Refuge System Improvement Act in relation to predator
21 control. Predator control is not allowed on Refuges in
22 Alaska unless it is determined to be necessary to meet
23 Refuge purposes, Federal laws or policy and is
24 consistent with mandates to manage the natural and
25 biological diversity, integrity, and environmental
26 health.

27
28 The need for predator control must be
29 based on sound science in response to a significant
30 conservation concern. Demands for more wildlife to
31 harvest cannot be the sole or primary basis for
32 predator control on Refuges in Alaska. During our
33 scoping in Tribal consultations we heard concerns that
34 folks wanted language in this part to be more clear and
35 to reflect the process that would be used in making the
36 decisions. This section of the proposed rule has been
37 updated to address those concerns.

38
39 So if we can flip to the next one, it
40 says what are the proposed changes, part two. The
41 second component of the proposed rule pertains to the
42 prohibition of particularly effective methods and means
43 for the non-subsistence take of predators due to the
44 potential cumulative effects to predator populations
45 and the environment that are inconsistent with our
46 mandates to conserve natural and biological diversity,
47 integrity, and environmental health on Refuges.
48 Specifically the following methods and means for
49 predator harvest would be prohibited on Refuges in
50 Alaska. And this is what we're proposing.

1 The prohibited means are the take of
2 brown bears over bait. The take of bears using traps
3 or snares. The take of wolves and coyotes during the
4 spring and summer denning season from May 1 to August
5 9. The take of bears from aircraft on or the same day
6 as air travel has occurred. Same day airborne take of
7 wolves and wolverines is already prohibited under
8 existing Refuge regulations. The take of bears and
9 cubs with sow -- or cubs or sows with cubs. But there
10 is an exception made. There was a lot of conversation.
11 There's a regulation in place right now within these
12 units that allow for the take of denning bears during
13 -- and we made an exception to that. That was one of
14 the things that was voiced and we heard that loud and
15 clear, so the exception allowed for resident hunters to
16 take black bear cubs or sows with cubs under customary
17 and traditional use activities at den sites from
18 October 15 to April 30 in specific game management
19 units in accordance with State law.

20
21 So originally we were considering a
22 much longer list of potential prohibited harvest
23 methods and means for inclusion in the proposed rule,
24 but after many comments and a lot of discussion and
25 hearing the concerns about that, that were brought up
26 early on in our communications, we reduced, you know,
27 the proposed prohibited methods and means from sixteen
28 originally down to just five. And that was a lot of --
29 well, it was due to the communications that we heard
30 from the Regional Advisory Councils and the Tribes out
31 there. So we thank you.

32
33 The next one is how will the proposed
34 rule affect Refuge lands in your area. And within the
35 area under the purview of the Western Interior Regional
36 Advisory Council, these proposed regulations would
37 apply to the Koyukuk, Nowitna, Innoko, and Kanuti
38 National Wildlife Refuges in GMUs 21 and 24. The
39 proposed regulations that we're considering would
40 result in the following substantive changes to general
41 hunting and trapping regulations on the Refuges.

42
43 The first one is the harvesting of
44 brown bears over registered black bear bait stations is
45 currently legal in 21D, 24C, and 24D under current
46 State hunting regulations. Under the proposed rule
47 harvesting of brown bears at registered black bear
48 stations would be prohibited on Alaska Refuges.

49
50 Number two, under the current State

1 regulation.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you?

4

5 MR. MOLLNOW: Oh, sorry. Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you for
8 one second there and ask a question? Is if it's -- why
9 are brown bears differentiated to be baited from black
10 bears when -- if it's unsound management to harvest
11 brown bears over bait, why is it not unsound management
12 to harvest the black bears over bait? Because the
13 brown bears are just as habituated to bait as the black
14 bears would become. So what was the line of thinking
15 at the Regional Office on that issue.

16

17 MR. MOLLNOW: Mitch, would you like to
18 address that or do you want me to address it.

19

20 MR. ELLIS: Chairman, I -- this is Mr.
21 Ellis. I think the line of reasoning was that the two
22 species have -- well, they're two different species and
23 they have a different reproductive biology,
24 reproductive potential. The cumulative -- potential
25 cumulative impacts on a particularly effective harvest
26 method would drive -- potentially drive a population to
27 a lower level than natural diversity purposes. So it
28 would be inconsistent. But again we're seeking
29 comment. We're in a draft phase. When the draft comes
30 out, we're looking forward to hearing more comments.
31 But we really have -- you know, have had longstanding
32 prohibitions on baiting brown bears, whereas taking
33 black bears over bait has been allowed traditionally in
34 many areas. So again we're seeking input. We haven't
35 made any final decision. I know the Park Service's
36 rule -- they had many concerns about habituating bears
37 to bait and the, you know, adverse impacts to those
38 sorts of things.

39

40 But Ryan, if you want to add anything
41 to that. That really it wasn't a lot of -- there
42 really wasn't a lot of thought other than we haven't
43 allowed it in the past. And looking forward we think
44 that could potentially have impacts and the
45 reproductive capabilities of brown bears are very
46 different from black bears.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's a
49 response that I was looking for. I couldn't figure out
50 why you were differentiating between species because

1 both are being -- you know, the unharvested bears are
2 habituated to human scent and food. And so that can be
3 a problem if it's near a community where you have bears
4 coming around eating, wanting to get human food.

5
6 Then you've got DLPs all the time.

7
8 So okay. Continue, Ryan.

9
10 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Let's see here. Were we on number two? I think that
12 was -- let's go to -- yeah. Number two was under the
13 current State regulations for black bears in GMU 21 and
14 24 and brown bears in 21D, 24C, and 24D can be
15 harvested at black bears -- or yeah, registered black
16 bear stations the same day as you have flown as long as
17 a hunter is 300 feet from the airplane. Under the
18 proposed rule harvesting of brown bears or black bears
19 at a registered bait station the same day you have
20 flown will be prohibited on Refuges in Alaska.

21
22 Number three is currently under the
23 State hunting regulations in GMUs 21 and 24, wolves can
24 be harvested from August 10th to May 31st. Under the
25 proposed rule wolves may not be harvested from May 1 to
26 August 9th on Refuge lands. This shortens the season
27 for wolves by one month and for coyotes by a little
28 more than three months in these GMUs.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I stop you at
31 that point and ask if the Council has any comments on
32 the proposed approval.

33
34 Go ahead, Darrel.

35
36 MR. VENT: Yeah. I noticed he's got --
37 hold on a minute there. I've got to turn this up. Can
38 you hear me? Okay. I'm turning it the wrong way.
39 Talk louder.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. The slightest
42 movement of the mic will.....

43
44 MR. VENT: I have a question on this.
45 You were mentioning black bears and brown bears, but I
46 heard no mention of grizzly bears. Is there somewhere
47 in this regulation that you're going to be addressing
48 grizzly bears?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

1 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Council Member Darrel Vent, we put grizzly bears and
3 brown bears -- we're looking at those as one and the
4 same animal in this Proposal.

5
6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I'm wondering
7 about the coyotes. Couldn't they be considered an
8 evasive species? They're expanding their range and so
9 on, coming in where they weren't there before. And if
10 the weather changes, you know, there's less snow or
11 something, I'm wondering why they're being singled out
12 as one that can't be harvested. Well, that's all for
13 that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ryan.

16
17 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Council Member Collins, the coyotes have been expanding
19 in here. What we were going for in this is to --
20 during that denning time frame, the denning season was
21 to keep harvest from happening during that time frame.
22 And I was going to say Mitch -- if he would like to
23 answer that, that would be wonderful.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Mitch.

26
27 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Council. The Fish and Wildlife Service considers
29 wildlife to be native. If they're expanding the range
30 on their own terms and not being assisted, they're
31 native species. And it is true that coyotes have
32 expanded their range. They're taking advantage of a
33 lot of -- well, human development and resources that
34 may not have been available to them in the past. I
35 know in the Lower 48 they've taken advantage of range
36 expansion because wolves and other apex predators have
37 been removed from the ecosystem and they've faired much
38 better.

39
40 But again Ryan was correct. The rule
41 that -- the methods and means part protecting coyotes
42 and dens -- coyotes and wolves, excuse me, during the
43 denning season is really -- really is just about
44 protecting them during that time period in their life
45 cycle.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Mitch.

50

1 Any other comments.

2

3 Pollock.

4

5 MR. SIMON: Yes. Traditionally we --
6 in the -- around this time in the fall time, we hunt
7 bears in their den in the Koyukuk River and with this
8 proposal shows us the taking of bears and bear cubs is
9 prohibited. We don't know if the cubs are in there, if
10 there's cubs in there or not, traditionally we would
11 take the sow and the cubs -- traditionally we've been
12 doing that and just always for personal use, food.....

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Excuse me, Jack. We're
15 basically only getting the Fish and Wildlife Service's
16 side of this discussion. We're not hearing the Council
17 Members very well at all.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I move the mic
20 closer to Pollock, but the phone seems to be
21 interfering with the intercom session -- or equipment
22 here. And so can Council Members get closer to the
23 mic. Can you like speak right into that mic.

24

25 Something changed in the last second,
26 so go ahead and start talking, Pollock, while it's
27 working.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: State your question
32 about denning bears again, Pollock, so the people on
33 the phone can hear that. Go ahead. Go ahead, Pollock.

34

35 MR. SIMON: Yeah, traditionally on the
36 Koyukuk River in the falltime we hunt bears in their
37 den and most of the time we don't know if there's a sow
38 and a bear cub in there, we take them anyway so -- I
39 don't know about this new rule that's going to prevent
40 us from taking bear cubs, we traditionally take them
41 for food and we traditionally take them.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So clarify that,
44 Ryan. Go ahead.

45

46 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
47 Council Member Simon. We heard those comments and so
48 this rule will not affect that. You will still be able
49 to take those black bears in the dens during that fall
50 time of the year and into the winter. I believe

1 there's -- on the State regulations there's allowance
2 for the customary and traditional use of that activity.
3 And we heard that and so we excluded that out of here.
4 That will still be allowed under those State
5 regulations.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what your
8 proposed rule was actually taking free ranging sows
9 with cubs outside of the October 15 to March whatever
10 time frame? Because it says taking bear cubs or sows
11 with cubs, exceptions apply. And the exception is for
12 denning the sow with cubs. So you're basically
13 eliminating the taking of free ranging sows at other
14 times of the year with cubs. That's what the proposed
15 rule is doing?

16

17 MR. MOLLNOW: Mr. Chair, I'm not really
18 sure. I think I understand part of that.

19

20 But Mitch, did you understand that?

21

22 MR. ELLIS: Yes, Mr. Chair and Council.
23 You're right. That's exactly what it does. It
24 preserves that allowance for traditional take. And the
25 State has already put a regulation in place to allow
26 for that. And so through input during the scoping
27 process we decided not to prohibit that. There would
28 have been an additional method, you know, through the
29 Federal Subsistence Board to allow for that. Our
30 intent all along was not to interfere with subsistence
31 harvest and traditional use of these resources, so any
32 time we've heard that -- and in this case the denning
33 of bears and cubs, that that was a traditional use,
34 part of a legitimate subsistence harvest, we have
35 accommodated that. And that was our intent all along,
36 is to minimize or eliminate any impacts to subsistence
37 harvest.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I appreciate
42 that clarification.

43

44 Go ahead, Darrel.

45

46 MR. VENT: I have one question here.
47 It's on your predator control. As I mentioned earlier,
48 you know, we always took care of the problems that
49 seems where -- you know, where we had to limit the
50 wolves or the brown bears. But recently, you know,

1 it's been kind of a burden on us because it costs so
2 much. If you break a part on your snowmachine or your
3 boat, it's going to cost you quite a bit of money just
4 to take care of some problem that was caused by
5 something else. And we wanted to make sure, you know,
6 that we're not the only ones trying to take care of
7 this problem.

8
9 I mean this predator control is a
10 pretty touchy subject, I know. And we need -- in order
11 to have, you know, sustained amount of moose in our
12 area, we need to address these problems. We're not
13 addressing them. There's no kind of control over
14 these. And I mentioned that earlier. But the problem
15 we have is that you said there's sound science on this.
16 Well, what kind of data do we have on these predators.
17 That's my question. I haven't seen a lot or heard a
18 lot on that, but I know there's some there. But I just
19 haven't heard a lot on it. And it's kind of -- it
20 concerns me that, you know, we're not doing nothing
21 about the predators. We're doing a lot about hunting
22 the moose or the caribou or the fish, but we are not
23 doing anything about the predators.

24
25 And I think that we need to start kind
26 of looking into this. That's what I mentioned earlier.
27 And that's my point that when you're talking about
28 predator control.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to
31 reiterate the predator control stance of the Refuge
32 System? Go ahead.

33
34 MR. MOLLNOW: The stance for National
35 Wildlife Refuges on predator control is that generally
36 it's not -- predator control is not allowed on Refuges
37 unless it's determined, you know, to meet our purposes
38 and mandates and Federal laws, policies. But, you
39 know, what we're looking for there when we allow
40 predator control is that there's a significant
41 conservation concern. You know, is that population in
42 a place where it's in a severe decline or something
43 like that where we need to go and implement those types
44 of actions.

45
46 A prime example is, you know, dealing
47 with threatened and endangered species and some other
48 animals that are in this critical area. And so we will
49 -- we see it as a tool and we will implement that, but
50 ANILCA -- the way it was laid out and the way it was,

1 you know, explained is that we're trying to maintain
2 things in a natural mix. And so it's when we get these
3 populations that are in a significant concern or, you
4 know, in a significant decline or there's some sort of
5 significant concern there that we've got to deal with,
6 you know, we will allow predator control.

7
8 But you're right. It is -- it's
9 challenging. And we've heard that and we're trying to
10 figure out how to work through it. But this is one of
11 the questions that has kept coming and we're trying to
12 clarify that so that people understand when we can
13 allow it.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that
16 clarified it for the Council.

17
18 Go ahead, Ray.

19
20 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I have a question
21 in the same area. I was on the State Group that worked
22 for two years on the management for predators for the
23 State there, so we heard all the biology and the
24 science and everything else. And it looks like natural
25 and healthy are in contrast often. Because a natural
26 system is going to be growing up and then crashing.
27 And when the moose population or whatever they're
28 feeding on is down, then eventually the predators come
29 down, too. But if you're harvesting game and you're
30 only harvesting one. You're not harvesting the
31 predators an equal amount. If you don't balance that
32 harvest, you're going to be heading for a predator pit
33 at some point.

34
35 And that's what we had in the McGrath
36 area. We weren't getting any calf survival. And
37 finally the State stepped in on State land and we
38 recovered it. We removed the predators and reduced the
39 population for a time and now we've got a healthy
40 population again. We've got the cows out there
41 breeding and we're harvesting only bulls. Their
42 sisters are out there breeding and so it's a growing
43 population again. And that will be good for both the
44 hunters and the predators in a sense because the
45 twinning rates are high, so there's plenty of food out
46 there.

47
48 It seems to me that if you allow it to
49 be just natural, you're going to have these crashes up
50 and down and so on. And that's not a healthy

1 population. So I think they -- you know, the Wildlife
2 Refuges, they ought to pay attention to healthy. And
3 I'd think a healthy one would be more balanced. So at
4 some point you're going to have to step in and do
5 predator control to provide some balance.

6
7 And traditionally people did manage in
8 that in the area. They went out in some areas and took
9 wolves out of the den or they harvested. But people
10 aren't out there on the land now. They're not out
11 there trapping as much so that the predators are not
12 harvested in the same numbers they -- they used to.
13 Even the den hunting I would say is probably reduced in
14 some areas from what it was before so that now you do
15 get a greater chance of imbalance.

16
17 So how are you going to factor that in,
18 in this healthy and natural.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Council's
21 basically commenting on the desire to have predator
22 control. And so we need to move through this thing a
23 little more speedily, but I do want the Council's
24 comments to be on the record also about the predator --
25 the issue of predator management.

26
27 So continue.

28
29 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30
31 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, can I.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. This is Tim
36 Gervais. I -- my comment as far as what I'd like to
37 see in your rule is in the incidents where you have
38 commercial guiding services and especially Units 21 and
39 24, where the guides may be harvesting only moose that
40 I think in order to keep this balance that the Refuge
41 should be communicating to the guides or requiring the
42 guides that they need to at some percentage level for
43 whatever they're harvesting -- ten moose -- that they
44 need to spend so many days hunting or have so many
45 harvests of predators such as wolves and bear. I don't
46 know what the numbers of your species ratio is for the
47 guides, but if they're -- if you just have guys that
48 are concentrating solely on moose and not doing any
49 kind of predator hunting, I feel like because it's a
50 commercial services that the Refuge is allowing that

1 they -- the Refuge should have a memorandum of
2 understanding or a policy that so many bears and so
3 many wolves need to be taken out for so many moose.

4

5 That's my comment.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Tim.
8 That's -- an old timer told me if you take a moose or a
9 caribou, it's your obligation to take a predator wolf
10 or a bear. And so that's -- you know, that's what most
11 people are doing. But in the hunting industry they may
12 only target only ungulates and so that's a
13 consideration of harvest management on Refuge lands.

14

15 So go ahead, Ryan.

16

17 MR. MOLLNOW: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. And I got that comment written down and I'll
19 pass that along.

20

21 So the last part to the proposed rule
22 that we're -- that you have before you has to do with
23 updating our kind of public participation in closure
24 procedures.

25

26 So the third component of the
27 regulatory changes we're proposing would update the
28 public participation in closure procedures on National
29 Wildlife Refuges. This part of the regulations would
30 apply to closing or restricting non-subsistence
31 recreational activities on Alaska Refuges. Such as
32 general or sporthunting and fishing, camping or
33 recreational trail use.

34

35 The proposed regulatory changes would
36 not apply to the taking of fish and wildlife under
37 Federal Subsistence Regulations or the use of
38 transportation methods traditionally employed by rural
39 residents engaged in subsistence activities. We're
40 proposing these changes to be consistent with other
41 Federal regulations and processes, increase
42 transparency, and to more effectively engage the
43 public.

44

45 Some of the updates we are considering
46 under this part are to include the conservation of
47 natural biological diversity, biological integrity, and
48 environmental health to the list of closure criteria.
49 Increase the possible duration of emergency closure
50 from 30 days to 60 days, which is consistent with the

1 time frame for emergency special actions under the
2 Federal Subsistence Regulations. Update the temporary
3 closure duration. So we were initially proposing to
4 allow temporary closures to remain in place for up to
5 five years; however, after hearing many concerns about
6 the proposed change, we've decided to change that. And
7 we've decided to retain the language that clearly
8 states temporary closures may only remain in place as
9 long as reasonably necessary under given circumstances.

10

11

12 So for closures pertaining to non-
13 subsistence take of fish and wildlife, we removed the
14 12 month time limit, but require mandatory review at a
15 minimum of every three years. And this is consistent
16 with the Federal Subsistence Board closure policy. We
17 also added in a requirement to include a formal finding
18 in writing justifying the decision to re-open or keep a
19 closure in place. We also heard concerns about our
20 initial scoping in Tribal consultation phase that --
21 heard during that time frame that folks wanted to
22 ensure that there were adequate opportunities for the
23 public to engage in the process. So we decided to add
24 in a requirement to publish an annual list of Refuge
25 closures, including contact information for the Fish
26 and Wildlife Service lead for the public review and
27 input.

28

29 So we'd require consultation with State
30 and effected Tribes and Native Corporations on
31 temporary and permanent closures. And based on the
32 feedback received during the scoping, we decided to
33 retain a requirement for a public hearing, as opposed
34 to a meeting. So it would be hearing versus a meeting
35 in the affected area prior to the implementation of the
36 temporary or permanent closure.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the hearings are
39 recorded?

40

41 MR. MOLLNOW: Yes. That is correct.

42

43 Mitch, is that accurate?

44

45 MR. ELLIS: Yes. Initially, we had
46 entertained the idea of simply having public meetings
47 and open houses as a requirement without a transcript
48 and we heard loud and clear that folks preferred there
49 be a written record. So yes, we are requiring hearings
50 with transcripts.

1 MR. MOLLNOW: That's good.

2

3 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

4

5 MR. MOLLNOW: So let's see here. I
6 think the last would expand the methods for the public
7 notice by adding the use of the internet and other
8 available methods, in addition to continuing the use of
9 the traditional methods of newspaper, signs. So we're
10 trying to increase the ability to communicate out to
11 people.

12

13 So the.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
18 wish they balance this emergency closure with also the
19 authority of the local managers to extend openings.
20 Because we have the problem now you have to get a
21 season in place. You get a winter season in place and
22 maybe it's 15 days or whatever. You get cold weather
23 and people that can't go out hunting and so on, there's
24 no method for extending that season temporarily right
25 away. And so you've lost an opportunity for people to
26 hunt.

27

28 So they need to really look at that
29 part of the regulations, too. To move that down closer
30 to where they could -- I mean you can act fast on a
31 closure, but you can't act fast on an opening if you
32 have to go through this whole proposal when they're in
33 place. And they haven't been given opportunity to hunt
34 if the 15 days nobody can get out because of the
35 weather conditions -- or the ten days or whatever is
36 allowed. And they should be able to have an immediate
37 decision to open those. So just balance those two
38 somewhere.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These closures do
41 not affect subsistence regulations, as far as I
42 understand. So these.....

43

44 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These are closures
47 to non-subsistence uses.

48

49 Go ahead.

50

1 MR. MOLLNOW: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
2 -- but I did write that comment down. So last kind of
3 -- to start wrapping this up, you know, hunting is a
4 priority public use on National Wildlife Refuges and
5 under the existing law and Agency policy. Again, the
6 Fish and Wildlife Service has and will continue to
7 strongly support, you know, hunting and sustainable
8 harvest of fish and wildlife on Refuges, you know,
9 including the harvest of predators. And most State of
10 Alaska hunting and trapping regulations, including
11 harvest limits, you know, would continue to be adopted
12 and apply on Alaska Refuges.

13
14 The Fish and Wildlife Service, you
15 know, must administer hunting on Refuges in a manner
16 that's consistent with Refuge establishment purposes
17 and other legal mandates. The proposed regulations are
18 aimed at ensuring that the over-arching Refuge
19 establishment purposes as defined under ANILCA of
20 conserving fish and wildlife and habitats in their
21 natural diversity on all Refuges in Alaska are met.
22 Under the Refuge System Improvement Act, all National
23 Wildlife Refuges, including those in Alaska, must also
24 be managed so as to maintain the biological integrity,
25 diversity, and environmental health.

26
27 So in the recent past, you know, the
28 Board of Game has adopted hunting and trapping
29 regulations in intensive management areas, you know, in
30 various parts of the State, which have allowed
31 particular practices of harvest of predators, such as
32 the take of wolves and coyotes during the denning
33 season. The take of brown bears over bait and trapping
34 and snaring of bears on same day airborne of bears and
35 wolves. The Fish and Wildlife Service believes that
36 these recently adopted or considered methods and means
37 for the take of predators conflict with the legal
38 mandates because they're intended to or have the
39 potential to depress and manage predator populations on
40 Alaska Refuges at levels that are inconsistent with
41 conserving all fish and wildlife in their natural
42 diversity and maintaining, you know, that biological
43 integrity, diversity, environmental health.

44
45 The Fish and Wildlife Service is
46 required and to the extent practicable to be consistent
47 with the State regulations governing the take of fish
48 and wildlife on Refuges. And it is in fact our
49 preference to do so whenever we can. That said, while
50 we fully respect the State's role and responsibilities

1 for managing wildlife in Alaska, we also recognize that
2 differences do exist between the State's mandates and
3 the Federal laws governing the administration of
4 Refuges. And that these differences sometimes require
5 different regulatory process. In addition, you know,
6 we aim to more effectively engage the public by
7 updating the public participation enclosure procedures
8 to broaden that notification outreach, ensure the
9 consultation with Tribes and States, and provide for
10 increased transparency in our decision making, and to
11 allow additional opportunities for the public to
12 provide input.

13
14 So once again, these proposed
15 regulations -- you know, who do they apply to. You
16 know, the changes that we're considering under the
17 proposed regulations would only apply to State
18 regulated general hunting and trapping, which is open
19 to all Alaskans, as well as people from the Lower 48.
20 You know, and intensive management activities on Alaska
21 National Wildlife Refuges. So the proposed regulations
22 would not apply to Federally qualified subsistence
23 users hunting under the trapping - or under -- users
24 hunting or trapping under Federal subsistence
25 regulations. So that's just to try to clarify that so
26 that people understand.

27
28 And the other -- kind of the last part
29 to this is where they apply. You know, the Fish and
30 Wildlife Service has authority for management of plants
31 and wildlife on Refuge lands. These proposed
32 regulations would only apply on National Wildlife
33 Refuges in Alaska, so they would not apply to other
34 Federal lands, State lands, private lands, you know, or
35 Native lands or waters. So it only applies on Refuge
36 lands.

37
38 So we're -- kind of the last part of
39 this was the timeline for the proposed rule. It's on a
40 slide there, but we're nearing publication into the
41 Federal Register. Hopefully that will go out coming up
42 here the end of November or first part of December.
43 And then there will be a long public comment period.
44 So there's still -- this is all -- my presentation in
45 advance of the regular public comment period. And
46 then, yeah, you can see once we get -- go through a 60
47 to 90-day public comment period, we'll collect all
48 those comments. Go through it. And that will begin
49 kind of the final process of refining this proposed
50 rule.

1 So anyway, that's where I stop.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you,
6 Ryan.

7

8 In the biological diversity realm, you
9 know, you don't allow predator control. But on many
10 Refuges we've experienced prey suppression through
11 over-harvest and like bull/cow ratios pushed right into
12 the toilet on Refuge lands. And so this proposed rule
13 is a double edged sword. If the prey base is being
14 suppressed by sporthunting activities to the point
15 where there's a need to control -- and the State Board
16 of Game does not control the sporthunting public --
17 then this proposed rule would also apply to reducing
18 the effects on the prey base, which moose, caribou, and
19 et cetera.

20

21 As this Council has proposed many
22 times, there's a need for management plans on the
23 Federal lands for each species so that we know what the
24 parameters are of healthy harvest and sustained yield.
25 And if those are being violated by sporthunting
26 activities, there's a need for a mechanism to draw down
27 or temporarily close or emergency close until -- and I
28 would encourage the Fish and Wildlife Service to look
29 at what the genetic impact of certain regulatory
30 processes that the State uses like four brow tine.
31 Four brow tines is basically culls a phenotype out of
32 the population. So the State has management
33 methodologies that actually highly affect the gene pool
34 on the Refuge lands by requiring four brow tine instead
35 of going to a drawing permit or limit -- some kind of
36 other limiting factor, they require a genetic
37 extraction of certain phenotypes out of the population.
38 Because it's like looking for four leaf clovers or
39 something.

40

41 But I feel that the Refuge system
42 should look at what the sustained yield or natural
43 healthy populations that can be sustained on any Refuge
44 system. And if those populations cannot sustain the
45 sporthunting rates that the State has implemented, that
46 there should be a reduction or a closure policy. You
47 know, you're fixated on the predators, but I feel that
48 what it does is it imbalances it to where you have too
49 much predation. Then the thing starts going over.
50 It's a tipping point. It starts to go over the cliff.

1 And so this is a little bigger picture
2 than what you're displaying to this -- in the proposed
3 rule that there needs to be somewhat of an oversight of
4 what the State's actually doing on the Refuge lands.
5 Here you're looking at the predator aspect, but there's
6 a prey aspect of it also. And I do feel that there
7 needs to be management plans on all the Refuge lands so
8 that we know what we're talking about and that if it's
9 going over a cliff, then you have a legal parameter to
10 reduce that temporarily.

11
12 So I do feel that there's more to do
13 this proposed rule than meets the eye here. And so
14 that would be my comments.

15
16 Does the Council have any more comments
17 on the proposed rule.

18
19 Don.

20
21 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
22 don't have a comment. I guess I have a question.

23
24 Up to -- you know, we even discussed
25 this in McGrath and up to two weeks ago at the Eastern
26 Interior. And it's going to be interesting to -- you
27 know, they had a bunch of different questions about the
28 brown bear and stuff, so it's -- you know, when you get
29 it all done. But to me, right now that's absent from
30 that particular one and it kind of struck me as why
31 it's not in here is the one about the artificial
32 lights. Did you guys eliminate that. I mean why is it
33 not -- I thought it was kind of a big subject. The
34 artificial light means of taking bears.

35
36 MR. MOLLNOW: So I almost have to ask a
37 question there. That would be artificial light with --
38 for the denning of bears?

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. That's -- but
41 what the proposed rule does not change the customary
42 practices for denning black bears, sows with cubs or
43 other traditional practices that are traditionally
44 used. And so but I don't know that -- or do these
45 Federal regulations specifically say that you can use a
46 light on a den site.

47
48 And so that was brought up at the
49 Eastern Interior meeting? Is that what you're talking
50 about, Don?

1 MR. HONEA: Well, that was on their
2 agenda. And it's blaringly not on here. I mean I was
3 just wondering why not. I mean, you know, just getting
4 kind of watered down. At first you said there was a
5 whole bunch of them and it came down to this.

6
7 But I thought that was more importantly
8 kind of a safety issue for the artificial lights. I
9 mean that's just my opinion. I was just wondering why
10 it's not on there.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you clarify this
15 for the Council.

16
17 MR. ELLIS: Mr. Chairman, this is
18 Mitch.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. Go ahead,
21 Mitch.

22
23 MR. ELLIS: Mr. Chair, yes. That's a
24 good question. That was one of the 16 methods and
25 means issues that were looked at initially. It was
26 taken out. The State already allows the use of
27 artificial light under the denning regs they have. So
28 we don't address it in our rule. So it would be
29 allowed.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks for
32 clarifying that. Appreciate that.

33
34 MR. ELLIS: Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. On
39 this last comment it says that you're not supposed -- a
40 natural mix occurring now -- not to emphasize
41 management activities favoring some species to the
42 detriment of others. I think if you look at this
43 closely you could say in -- let's say in the brown bear
44 example that we're favoring brown bear over some of the
45 others if you don't allow a reasonable harvest of brown
46 bear. And that's to the detriment of moose.

47
48 So we need to look closely at the
49 predator issue on what their numbers are doing in
50 relation to their prey. Because they're taking a

1 majority of the animals. It's not hunting. In hunting
2 you can regulate with bulls only and so on. You're not
3 taking the cows. And so if you've got a falling calf
4 population out there, it's due to predation. It's not
5 due to any of the hunting activities. So that needs to
6 be considered carefully when you consider when are you
7 going to trigger some kind of predator control. Are
8 you emphasizing predators over their prey base and so
9 on and over others.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you have any
12 comments, Tim. Are you still on the phone?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When does Tim take
17 off anyways. Is he on the plane?

18

19 MS. BURKE: I think he departs at 2:00.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, I had a quick
22 comments.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I would like some
27 of the other Council Members to comment on this because
28 it's kind of a newer idea we're having come up in this
29 morning's discussion. What if in that proposed rule
30 there's some requirement where the Federal Managers or
31 Refuge Managers need to communicate to all the people
32 that are receiving permits for sporthunting that
33 acknowledges the fact that there's a second class or a
34 different class of users on the Refuge, the subsistence
35 hunters that's using whatever bear hunting or moose
36 hunting that's part of their subsistence economy and
37 just some kind of statement or information sheet or
38 something that's describing that. Because some of
39 these hunters will be coming from Houston or Cleveland,
40 it may be their first time in Alaska. They have no
41 idea what subsistence is about. They may not realize,
42 you know, which villages. Galena, Huslia, Nulato.
43 Which ones -- that there's villages close by that need
44 this resource as part of their subsistence economy.

45

46 And what if the Refuge Managers when
47 they're writing out these permits that they include
48 some kind of information that these resources are
49 important to a lot of local people and advising the
50 sporthunters that they need to conduct their hunts in

1 areas and in ways and perhaps share their harvest with
2 local people because it is part of our economy and not
3 -- it's not just a recreational activity. So just some
4 kind of education effort to extend the people that may
5 not be aware that these moose and these bear are
6 important as food.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Tim.

9

10 Darrel.

11

12 MR. VENT: While we're on the subject,
13 you know, it's like the State -- that, you know, we
14 talked about sustained yield for quite a few years. I
15 know Jack's been on that subject for quite a few years
16 about the maximum use of sustained yield. And that
17 that's in the wording that, you know, the State uses.
18 And that's been an issue. I know that's been an issue.
19 A lot of the animals that we use for subsistence. But
20 now we're talking on the subject of predation, what it
21 is -- is what I'm worried about is every time we go
22 into a crash, it costs us so much money to take care of
23 this predation. Why not get ahead and take care of it,
24 you know, in the normal way that we do as, you know,
25 our subsistence use. It would be less costly. I
26 figure, you know, it wouldn't cost us as much as, you
27 know, in some areas we have intensive management where
28 they have to apply a lot of money to it because it's
29 already after the fact, not while we're in the process.

30

31

32 I think it would be more feasible to
33 apply it while we're using our subsistence use, like
34 Tim was saying. It's not only with the, you know, one
35 species. It's with all species. That we learn to use
36 predation as a tool to keep it at a level where we can
37 sustain making a healthy population on it.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Have you got
40 a comment, Eric, on the proposed rule?

41

42 MR. HUNTINGTON: This is regarding the
43 Refuge land, correct? Okay. This is part of what I
44 was talking about earlier where say the Huslia Tribe
45 has its own Department of Fish and Game. They could --
46 the aerial surveys that the Fish and Wildlife does on
47 the Refuge land, they could tell the Tribe hey, you
48 have 30 -- X amount of too many black bear. X amount
49 of too many grizzly bear. Make this information known
50 and if there's no resources like he was talking about

1 having -- it costs a lot of money to start predator
2 control. Have the Tribes open to having their own
3 predator control program. And if there's money out
4 there for predator control to use that money and employ
5 subsistence hunters. To pay for them to go out there
6 and get those predators on that land. That would be a
7 proactive form of management. And it kind of
8 eliminates the controversy with the Federal and State
9 doing the predator control, whereas the Tribes are
10 being the ones proactive in management.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Tribes could
13 fully fund any activity like that on their Corp lands.
14 Those are not Refuge lands, so you're exactly right.

15
16 So I mean many communities could do
17 that if they had the money to fund the hunters to take
18 predators, but this proposed rule is on the Federal
19 lands. In Federal Refuge lands.

20
21 MR. HUNTINGTON: The Tribes are
22 Federally recognized governments, so there's kind of a
23 tie in right there.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. They are. And
26 they can do certain things on their lands. As private
27 land owners, you know, they can do. But Refuge lands
28 are -- have certain mandates and so forth. And so
29 we're talking about the proposed rule.

30
31 I do want to state that I've gotten
32 lots of calls from other Councils and individuals that
33 are concerned about the proposed rule usurping State
34 authority. And I do -- you know, there's concern --
35 various concerns voiced in different levels about that.
36 But I would hope that the closures and et cetera would
37 be looked at very seriously before any temporary or
38 permanent closures occur. And because of the -- you
39 know, the dual management system that we have with
40 State and Federal management. And the least amount of
41 divisiveness the better.

42
43 But I do -- have gotten a lot of calls
44 from different people in different areas of Alaska
45 about this proposed rule. But I do see certain aspects
46 of the proposed rule that have benefits to the resource
47 populations and so I -- I'm not -- you know, some areas
48 of Alaska, they like bear baiting. Well, that's fine.
49 But I don't see a benefit. I see that it actually
50 habituates bears to come to human scent and human food.

1 And then you have problems. And so -- but if certain
2 areas want that, that's fine with me. But I have had
3 more problems, you know, around where I live since they
4 allowed the black bear baiting on the Dalton Highway.
5 And so I've got bears showing up in my yard and they're
6 used to human scent. They're not nearly as easy to
7 chase away. I don't shoot them, but I try and get rid
8 of them. And they're harder to chase away than they
9 used to be. They're more habituated to humans.

10

11 And so there's some problems with some
12 of these, you know, management plans. But I do want --
13 the question is about the proposed rule. I do get a
14 lot of concerns from various people and so I want to
15 state that on the record.

16

17 So can we have a -- oh. Go ahead,
18 Eric.

19

20 MR. HUNTINGTON: What happens on Refuge
21 land has corresponding impact on Tribal land, State
22 land, whatever's next door. Moose and black bear and
23 grizzly bear don't know they're on Federal or State
24 land or Tribal land, which is the -- the proactive part
25 of it is that we should consider that -- the impacts
26 that what happens on Tribal land with predation and
27 sport hunting has an effect on Tribal land, which should
28 tie it in even further to the proactive predator
29 control.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

32

33 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 appreciate those comments, Eric. I mean, you know,
35 years ago we had discussed this. Before the population
36 of moose or anything crashes, that's a sound thing to
37 do. I mean like we mentioned, Tribe Councils as an
38 incentive -- whether they have a hunting and fishing
39 task force office not, you know, to be able to -- as an
40 incentive maybe put a couple hundred dollars extra on
41 whatever they get. And that's -- that sounds -- well,
42 it's a good idea.

43

44 I appreciate your comments on that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
47 from the Council about the proposed rule.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, any final
2 comments?

3
4 MR. GERVAIS: No. I think that's it.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
9 that, Ryan. I think we've filled up several pages for
10 the court recorder here. So thank you very much.

11
12 Okay. Melinda.

13
14 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, before we take
15 our lunch break I think there's one item from the old
16 business that we can quickly cover. We've got our
17 leadership team representative person from Office of
18 Subsistence Management, Chris McKee, here who will
19 cover Item 9A, an update on the rural determination
20 process. And the materials can be found on page ten of
21 your meeting book.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Chris.

24
25 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Again, for the record, my name is Chris McKee, with the
27 Office of Subsistence Management. This is not an
28 action item. It's merely just an informational update
29 for the Council Members.

30
31 During its work session on July 28th of
32 this year, the Federal Subsistence Board -- oh. And by
33 the way, this summary of the work session is on page
34 ten of your booklets. At that meeting the Board took
35 action on the rural determination process. The Board
36 divided the process into three phases.

37
38 The first phase addressed the Board's
39 recommendation on the current Secretarial proposed rule
40 and the Board voted to recommend to the Secretaries to
41 adopt the proposed rule as written.

42
43 The second phase was determining a
44 starting point for non-rural communities and areas.
45 And the Board voted to publish a direct final rule
46 adopting the pre-2007 non-rural determinations.

47
48 And finally, the third phase was
49 direction on future non-rural determinations. The
50 Board voted to direct Staff to develop options to

1 determine future non-rural determination for the
2 Board's consideration. All three of these requests
3 were passed unanimously and OSM Staff is expected to
4 have a draft of options for the Board by the January
5 2016 meeting.

6
7 After the Board provides guidance in
8 January 2016 on which option it decides to pursue for
9 future non-rural determinations, our Staff will draft
10 either a policy or a proposed rule and present it to
11 the various Councils for input and recommendations to
12 the Board.

13
14 Now just recently -- and actually as of
15 tomorrow both the final rule on the rural determination
16 process and the direct final rule adopting the pre-2007
17 rural determination are going to be published. So that
18 has already been signed by the Secretary and that's
19 moving forward.

20
21 So that's pretty much a quick and dirty
22 update. And a few things have changed, but now it's
23 basically -- you know, if you remember that long list
24 of regulations that was, you know, several pages long,
25 it's now basically just reading that the Board
26 determines which areas or communities in Alaska are
27 non-rural. And so all other communities are therefore
28 rural. The areas that are -- there's a few areas that
29 have changed now. For instance, Prudhoe Bay would be
30 -- actually go back to being rural. Saxman of course,
31 which has been probably the area that has gotten the
32 most attention, is going to -- again will be rural.
33 And so that's just kind of an example of some of the
34 changes that are going to be put forth. So as of
35 tomorrow, that -- both of those rules will be
36 published.

37
38 So that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Prudhoe Bay or
41 Dead Horse -- when I was at the Board meeting, there
42 was like two people that live there. And there's like
43 no Federal land around Dead Horse. Would the -- it
44 would be the prerogative of the North Slope Regional
45 Advisory Council to then propose that they're non-
46 rural? Is this the way the process would work at this
47 point?

48
49 MR. MCKEE: Well, and somebody can
50 correct me if I'm wrong. I think the rural

1 determination process would move along similar lines
2 that we have now for wildlife regulations. The Council
3 could certainly put in a proposal to make those kind of
4 changes, but so could any individual. So it's kind of
5 going to be going along the same lines that you're
6 already used to for dealing with wildlife and fisheries
7 proposals during those respective cycles. So it would
8 operate in much the same way.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't consider
11 there are any subsistence users that are on a work
12 rotation of Dead Horse. But -- and don't see a
13 problem. But I'm just wondering how the process would
14 work. And so you have clarified that.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 Any other comments on the proposed
19 rule.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So seeing none,
24 thanks for the update.

25

26 Melinda.

27

28 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, there has been
29 some mechanical issues with Greg Roczicka's flight, so
30 it does not look like -- unfortunately, it doesn't look
31 like he's going to be able to join us here in town
32 today. They were doing a test flight. But he is going
33 to attempt to call in. So during lunch we'll
34 strategize with Staff and try to figure out what best
35 way we can route Greg into the call.

36

37 My personal preference would be to try
38 to take up the Partnership Project and the FRMP after
39 lunch, before we dive into proposals. And we can see
40 what time Tim would arrive because we do need him
41 either on the phone or here in person to get any voting
42 done. And both the Partnership Project and the FRMP
43 discussion are non-action items. So if we can just
44 kind of keep that in mind over lunch and we'll reassess
45 when we return. Keep our fingers crossed for a smooth
46 trip for Tim. That would be my recommendation, Mr.
47 Chair.

48

49 And I'll leave it to you to how long
50 you'd like to call for lunch. Remind folks in the room

1 the coffee shop has provided a menu that is in the back
2 of the room and they are going to be available for
3 lunch. We do have a little bit of leftover stew here.
4 If the Council Members would like to stay in the room,
5 that's up to you.

6
7 And we also have some checks that we'll
8 need to get them run to the store, so any help with
9 that by Staff would be really appreciated.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it's 12:20 right
12 now. So if we break till 1:30 that's an hour and ten
13 minutes. Is that good. Is that good with the Council.

14
15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we'll
19 break till 1:30 on the wall clock.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (On record)

24
25 MS. BURKE: Can we find out who's on
26 the phone, please, for the Western Interior Regional
27 Advisory Council meeting.

28
29 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with BLM.

30
31
32 MS. BURKE: Good morning. Afternoon, I
33 mean.

34
35 MS. GARCIA: This is Sabrina Garcia
36 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Summer
37 Season Assistant Area Manager.

38
39 MR. ESTENSEN: Yeah. Good afternoon.
40 Jeff Estensen with the Alaska Department of Fish and
41 Game, Fall Season Manager Yukon area, calling from
42 Fairbanks.

43
44 MS. BURKE: Council Member Morgan, are
45 you on the line?

46
47 Greg, is that you?

48
49 MR. MORGAN: Hello. This is Carl.

50

1 MS. BURKE: Carl. Awesome. Good to
2 hear your voice. Thank you, sir.

3
4 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

5
6 MS. BURKE: So Carl, we are going to
7 cover -- it's at the end of the proposals. We haven't
8 gotten to the proposals yet, but we're going to cover
9 item number 10D, as in David, the Kuskokwim River
10 Partnership Project. And the materials you have are on
11 page 438 of your meeting book. And I'm going to email
12 you a couple of other supplemental documents as well if
13 I can. The email is very, very limited for me.

14
15 What about Mr. Greg Roczicka from the
16 YK-Delta RAC. Have you joined us yet?

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to be
19 waiting a couple more minutes for Greg Roczicka to come
20 on the conference call. So just standing by here.

21
22 MR. ROCZICKA: Good afternoon, folks.

23
24 MS. BURKE: Hi, Greg. Is that you?

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. From my temporary
27 office today, the corner of the Fairbanks International
28 Airport.

29
30 MS. BURKE: Beautiful. Nice building.
31 Nice building. Very good. Okay. Awesome. Sir, thank
32 you for joining us. We've got various Staff members on
33 the phone. We also have Mr. Carl Morgan, our
34 representative from Aniak, as well. And we'll get
35 started here in just a second.

36
37 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
40 bring the Western Interior Advisory Council back to
41 order. And we're going to be going over the Kuskokwim
42 River Partnership Project. And Stewart Cogswell is
43 going to give us a presentation and Greg Roczicka is on
44 the phone also from the YK-Delta Regional Advisory
45 Council.

46
47 So go ahead, Stuart.

48
49 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, Members of
50 the Council. My name is Stuart Cogswell. I am the

1 Fisheries Division Chief for the Office of Subsistence
2 Management in Anchorage. And I'll be giving a
3 presentation here and Greg from the airport will be
4 giving a perspective from the YK-Delta RAC and
5 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission. He is a
6 member of both.

7

8 And members of the audience, we do have
9 extra copies of this in the back of this handout. And
10 as Melinda said, page 438 in the book.

11

12 So I'll start with the blue copy. And
13 just as background, in 2014 the Deputy Secretary of the
14 Interior, Mike Connor, in his address to AFN talked
15 about a Demonstration Project. This was a project that
16 was to be an administrative option to provide a more
17 meaningful role for rural residents in Alaska. So that
18 was the impetus to hold this project. And since that
19 time there has been a whole team of people working to
20 get this moving forward. And it's been a long process
21 and we're at a point where we're -- that some decisions
22 have to be made to go forward the final step to have
23 something implemented for next year. So that's what
24 I'm going to do today, is I'm just going to go through
25 it real quick to explain the different steps. And
26 we'll go from there.

27

28 So if you want to -- I'll go through
29 all three documents. But I'll start with the blue one.
30 It's entitled Kuskokwim River Partnership Project.

31

32 I can't do anything about this cutting
33 in and out, can I?

34

35 MS. BURKE: (Indiscernible)

36

37 MR. COGSWELL: How's that. Excellent.

38 Okay.

39

40 So on the blue handout.....

41

42 (Phone interruption)

43

44 MS. BURKE: Hey, Greg. Is there any
45 way to push star six or mute until it's your turn to
46 talk, sir? We're getting a lot of background noise.

47

48 MR. ROCZICKA: Okay, yeah, it's
49 (indiscernible - distortion) too, turn it off and on.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. I'll start back
2 up, Greg. So the first page, I'll just go through the
3 three objectives.

4
5 The first one is provide a meaningful
6 rule for salmon management for rural residents of the
7 Kuskokwim River.

8
9 The second objective was to have State
10 participation.

11
12 And the third objective was to provide
13 advice directly to the in-season manager.

14
15 And one thing to remember as we're
16 going through this, this is a Demonstration Project.
17 And that means it's to be demonstrated. We want to
18 make sure that it works. If it doesn't work as well
19 as we want, we can change it. So it's just -- we'll
20 work on it as we go forward. But this first year we
21 just want to get something, you know, as best we can.
22 And then we'll go forward and adjust it as we go
23 forward.

24
25 So what we came up with is this past
26 year there was -- the InterTribal Fish Commission
27 formed and they were working -- they had three
28 representatives that worked with the in-season manager
29 to discuss things. So we kind of thought that -- the
30 State in-season manager and the Federal in-season
31 manager both appreciated that. Being able to, you
32 know, talk to three people and then get -- you know,
33 hear it from all 32 villages up and down the river and
34 then come back. So it was a quicker way and it covered
35 the whole river.

36
37 So we said why don't we work off of
38 something that -- that was -- develop something that
39 kind of worked well last year, so we came up with a
40 two-part structure. If you want to flip the page,
41 there's a picture. It's a diagram. And again the goal
42 is to provide a more meaningful role.

43
44 So we'd like to have an MOU -- on the
45 bottom circle there. Or I'll just start with the top.

46
47 The Western Interior and Yukon-
48 Kuskokwim RAC Subcommittee were recommending to develop
49 a joint subcommittee between the two RACs to just focus
50 on fish. You know, to get more meaningful involvement

1 just on fish. And then the other part of that is to
2 kind of have a more developed understanding -- a
3 Memorandum of Understanding for the Kuskokwim River
4 InterTribal Fish Commission. The same as went on last
5 year, but we'll have an agreement to kind of develop
6 that.

7

8 So those are the two parts. Those two
9 parts together make up the Kuskokwim River Partnership
10 Project. So I'll flip to the last page. And kind of
11 as I'm going to the last page on this, kind of look at
12 that diagram.

13

14 So the first part -- the Joint
15 Fisheries Subcommittee, how is that going to have a
16 more meaningful role. So this is how we've kind of
17 envisioned it and developed it. The first point is
18 you'd be able to move, you know, strategies directly
19 through the RAC. You know, they develop. They can
20 move them through the RACs. The RACs retain deference.
21 The Subcommittee comes up with idea. They're focused
22 on fish. They'll go to the RACs. The RACs will have
23 deference for decisions.

24

25 An example I use is if the run forecast
26 comes back similar to last year, there may be an
27 allocation strategy. So you could address that through
28 the RACs with deference. So pre-season. Because
29 you'll probably be meeting during the normal RAC cycle,
30 so you can project decisions -- different decisions
31 forward. So that would be providing the input during
32 kind of the off season towards in-season.

33

34 So the second part, the MOU with the
35 Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, they can
36 be consulting with the in-season manager on a day-to-
37 day basis. And they can collaborate with the RAC when
38 needed. And just again we're trying to mirror what
39 happened in 2015. It was a successful -- there was a
40 lot of successes. There's still some things we need to
41 work out, but it was -- overall, I think people were
42 very happy with what happened in 2015 with the
43 InterTribal Fish Commission.

44

45 So the next thing I'll do is I'll go to
46 the book, on page 438 in the big manual. This is what
47 sent out, the overview on page 438 and 439. Some of
48 the parts of it's a little dated, but that's
49 background. I'm not going to read it. But it's kind
50 of how the -- everything came to be and kind of

1 explains more about it.

2

3 There's a couple of next steps. One of
4 the next steps is talking to the RACs. We have several
5 contacts. Trevor Fox from Regional Office and myself.
6 Neil Lalonde left the Refuge, so he's no longer there.
7 But Trevor and I will answer any questions you have
8 hopefully.

9

10 So if you turn to the next page, it's
11 page 440. This is kind of a draft charge for the
12 subcommittee. Subcommittees need a charge. And this
13 was a draft we came up with. A lot of it is standard
14 language, so a lot of -- charges have to have standard
15 language in there. But I want to -- I'm not going to
16 read the whole thing, but I just want to let you know
17 -- I'll kind of highlight the areas in yellow.

18

19 So the first one on the top of page
20 440, we came up with a name. This is your document.
21 This will be the subcommittee's document. So it can be
22 whatever name you want it to be. And some of the stuff
23 throughout here you can change to make your own. This
24 is just a draft. It's a template to kind of get us
25 started.

26

27 So if you go to page 441, the top of
28 that is yellow -- or in the middle of the page,
29 estimated number and frequency of meetings. The
30 subcommittee -- it talks about the subcommittee will
31 meet a minimum. That's -- again that's up to the RACs
32 to decide how often the subcommittee meets.

33

34 Then down towards the bottom, technical
35 committee. Again, that's -- the RACs will make up --
36 will decide the make up of the technical committee.

37

38 And in membership, on the bottom of
39 page 441, the number and composition of members will be
40 up to the RACs. That will be up to -- we've put our
41 template there of Council membership, InterTribal Fish
42 Commission, and the Salmon Working Group. It's kind of
43 a template to kind of jump start. It may work out
44 great as is, but that's again up to you to decide.

45

46 And so the rest of -- if you flip the
47 page to page 442, that's just the rest of the charge.
48 And a lot of that is terms, you know, quorum, serving
49 without compensation, and record-keeping. A lot of
50 that is fairly standard.

1 So there also is -- well, before I go
2 there I have handed out two -- we've presented the same
3 information to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta RAC and
4 they've provided comments. They made a motion to
5 accept with these comments. And you have their
6 comments. This is going to be a joint subcommittee, so
7 you both have to be on board with what it looks like.
8 So this is their comments. So that's -- before --
9 that's all I have for the charge before I turn it over
10 to Greg to get his perspective.

11
12 The MOU portion of that -- I just want
13 to give you an update on that. We are still working on
14 it. It is close to being done. I say that
15 tentatively, but it's close. We still have a few more
16 issues to iron out with all the parties. We want it to
17 be as strong a document as it can be and we're just
18 working on the final details there. So I don't really
19 have a time frame. I used to give time frames for
20 this, but it's -- I'm hoping that it's very close to
21 having a final MOU.

22
23 So all right, Greg. If you're ready, I
24 will turn it over to you. And you can give your
25 thoughts on that and then we'll probably -- at the end
26 we can open it up to any questions on the Partnership
27 Project. So take it away, Greg.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. COGSWELL: Are you still there,
32 Greg?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 MS. BURKE: Hey Greg, if you muted
37 yourself, push star six again one more time there to
38 unmute yourself.

39
40 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, we could
41 probably start with questions. I could probably answer
42 some from the Service's perspective -- OSM's.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Has the
45 Council got questions on the presentation.

46
47 Don, go ahead.

48
49 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 Stewart, I was just wondering -- I mean just being in

1 you're so new here. So what are you looking from the
2 Council exactly. I mean are you looking for
3 representatives for the -- like two off of the RAC?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Stewart.

6

7 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. If
8 you look at the membership, we have made an initial
9 suggestion of two from each Council, three from the
10 InterTribal Fish Commission, and two from the Salmon
11 Working Group. Again that is up to you to decide, but
12 we felt that was a good starting point having two folks
13 from each Council represented on this subcommittee.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I heard another
16 bleep on the phone. Was that you coming back again,
17 Greg?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently not. So
22 this Council only has two members from the Kuskokwim
23 River Drainage and so two is a maximum for our Council
24 at this point for representation. We've got Ray and we
25 have.....

26

27 MR. ROCZICKA: Hello, folks. Can you
28 hear me now?

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Greg. Okay.

31

32 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I was trying to
33 unmute. It wouldn't unmute. So I just hung up and
34 called back again.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
37 Well, you can go right ahead since we were waiting for
38 you to come back online there. Go ahead.

39

40 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I don't have a
41 whole lot more to add to Stewart's overview as far as
42 how this process worked itself out. Just give you a
43 little bit of background as far as the InterTribal Fish
44 Commission's perspective. And oh, I should also
45 mention for the record I am Vice-Chair of the YK-Delta
46 RAC also.

47

48 But our -- you know, one of our whole
49 goals in this is this whole dual management structure
50 and trying to (indiscernible - distortion) so we have

1 one management structure that does what is being termed
2 as a meaningful role and one of the main components of
3 that is that this is -- we have no intention of this
4 becoming just another Kuskokwim Salmon Management
5 Working Group under a Federal label. Nobody needs more
6 meetings to go to so the long term goal of this is to
7 develop a commission that incorporates all the State,
8 Federal, and Tribal entities into a strong
9 collaborative management structure.

10

11 And I believe you guys do have a copy
12 of the changes that we recommended from our RAC meeting
13 back in early October. And I won't go through all of
14 them. And I only have my notes, by the way. I don't
15 have a copy of what you guys got, so I'm kind of
16 reading off my notes from the meeting.

17

18 But you will notice throughout that for
19 example under the purpose, that first paragraph where
20 it says the subcommittee will provide and then we
21 struck, a forum. This is not to be a forum. This is
22 to directly involve our people in the actual management
23 decisions on a yearround basis. And similar to the
24 third paragraph down where we take out the word
25 recommendations and put in the word decision. And it's
26 not to be just confined to the management and
27 subsistence. We need to take into consideration all
28 the fisheries that affect the integrity of subsistence,
29 that rely on all the different species, as well as
30 other, you know, commercial affects are occurring
31 throughout the migratory range. So that's kind of the
32 long term aspect of it. It's -- you know, going back
33 to -- we need to pull in the State as well because of
34 that jurisdictional problem that we have.

35

36 And then in many ways even though we
37 did have an allocation structure put into place
38 recognizing all the communities from the mouth to the
39 head waters, people within the middle and upper river
40 had -- really had no reasonable access to that -- they
41 had an allocation, sure, but in order to get it they
42 had to come down to be able to fish it in Federal
43 waters or as in the case of what we did through my
44 Tribe Council, I did work with McGrath, and Nikolai and
45 Red Devil. They called me up and in just a matter of a
46 few phone calls, actually it wasn't a whole lot of work
47 on my part. Just for them to find somebody that was
48 willing to fish for them to get their allocation. And
49 then they found where to get the fish and trade it out
50 and up to their villages. And ONC took care of it for

1 McGrath and Nikolai, portions -- that was between the
2 two of them (indiscernible - distortion) range of 100
3 plus kings and in the case of Red Devil it was around
4 25 or 30. So that's really awkward and nobody likes
5 anyone to fish for them. So in the long term we have
6 to address that also.

7
8 The community harvest permit that we
9 came up with in the management plan that we put
10 forward, through the fish commission was -- it was well
11 accepted by people because it was better than nothing.
12 People are really recognizing the conservation issues
13 now. As most of you folks from the area you represent
14 up there you know the concern is when they turn 1,500
15 to 2,000 boats loose without any kind of a limitation,
16 they can take one heck of a lot of our fish in a very
17 short period of time than perhaps the population or the
18 return can sustain in the level of conservation mode
19 that we're in and the reduced runs that we're looking
20 at.

21
22 So what we put forward was very
23 conservative. And we kind of used as our template we
24 will not repeat 2013 whatever happens.

25
26 You know, where we had 40-plus thousand
27 taken for subsistence mainly in the lower river and
28 only 40-some thousand in escapement. So that was our
29 first, number 1, we will not repeat 2013. And we went
30 in and negotiated the level of fish that we would be
31 allocate amongst all the villages, which the total
32 harvest, including all the incidentals from a -- you
33 know, a four inch mesh and what might occur later when
34 there's the openings for chum and red directed
35 fisheries, but we would try not to exceed 15,000 fish.
36 And so putting that all into the equation and what the
37 forecast was, we also went with the lower end of the
38 forecast goal and we're saving it for the upper end of
39 the escapement goal, which also was in our plan. And
40 so that's how we came up with 7,000 fish. I personally
41 could have thought it could have been 10,000 to 12,000
42 and in hindsight, yeah, we could have taken 10,000 or
43 20,000 and still probably achieved the upper end of the
44 escapement goal. But again that's -- nobody knows what
45 the fish are going to do until they get here, so you
46 want to take the conservative approach.

47
48 And we have one heck of a lot of
49 potential here. And everyone recognizes that. I was
50 totally astounded almost that many of the villages that

1 are the most critical of management and having
2 restrictions put on them and my lord actually accepted
3 it just by the fact that they did have -- it was a
4 negotiated process with Tribe representatives at the
5 table.

6
7 So our greatest strength is also our
8 greatest weakness is we (indiscernible - distortion)
9 start trying to -- we're trying to get rid of this
10 whole aspect of lower river, middle river, up river.
11 We need to deal with it as one river. Not State
12 management, not Federal management, not only tribal
13 management. It has to be one management.

14
15 So that's just a brief outline of it.

16
17 I did have the actual results, too,
18 that I had planned to bring along and give as a handout
19 for folks. I don't know. You probably didn't get the
20 YK-Delta Refuge's post-season report and I was going to
21 have copies of that for you. But the actual final
22 results of that were very encouraging. We made
23 escapement on every new recent project for the first
24 time since 2009. And taking unreported harvests into
25 account as well, we still stayed pretty well within the
26 range of achieving or exceeding escapement goals. What
27 we have for an estimated harvest right now -- we have
28 15,000 as a goal. And the estimated harvest --
29 (indiscernible - distortion) best we got, worst case
30 scenario, and perhaps (indiscernible - distortion) but
31 it's 13,000 to 18,000 fish is what we actually is --
32 the best prediction now.

33
34 So anyway, I'll stop there and just
35 open it up for questions for you guys.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has anybody got
38 questions for Greg.

39
40 Go ahead, Darrel.

41
42 MR. VENT: My question was kind of
43 along the same base here. I think back in the maybe
44 early '60s or something there was a regulation put out
45 for where they were putting commercially using fish
46 traps, which were blocking off the whole rivers. And
47 to this day, we're still having problems with what kind
48 of regulation was put in. Because when we do our
49 spring fishing, which is for pike, I guess it's going
50 to be -- you know, if you put something there and maybe

1 it's going to affect us in some way. This is how it
2 affected us. Once they said you cannot block these
3 rivers because of commercial fishing they were catching
4 all these fish.

5
6 Now it affects us when we do our spring
7 fishing. When we were trying to limit the pike because
8 of predation, we cannot put a net across the stream.
9 What was originally happening is we were put a net on
10 the stream, but it was only about three-quarters of the
11 way across the streams. But the water dropped so it
12 was actually all the way across. When the water
13 dropped and they found the nets and they told them we
14 were out of compliance and they took the nets. So we
15 can't take care of our predators. People are going and
16 losing all of our nets.

17
18 So I hear what you're saying and, you
19 know, if it's going to affect the Kuskokwim area, it's
20 not only that area that it affects. It probably could
21 be on the Yukon, too. So I -- you know, make sure that
22 we have representation and involvement there.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

25
26 MR. ROCZICKA: The Demonstration
27 Project is just for the Kuskokwim for starts. You guys
28 -- there's an intent also to continue this effort on
29 the Yukon and we're hearing a lot of other regions in
30 the State, too, that are really watching this very
31 closely and are pretty excited about it and eventually
32 following on in the path. So we're very aware we're
33 breaking a trail here. But this one right now is just
34 for the Kuskokwim.

35
36 Oh. I should backtrack a little bit.
37 We put up a seven -- there was seven-member executive
38 council for the Kuskokwim that kind of follows on the
39 current -- oh, I guess for lack of a better -- the Fish
40 and Game Advisory Committee. So it's a seven member
41 executive council. Seat one is the (indiscernible -
42 distortion) and the seat two is the Stoney, Lime,
43 Holitna, Red Devil, and Crooked Creek area. Seat three
44 is the Paimiut to the Kalskags. Seat four is Tuluksak
45 and Akiachuk. Seat five is Bethel. Seat four is
46 Oscarville, Napaskiak down to the Johnson River,
47 including Tundra Villages. And seat seven is the
48 Tuntutliak, the mouth and the bay (indiscernible -
49 distortion). But we have 28 of the 32 Tribes that are
50 recognized through the ANILCA Section .804 as having

1 the greatest dependence for subsistence on the river.
2 28 of the 32 Tribes in that (indiscernible -
3 distortion). It was a tremendous power that I've never
4 felt before (indiscernible - distortion).

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We got any
7 questions, Don, or -- go ahead.

8
9 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
10 actually have a question about, you know, maybe about
11 three or four years back we were meeting with TCC and
12 all the fisheries things with the Tribes of Canada and
13 whatnot with YRDFA. And it seems to me -- I mean, you
14 know, we have all of these organizations getting
15 started and we -- it's kind of confusing when we don't
16 have one true forum that speaks for all of us. I mean
17 if you are selling this idea to me, I mean it's -- I
18 like the idea of involving the villages and the
19 governments and stuff. So is this -- I mean if you
20 were selling this idea to me, you know, what is
21 different about this one that is different from YRDFA
22 or the task force and the things that have been going
23 on, you know, in -- is it, you know, made out to be
24 more securing funds or for fishing rights? Or what is
25 your selling point, so to speak?

26
27 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, I hoped I would
28 have touched on it a little earlier. It's to make it a
29 one management system within the river rather than the
30 dual management problems we're having now. But also to
31 have the local people at the table in the decision-
32 making process. Not being a recommendation that the
33 Federal Managers or in the case of the working group,
34 the State Managers, where they can say okay, yeah,
35 thanks for your input now we're going to go ahead and
36 do whatever we want to do. These are negotiated
37 throughout the year and we look at the thing as a whole
38 river aspect rather than just a portion of it.

39
40 So I'm not sure exactly -- none of us
41 needs more meetings to go to. And there's nobody that
42 could empathize with you more about organizations that
43 start out saying we're going to do grand things and
44 then fizzle out after a couple of years. That is not
45 the intent either. It's crafted in a great deal, or
46 perhaps a part of the goal is that they have -- there
47 are 48 with tribal entities there, they have the
48 Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in the Great
49 Lakes. They have the Great Lakes Indian Fisheries
50 Commission. And I believe there's one more. Stewart

1 can probably help me out there. But for -- these are
2 the people most dependent on the resource directly at
3 the table with direct input into the management
4 decisions both in-season and throughout the year.

5
6 And if that helps you there, Carl
7 [sic]. Nick Kameroff, by the way is the vice chair of
8 the executive officers. Gerald from Kalskag there is a
9 representative for your area. And Mark Leary serves as
10 his alternate.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is Don Honea
13 you're talking to, Greg from Ruby.

14
15 And do you have another question there,
16 Don.

17
18 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Greg, I don't want
19 to sound discouraging here. I kind of like the idea.
20 My only question was, you know, like in years past we
21 had the Western Interior or Eastern Interior. We had
22 joint forces between Yukon and Kuskokwim Working Groups
23 and such. And, you know, we have so many different
24 forums out there. I was just -- I'm not trying to
25 justify your group and I wish you luck. Maybe we could
26 have something along the same lines on the Yukon.

27
28 So thank you.

29
30 MR. ROCZICKA: Uh-huh.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior
33 Council deals with the upper part of the Upper
34 Kuskokwim Drainage, so this is part of the Council's
35 business at this meeting. And so this Council
36 represents the upper part of the Kuskokwim and a
37 significant part of the Yukon River.

38
39 My question is how does this document
40 -- where does the State fit into this. I see how this
41 works out between the Federal, the RACs, and the
42 Tribes. But how does the State buy into this. And
43 where are we at with the State on this issue.

44
45 Go ahead, Stewart.

46
47 MR. COGSWELL: I can answer that, Mr.
48 Chair. The State is aware of this. We've briefed
49 Commissioner Cotten several times on the process. He's
50 seen the charge. The MOU portion is still an internal

1 document that hasn't been released yet, but we're fully
2 anticipating once that is to bring the State on board.
3 To have them involved in our meetings and to be a part
4 of this process going forward. What part they will
5 play, that's to be determined. We don't know what that
6 is yet. It may be part of this or another -- a
7 different part, but they've been notified that this is
8 happening and they're full aware of it and they're -- I
9 don't want to speak for them, but they've been posi --
10 we've had positive interactions so far.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I was just
13 wondering. In the delineation of seats, is there a
14 seat or some seats for State representation or are
15 there just going to be this Kuskokwim River
16 subcommittee will make recommendations and the State
17 and Federal Managers -- the State may or may not take
18 them? Or don't you have to have an MOU with the State
19 that they're going to be totally buying into this?

20
21 MR. ROCZICKA: If I could cut in here
22 and if I could -- you're really hard to hear, Jeff.
23 You're really faint. But there is the intent to
24 develop another MOU separately with the State once
25 we've completed the negotiations here on the Federal
26 side, which, as Stewart mentioned earlier, we're pretty
27 close to and feeling optimistic at this time that we
28 could have one by the end of the year. If you notice
29 on the top of that subcommittee charge, it says January
30 1 of 2016.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, that
33 clarifies that. I'll call onto this mic here. We got
34 audio problems.

35
36 MR. ROCZICKA: And we have had very,
37 very encouraging words of support from the State that
38 they want to be a part of this. And their Area Manager
39 was at our negotiations on a consistent basis all the
40 time there was -- when we had the Federal Management in
41 the lower river, he attended our meetings, which the
42 three in-season managers that were appointed by the
43 Commissioner, which I was one. James Charles was
44 another and Nick Kameroff was the third. We had a
45 meeting on a weekly basis if not more with the Federal
46 Manager and Aaron Potter who's the State Area Manager
47 for the Kuskokwim. And we're just very anxious and
48 awaiting -- he was at our meetings with the exception I
49 believe of the first one in the negotiations process,
50 but when it came to management, he was there every

1 time. So they are very anxious and are looking forward
2 to doing whatever they can to be a part of this, from
3 everyone that I've talked to, from the Commissioner on
4 down.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's
7 exactly what I wanted to know is where the State was on
8 this issue.

9
10 And you've got comments on this, Ray,
11 go ahead.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Well, I noticed that two
14 members of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Working Group
15 will be nominated. That's a State committee, so
16 they're actually already members. Two members. Two
17 members from that group. And hopefully they would be
18 representing the State waters.

19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: The other thing that's
21 in there is that there's two members from each of the
22 RACs, which would be -- you know, Western Interior goes
23 from -- well, depending on which definition you give of
24 Kalskag, if there's an upper or a lower and where it
25 might fall, but there would be two members from the
26 Western Interior, two members from the YK-Delta RAC --
27 two members from the Working Group and then three from
28 the Fish Commission, which we also have defined in
29 there as being one representative from the lower,
30 middle, and upper river. So we've really worked hard
31 to make sure that we're representing the whole river.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Greg.
34 So you're -- the YK-Delta's edits want to include
35 commercial fisheries that may affect overall run
36 strengths and so forth. And that's why you're
37 eliminating the subsistence references in the document?

38
39 MR. ROCZICKA: Well, not all
40 subsistence references. There is one place under the
41 specific responsibilities we did keep it in but in most
42 other areas, yeah, we want to make sure this isn't just
43 confined to -- in trying to achieve amounts necessary.
44 It would be -- well, I mean it all is to make sure that
45 subsistence needs are met and that the runs stay
46 healthy, but the commercial and activities and other
47 things affecting the populations are certainly --
48 should be part of the program.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. Any other

1 comments on this.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the yellow
6 highlights are what we're -- or this Council is being
7 requested to address.

8

9 Stewart.

10

11 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, that is
12 correct.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'll go down the
15 list here. I don't personally see any problems with
16 the edits that the YK-Delta has included here. That's
17 my opinion.

18

19 What does the Council feel about these
20 red edits that the YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council
21 has inserted into this document.

22

23 What do you think, Ray?

24

25 Oh, this is a separate paper that you
26 should have received. Right there.

27

28 While we're on this side document that
29 was produced, this is what YK-Delta worked on. And
30 that's what I'm referencing as these red edits. Well,
31 the red. The red part is what the YK-Delta did. The
32 yellow is what the Regional Office and OSM is
33 requesting the Councils to comment on specifically with
34 -- with an action or just dialogue?

35

36 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, an action.
37 And Greg can address the action motion that the YK-
38 Delta RAC created.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So you took
41 this up and you put these edits into this document,
42 Greg? And then you passed a motion of recommendation?

43

44 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. We did have the
45 qualification -- and I'm sorry. I'm walking halfway
46 down the terminal now because the guy said it was time
47 to clean the floor right where I thought I had a
48 secluded corner. But -- and I don't have that -- I'm
49 not sure exactly what you're referring to as far as
50 between what's red and what's yellow and what maybe --

1 and I heard some -- I heard a mention it was blue
2 earlier.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, what we're
5 talking about is we're looking at the edits that Yukon-
6 Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council did. And
7 what we're seeing in red is the language changes that
8 you -- your Council had, you know, like eliminating
9 subsistence and this providing fish.....

10

11 MR. ROCZICKA: You mean in a couple of
12 specific areas, yeah, where it was limiting input into
13 the management -- direct input into the management
14 decisions. And so yeah, there is the conditional that
15 was applied to this, is that, this is pending
16 completion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the
17 InterTribal -- Kuskokwim InterTribal Fish Commission
18 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that's currently
19 underway. So we hope to have it done by the end of the
20 year and certainly before the next round of RAC
21 meetings.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm agreeable to
24 that stipulation also, that the charge is subject to
25 revisions and the pending finalization of the MOU. Do
26 any members.....

27

28 (Telephone interference)

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I will ask
31 the Council, do they any objection to the red
32 highlights that the YK-Delta inserted into the
33 document.

34

35 Yes, Melinda.

36

37 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the
38 Council Member Carl Morgan who's on the line, this
39 document was just handed out literally right before we
40 started. So perhaps if either Stewart or the Chair
41 could just very, very quickly go through what is
42 changed on that document for -- if we do want to take
43 action on this today with the quorum that we have
44 before us, we need to make sure that Mr. Morgan
45 understands what we're talking about.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead. You can
48 read off the amended language that we're discussing. I
49 thought everybody had an email. Sorry.

50

1 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 will go through this all red. Okay. Underneath --
3 this is the same document that's on page 440 of the
4 manual. So I'll reference that in regards to this new
5 document.

6
7 So underneath the Subcommittee's
8 official designation there -- right before that
9 paragraph there's a note.

10
11 It says note:

12
13 This charge is subject to revisions
14 pending finalization of the MOU prior
15 to appointment of the Subcommittee
16 members.

17
18 Then under the charge there's a change
19 in mid-paragraph salmon and other subsistence is
20 stricken from the document. After fisheries management
21 is added in Federal public waters.

22
23 Then this new sentence is added.

24
25 This charge is pursuant to and in
26 accordance with the Memorandum of
27 Understanding between the Kuskokwim
28 River InterTribal Fish Commission and
29 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

30
31 The purpose. The first sentence.

32
33 The Subcommittee will provide a quorum
34 is struck from the document. And then in the third
35 sentence, it starts out in the management of
36 subsistence fisheries. Subsistence has been removed.
37 And then down still in the purpose section, the third
38 paragraph in purpose. The second sentence, after
39 exchange information there's been a comma, develop has
40 been added. And then the next sentence. And seek
41 broad support for fisheries management recommendations
42 has been removed and replaced with decisions.

43
44 If you go to page 441 in the book --
45 let's see, I guess they are a little different. So
46 this is under specific responsibilities. It's still on
47 page 440. Under recommendations, there's the first
48 paragraph. The second paragraph says provide -- or the
49 last paragraph on that page 440, the second paragraph
50 on the handout. Provide a forum has been removed. And

1 it reads for the expression of knowledge, opinions, and
2 recommendations by persons interested in any matter
3 related to subsistence uses of fish has been removed.
4 Fisheries management in Federal public waters within
5 the Kuskokwim River area.

6
7 And then in the book, the first
8 paragraph on page 441, the third paragraph on page two
9 of the handout. Encourage has been removed and
10 incorporate has been added.

11
12 And I believe that is it.

13
14 And Greg, that is exactly what.....

15
16 MR. ROCZICKA: And then.....

17
18 MR. COGSWELL: Oh. Go ahead, Greg.

19
20 MR. ROCZICKA: I was just going to say
21 for the record I was -- like I said, I just have my
22 hand scribbled notes from the meeting of what we put
23 together there. And what you read flows almost exactly
24 what we've got there from that second bullet under
25 specific responsibilities for subsistence uses of was
26 stricken there. So it would read, recommendations
27 (indiscernible - distortion) related to fisheries
28 management in Federal public waters.

29
30 But other than that, yeah, you followed
31 the notes from the meeting that I have pretty much
32 verbatim.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's the --
35 what will be referred to as the YK-Delta's red edits.
36 And I have no problem with those edits.

37
38 Does the Council have any questions or
39 comments on those.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments or
44 questions on the red edits.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don? No.

49
50 Carl, are you still on the line there?

1 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. I'm still on the
2 line.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any
5 questions or comments on what the YK-Delta edits are?
6

7 MR. MORGAN: My comment is it's about
8 time they did something like this. And I have no
9 problem with the YK's changes and added language.
10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So having
12 taken that, then the first yellow highlight is what the
13 Office of Subsistence Management wants comments from
14 the Councils.

15
16 And the name -- preliminary name has
17 been the Subcommittee -- what would be the official
18 designation. It would be the Kuskokwim River Fisheries
19 Subcommittee.
20

21 And does the Council feel that there
22 needs to be any change to that, is the question. The
23 Councils can develop a different name for the
24 Subcommittee.
25

26 (No comments)
27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, then
29 that might.....
30

31 MR. ROCZICKA: For the record, Mr.
32 Chairman, if I could jump in here.
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
35 Greg.
36

37 MR. ROCZICKA: That the YK-Delta RAC
38 had no problem. We're real comfortable with the
39 language that's in there now as far as the other
40 highlights. If they are such on your copy. But we're
41 comfortable with the name Kuskokwim River Fisheries
42 Subcommittee for now and if we come up with a different
43 name later that can always happen, too.
44

45 And then the next one was that
46 estimated number of frequency of meetings. The
47 language is broad enough by saying it will meet a
48 minimum of two times per year. That doesn't preclude
49 if it was necessary other meetings need to be called
50 throughout the year.

1 And the technical committee as well.
2 Having the need for that laid out and the commitment on
3 all sides that that will actually happen. That's --
4 we're good with that.

5
6 And people thought that the number and
7 composition of the membership worked well, too. We've
8 got broad representations throughout the river ensuring
9 that no one, in fact, in any geographic area is going
10 to be getting any kind of advantage over another.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I was
13 comfortable with that also.

14
15 And so Greg was referring to the first
16 two yellow highlights. And is that -- are -- those are
17 agreeable. The Subcommittee will meet a minimum of two
18 times per year and at times designated by the DFO for
19 the Councils. That's agreeable to the Western Interior
20 Advisory Council.

21
22 (Council nods affirmatively)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmatives.

25
26 Carl.

27
28 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

31
32 (Telephone interference)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're getting some
35 background conversation there.

36
37 The third highlight is the Councils can
38 describe to best meet their needs. Note that the OSM
39 would provide technical support with the -- this is in
40 regards to the Technical Committee.

41
42 What is the question here, Stewart?

43
44 MR. COGSWELL: Through the Chair. It's
45 just the makeup of our Technical Committee. Who would
46 you like to be on that. I'll read it real quick.

47
48 Technical Committee. To provide a
49 collective review and assessment of available data, the
50 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Manager or

1 designee will attend the Kuskokwim River Fisheries
2 Subcommittee meetings and work with OSM, Office of
3 Subsistence Management, to provide information and
4 technical advice to the Subcommittee. The ANILCA
5 Department of Fish and Game Kuskokwim Area Manager, or
6 designee, and an expert in traditional knowledge and an
7 expert in fishery management with the Kuskokwim River
8 InterTribal Fish Commission shall be encouraged to join
9 this team of technical advisory and attend all
10 Kuskokwim River Fisheries Subcommittee meetings.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That level of
13 support would suffice. I feel that that would provide
14 the scientific advisement for the committee.

15
16 Any Council Members have any comments
17 on that.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Carl.

22
23 MR. MORGAN: Well, I'm satisfied with
24 what's written.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

27
28 MR. ROCZICKA: And then that is also an
29 aspect that we're incorporating into the Memorandum of
30 Understanding as well.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And then
33 under membership. The committee is comprised of
34 members who are knowledgeable and experienced in
35 matters relating to subsistence uses and management of
36 fish who are residents of villages along the Kuskokwim
37 River watershed. The number and composition of members
38 would be up to the RACs. And as I said earlier, this
39 Council only has two members in the Kuskokwim River
40 watershed. So that's -- we can only meet a two
41 maximum. And so that's -- Councils will need to
42 provide two Council Members to serve on the
43 Subcommittee. So by default, Carl, you're going to be
44 on the Subcommittee. And are you agreeable to that?

45
46 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. As long as I'm
47 still in the RAC's -- I don't see any problem.

48
49 MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, there may
50 be some leeway there as well though that since this is

1 Subcommittee it will necessarily have to be a RAC
2 member. But I'm not sure about that point, but to me
3 there may be some -- maybe that's something for you to
4 think about and check out.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That was my
7 understanding that the RACs would have membership on
8 the Subcommittee. And so I would encourage OSM if we
9 do lose a member on this Council from the Kuskokwim
10 that we maintain at least two memberships on the
11 Kuskokwim River. And that would be a comment on this
12 document.

13
14 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. And I'm sure the
15 YK-Delta would be agreeable to that. So I don't see
16 that as a problem.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that
19 agreeable to the Council.

20
21 Don, go ahead.

22
23 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
24 it's agreeable. And I also thinks it's viable working
25 group to have the RACs involved in this. So I think
26 it's a very good idea.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. I think it's a
31 part of this document.

32
33 Go ahead, Ray.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: Well, we could
36 accommodate that by it saying the Councils will each
37 provide two Council Members or designees to serve on
38 the committee if it -- if a member is not available
39 then the Council could designate someone. Would that
40 work?

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Stewart.

43
44 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Thanks, Ray,
45 for that question. That could be a -- and I'll just
46 check with -- back at the office and see if that's
47 okay. I think it might be a viable option, but I'll
48 check on it. That would be a good solution.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. We can -- I

1 think it's important for this Council to have -- or a
2 designee. And so we'll make our own red edit there.
3 Or a designee.

4
5 MR. ROCZICKA: And I believe that is
6 consistent with the whole intent as well.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's one edit
9 we'll have in this document. And so that answers the
10 questions. And so at this time, the Chair will
11 entertain a motion to insert or designee and accept the
12 two memberships on the Subcommittee from the Regional
13 Advisory Council and the red edits of the YK-Delta
14 Regional Advisory Council.

15
16 Any other in that motion.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

25
26 MR. VENT: I just had a question. Is
27 that you're referring to the membership where (4) it
28 says the Councils will each provide two Council
29 Members. You just wanted to add or designee?

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Or designee. In
32 case we have Carl or somebody drop off, we need a.....

33
34 MR. MORGAN: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go ahead.

37
38 MR. MORGAN: You broke up -- you were
39 all broken. I couldn't hear hardly anything.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'll restate
42 it for the record. The Chair is entertaining a motion
43 to insert language under membership number four. The
44 Council will each provide two Council Members to serve
45 on the Subcommittee. And we're inserting or designee.

46
47 Under the questions to be answered, the
48 Council's discussion was amicable to the language of
49 the document. The Council is also agreeable to the
50 edits that are in red that before the Council here in

1 Galena by the YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council. We
2 feel that those are appropriate with the notation this
3 charge is pursuant to an accordance with a Memorandum
4 of Understanding between the Kuskokwim River
5 InterTribal Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife Service. And I think that covers it.

7

8 MR. MORGAN: Okay, Mr. Chair. This is
9 Carl. I made a motion on what you just said -- in
10 favor.

11

12 MR. VENT: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray moved and we'll
15 call you a second.

16

17 And so now any further discussion on
18 the motion.

19

20 MR. HONEA: Yeah. I have a question on
21 the motion. What exactly was the motion. To nominate
22 the two.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. The motion is
25 to adopt this document with edits that are in red and
26 to insert in membership number four, page three, that
27 the Councils shall each provide two Council Members to
28 serve on the Subcommittee or a designee. We're
29 inserting or a designee.

30

31 MR. HONEA: Okay. I thought the motion
32 was.....

33

34 MR. ROCZICKA: And to clarify for
35 folks, just to answer that question, the formal
36 appointments wouldn't occur until the winter RAC
37 meetings in February and during that cycle, that would
38 be when the formal appointments would take place if we
39 get this finalized, if we have everything that
40 everybody wants to get across, when it will happen.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. We
43 thought we could have a -- it will be a joint meeting
44 with you on that one I think. So.....

45

46 MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. Actually, yeah.
47 That is -- we do have the big joint meeting this year.
48 That's right.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We'll all be

1 staring each other in the face down there in Anchorage.

2

3 MR. ROCZICKA: Yes.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the motion has
6 been called for question. Those in favor of the edits
7 to the Subcommittee charge for Kuskokwim River
8 Fisheries Management -- Fisheries Subcommittee, signify
9 by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion carries.

18

19 So thanks so much for being on the

20 phone, Greg.

21

22 MR. ROCZICKA: You bet. We appreciate
23 it, you guys. And hey, Carl, I'll be coming in in the
24 morning for that BSFA's big capacity building workshop
25 they've got going on there so see you there.

26

27 MR. MORGAN: Okay, see you then then
28 Greg.

29

30 MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, folks. Talk
31 to you down the trail.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
34 much.

35

36 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Greg.

37

38 MR. ROCZICKA: You bet.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you have any
41 additional for us, Stewart?

42

43 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, that's it on
44 that subject.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
47 much for all your work on that. Appreciate it.

48

49 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill Klein
50 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I just

1 wanted to chime in because I missed when you had asked
2 about the State. And I appreciate what folks said on
3 behalf of the State participation and just wanted to
4 say thanks for doing that and we look forward to
5 participating more in this process as it develops.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
8 that comment, Jill. We were assured that the State is
9 anxious to see this -- the progress of this.

10

11 Okay, Melinda.

12

13 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
14 just received word from Council Member Gervais. He is
15 just taxiing out of Fairbanks so he will be here very
16 quickly.

17

18 We have finished most of the items on
19 page one of the agenda. We will review and approve the
20 meeting minutes when Mr. Gervais arrives.

21

22 We are going to now dive into the
23 plentiful list of Wildlife Proposals that we have.

24

25 (Phone interruption)

26

27 MS. BURKE: Oh, excuse me. Hold on
28 just one -- we're going to dive into the list of
29 Wildlife Proposals that we have here before us. And we
30 have our new Regional biologist here, Lisa Maas, who is
31 going to do some of the presentations along with
32 Anthropology Staff Palma Ingles as well, who has a
33 couple of the analyses assigned to her.

34

35 So we'll have Lisa make her way up here
36 to the table. We will most likely do a little re-
37 ordering. It's quite a hefty list that we have here in
38 front of us and we'll make our way through the best we
39 can, Mr. Chair.

40

41 And those on the phone call, we've got
42 the first list of -- or the list of Proposals starts on
43 page two of the agenda.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're on -- we'll
46 be on page 21 in our book here.

47

48 And you have your book, Carl, also?

49

50 MR. MORGAN: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so we
2 have a new wildlife biologist, Lisa Maas.

3
4 I would like you to introduce yourself
5 to this Council since you're new before this Council.
6 And a brief background.

7
8 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
9 Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas and I'm a
10 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
11 Management.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How do you spell
14 your name?

15
16 MS. MAAS: M-A-A-S. Two A's.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Proceed.

19
20 MS. MAAS: All right. Again thank you,
21 Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. I will be
22 presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
23 Proposal 16-37, which begins on page 21 of your RAC
24 book.

25
26 Wildlife Proposal 16-37, submitted by
27 Jack Reakoff, requests changes to caribou harvest
28 regulations across the ranges of the Western Arctic and
29 Teshekpuk caribou herds, which spans six units,
30 including 21D, 22, 23, 24, 26A, and 26B. Requested
31 changes include reductions in harvest limits,
32 restricted seasons, new hunt areas, and prohibitions on
33 the take of calves and cows with calves.

34
35 Specifically, the proponent requested
36 Federal caribou regulations be aligned with the
37 recently adopted State regulations RC76 in order to
38 reduce regulatory complexity and aid in the
39 conservation of the declining Western Arctic and
40 Teshekpuk caribou herds.

41
42 The proponent states that a lot of work
43 has been invested in developing conservation strategies
44 for these herds and that their conservation is
45 imperative. Additionally, the proponent states that
46 the proposed changes are aimed at conserving the
47 declining herds while enabling subsistence users to
48 continue to meet their needs.

49
50 Eight other Proposals concerning

1 caribou harvest regulations within the ranges of the
2 Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds were submitted for
3 the 2016 regulatory cycle. As the outcome of these
4 eight other Proposals may affect or even conflict with
5 the outcome of this Proposal, I recommend considering
6 these Proposals together. Additionally, I recommend
7 considering proposed regulation changes on a unit by
8 unit basis, beginning with the units that are most
9 relevant to this region, namely 21D and 24.

10

11 The tables and map handouts, as well as
12 the posters, are intended to help highlight the
13 differences between the various Proposals and units. I
14 will give a brief overview of the regulatory history,
15 biology, and harvest of the Western Arctic and
16 Teshekpuk caribou herds, as well as the OSM preliminary
17 conclusion before beginning unit specific discussions.

18

19 Some general things to keep in mind
20 about caribou is that their populations naturally
21 fluctuate over time, roughly a ten-year cycle. Calves
22 orphaned after weaning in mid-October have a greater
23 chance of survival over calves orphaned when they are
24 still nursing. The Teshekpuk, Western Arctic, and
25 Central Arctic caribou herds have overlapping ranges
26 and the degree of mixing between herds seems to be
27 increasing.

28

29 The map that I handed out -- or Melinda
30 handed out -- is not perfect, but sufficiently depicts
31 not only where the different herds are in space, but
32 also in time. For example, you can see the Teshekpuk
33 herd calving area is concentrated around Lake Teshekpuk
34 in northern Unit 26A, while the Western Arctic calving
35 area is in southwestern Unit 26A. Realizing and
36 understanding these differences in herd distribution
37 can help in understanding the differences in the
38 proposed regulation changes.

39

40 Since 2008, the Teshekpuk herd has
41 declined 45 percent from about 69,000 animals to about
42 39,000 animals, but is still above State management
43 objectives. The bull/cow ratio and over-wintering calf
44 survival have also declined in recent years. The
45 Western Arctic caribou herd is the largest caribou herd
46 with the largest range in Alaska. The Western Arctic
47 Caribou Herd Working Group developed a herd management
48 table which can be found on page 54 of your RAC book.
49 Referring to this table may aid in understanding
50 management of the Western Arctic herd as well as the

1 proposed regulations.

2

3 Since 2003, the Western Arctic herd has
4 declined 50 percent, from a peak of about 490,000
5 animals to about 235,000 animals, which is within the
6 conservative management level of the table. The
7 primary factors contributing to this decline are
8 increased cow mortality and decreased calf survival and
9 recruitment. Wolf predation is a major source of
10 mortality for both herds, while hunting has
11 historically been a minor factor. However, as the
12 herds decline and harvest remains the same, hunting
13 represents a larger and larger percentage of caribou
14 mortalities.

15

16 Estimated harvest from the Teshekpuk
17 herd has been 20 percent above State management
18 objectives over the past few years. Most harvest from
19 this herd is by local hunters in Unit 26A between July
20 and October. Estimated harvest for the Western Arctic
21 herd is within the conservative management levels
22 specified by the Western Arctic Working Group. Local
23 residents account for 94 percent of the Western Arctic
24 herd harvest, with residents of Unit 23 harvesting the
25 most.

26

27 In summary, both the Western Arctic and
28 Teshekpuk herd caribou herd populations have declined
29 substantially in recent years and may still be
30 declining. However, the harvest of the Western Arctic
31 herd has remained within management objectives, while
32 over-harvesting may already be occurring from the
33 Teshekpuk herd. This is the first time in the history
34 of the Federal Subsistence Program that restrictions to
35 the harvest of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou
36 herds have been proposed. In March 2015, the Alaska
37 Board of Game adopted regulations that restricted
38 harvest limits and hunting opportunities for residents
39 and non-residents. In June 2015, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board approved a special action that
41 restricted harvest limits and hunting opportunities for
42 the regulatory year 2015.

43

44 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
45 support WP16-37 with modification primarily due to
46 conservation concerns.

47

48 And again I think it would be less
49 overwhelming to discuss specific regulation changes and
50 modifications on a unit-by-unit basis, beginning with

1 Unit 21D and then 24.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Please do that. I
6 feel most comfortable addressing the units within the
7 Western Interior Region. And so continue.

8

9 MS. MAAS: All right. So again I'm
10 just going to be referencing this table that was passed
11 out by Melinda. It has the current State regulations,
12 current Federal regulations, and then the WP16-37
13 proposed regulations, as well as the OSM recommended
14 regulations. And 21D is only addressed by WP16-37 so
15 we won't have to worry about any other overlapping
16 Proposals for this unit.

17

18 So if you look again either on the map
19 or at your handout to this, a portion of Unit 21D that
20 no recommended changes. It's that northwest green area
21 on your maps. So there's -- and again that's for the
22 Galena caribou herd, so no changes are proposed for
23 that area since it's not the Western Interior herd.

24

25 So in the remainder of Unit 21D, there
26 currently is a year round season for bulls and a cow
27 season of July 1st to May 15th. And the take of cows
28 -- or the take of calves is permitted.

29

30 WP16-37 proposes restricting the bull
31 season during the rut with a season of February 1st to
32 October 14th. And also restricting the cow season to
33 improve calf survival during the summer. So that new
34 cow season would be September 1 to March 31st. And
35 there's also the restriction on the take of calves.

36

37 And again this WP16-37 proposed
38 regulations mirror the current State regulations.

39

40 The OSM recommended regulations are
41 identical to the proposed regulations, with the
42 exception that cows with calves may not be taken
43 September 1 to October 15th. And this is again to
44 improve calf survival as that mid-October period is
45 generally when the calves are weaned and have a better
46 chance at survival if the cow or their mother is taken.

47

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 had a quick question here about you just said something
3 interesting.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you get closer
6 to the mic, Don, I bet Carl's having a hard time
7 hearing you.

8
9 MR. HONEA: Could you hear me now,
10 Carl?

11
12 Okay. I just had a quick question on
13 something you mentioned here. In the history of the
14 Western Arctic and the other ones, is it because of the
15 decline that you said that there was no other -- there
16 was no reduction or no call for proposals to reduce the
17 number? Or what did you just say there? And is it
18 because of, you know, like within the last five years
19 or something there's dramatic -- I don't know what it
20 is. But is that because of that? I believe you said
21 maybe the harvest or something, it's never been
22 limited.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Right. I think you're
25 referring to where I said that this is the first time
26 under -- in the history of the Federal Subsistence
27 Program that restrictions to the harvest and season of
28 these herds has been proposed. And yes, that's because
29 of the decline in the herds -- in both herds.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point
32 you're giving us an overview for Unit 21D. And so the
33 State regulation does not constrain cow harvest
34 accompanied with calves. And OSM is recommending that
35 cows that are accompanied by calves be restricted from
36 September 1 through October 15.

37
38 And does the Council have discussion on
39 that.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wouldn't
44 personally shoot a cow with a calf at that time of the
45 year because they're -- they're not real fat either and
46 they're -- it's hard on the calf.

47
48 But have you got any comments.

49
50 Darrel.

1 MR. VENT: Yeah. You know, I mentioned
2 earlier that before you -- in the early 1970s, we used
3 to have caribou just coming right into the village.
4 Then they put the Pipeline in and that kind of affected
5 the way they traveled toward our villages. I remember,
6 you know, talking about it, when they used to go up
7 around Hughes and come down the valleys there. And
8 they'd -- you know, there would be quite a bit of
9 population of caribou coming our way. And after they
10 put the Pipeline in, it seems like we lost that
11 population. And then we were starting to get some
12 influence from the Western and the Teshek -- how do you
13 say that? Teshekpuk or.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Teshekpuk.

16
17 MR. VENT: Yeah. But we started seeing
18 some of those. And then two years ago we heard word
19 that -- you know, the way we traditionally hunt is we
20 watch for the caribou. And we see these first few
21 caribou going by. Well, we don't touch those first few
22 caribou going by because those are the ones that brings
23 the rest of the caribou behind them. That's the way we
24 looked at it. I mean that's traditionally how we did
25 things. So we let it go by.

26
27 Then we heard that about two years ago
28 something happened there. That the caribou -- somebody
29 I guess hunted early and all of a sudden we heard there
30 was a lot more caribou around the coast because of
31 that. I don't know whether it's because of
32 sporthunting or because the people that hunt up around
33 Kiana and Buckland. But usually in that time of the
34 season it's mostly people that's hunting for them big
35 paddle horns that they're usually, you know, looking
36 for those kind of caribou.

37
38 So that's the ones that affected us
39 there. That diverted the whole caribou herd to another
40 area. So we were getting worried that was what
41 happened, but we weren't sure because there's no
42 document data or anything on that. Maybe they
43 mentioned it in the meeting during the Western Arctic
44 herd. I haven't heard anything.

45
46 But that's just my comment.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock, go ahead.

49
50 MR. SIMON: Yeah. Prior to -- before

1 Pipeline, like they were saying, the '70s or '60s, the
2 caribou were just a few miles outside the village. Now
3 they put the Pipeline in and the Haul Road and we're
4 not seeing any caribou now. Maybe this last ten years
5 there's no caribou. So I live in Unit 24B. You can
6 change the regulations or change the seasons, but go
7 ahead. But where is the caribou. There's no caribou
8 around.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're in discussion
13 on this Unit 21 portion of the Proposal. What did the
14 -- I know that some other Regional Advisory Councils
15 have met regarding this Proposal or Proposals. And
16 what actions did other -- what are we going to have to
17 deal with at the Federal Board level. What did they
18 adopt or -- go ahead.

19

20 MS. MAAS: Sure. Thanks, Mr. Chair.
21 The other -- again, Unit 21D has only been considered
22 by Western Interior. No other Council has commented
23 specifically on Unit 21D. The Northwest Arctic Region
24 only commented on Unit 23. And I can tell you what
25 their recommendation was for Unit 23, if you'd like.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. I was just
28 wondering.

29

30 MS. MAAS: Or just wondering for 21B.
31 Okay. And then the Eastern Interior RAC took no action
32 on the entire Proposal. And the Seward Peninsula RAC
33 only addressed Unit 22.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the
36 Councils are somewhat specific to their region. Okay.
37 That's good to know. That's what I wanted to know.

38

39 So there's been this big decline and
40 the caribou population will have this disparant
41 regulations. And the caribou need protection at
42 certain times of the year. And the Board of Game --
43 you know, this Council commented to the Board process
44 about, you know, protecting bulls last year at our
45 McGrath meeting from October 1. But the Board went
46 through October -- they went to October 14. Bull
47 caribou are pretty much inedible at that time of the
48 year. But to stay within what the Board of Game has
49 done, you know, the subsistence users can decide not to
50 shoot a large bull. You can kill small bulls in that

1 time of the year and so I don't see that it's -- that's
2 such a big problem.

3
4 The elimination of cows with calves may
5 not be taken from September 1 through October 15, I
6 haven't seen a caribou on October -- even September 1
7 through October 15 in Unit 24 for years. But they did
8 use to come when I was a kid in the end of September.
9 And so usually in September people would harvest
10 primarily large bulls because they're really fat.
11 Until the -- towards the -- about the 28th of -- 25th
12 of September, you've got to get real cautious about
13 killing bulls.

14
15 I don't think that that's quite so
16 necessary as OSM might think it is because the caribou
17 aren't actually present in 21D and 20.

18
19 Darrel, when was the earliest you've
20 seen caribou in the last 20 years on the Huslia Flats.
21 Not till October -- late October, November.

22
23 So I don't -- to stay in alignment with
24 the State, I don't think that we need to have this cows
25 with calves actually in the regulation.

26
27 But what does the Council think about
28 that.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Eliminating cows may
33 not be taken from September 1 through October 15. It
34 will be a more restrictive regulation than the State
35 regulation though. And when you have overlapping
36 boundaries with State and Federal lands. Where's our
37 21 map here. That could kind of be a little problem.
38 That's what the intention of the Proposal is, to stay
39 more in alignment with the State. And especially I
40 don't think that it's a conservation concern for this
41 specific unit because the caribou don't get there until
42 November.

43
44 So I personally would be inclined to
45 maintain the alignment with the State regulations as
46 written in Proposal WP16-37.

47
48 What does the Council feel about that.

49
50

1 MR. VENT: I agree with what you're
2 saying there, Jack. It will be helping our area
3 because we do want to hunt with the Galena herd, but
4 they're so small that it's -- it would be helpful just
5 to wait until their population re-grows.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: These Proposals are
8 for the remainder of Unit 21D. So basically it would
9 be -- if the caribou show up in the Koyukuk Flats,
10 those are the -- that's what these regulations are
11 going to apply to.

12
13 And so I think we should take these up
14 unit by sub-unit and proceed throughout our Region.
15 And then after that I would like to get an idea of what
16 Unit 23 changes they may have wanted in the Northwest
17 Arctic.

18
19 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
20 adopt Proposal 16-37 as written to stay in alignment
21 with State regulations for Unit 21B.

22
23 Go ahead, Melinda.

24
25 MS. BURKE: Just wanted to remind the
26 Chair and the Council and those in the room and on the
27 phone, we do just have a couple of -- just to make sure
28 we go through and -- I don't see any SRC or AC comments
29 on this Proposal in particular, but we might want to
30 check in to see if there's any agency folks or.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, excuse me.

33
34 MS. BURKE: No problem.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm getting ahead of
37 myself here. But we'll get it on the -- we can get it
38 on the table.

39
40 The Chair will entertain a motion and
41 then we would know what we're talking about. A motion
42 to adopt Proposal 16-37, as written.

43
44 MR. HONEA: I so move.

45
46 MR. VENT: I second.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
49 Thank you.

50

1 And thanks for keeping me on track.
2
3 And so do we have any Tribal comments.
4
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody in the room
9 want to comment on this Proposal.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none.....
14
15 MS. BURKE: And we don't have any
16 written public comment or written Tribal comments on
17 this Proposal, Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And so agency
20 comments. Does the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
21 have comments.
22
23 Are you there, Jill?
24
25 MS. KLEIN: Hi. Yes, this is Jill with
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And right now just
27 to let everyone know these are preliminary
28 recommendations. So we're listening in and trying to
29 learn from the RAC meeting as we go along. So these
30 are just preliminary recommendations. But right now
31 for this one it's to support with modification. And
32 for the area 26A is what we mentioned to change the bag
33 limits and open season for caribou in 26A. And then
34 all portions of Unit 26B to agree with the State
35 regulations. So that's what I have on this one. And
36 it's pretty complex, so I'm trying to learn about this
37 issue as well.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. But no
40 specific comments on 21D?
41
42 MS. KLEIN: Well, I guess my
43 understanding is that those were the same as what the
44 Board of Game adopted last March. And so therefore
45 we'd be supportive of those. I'm not sure if there's
46 been changes since then to this.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
49 that.
50

1 Federal agencies. Koyukuk, Nowitna
2 have comments on this.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comment.
7
8 Any Advisory Committees, Middle Yukon,
9 meet on these Proposals.
10
11 MS. BURKE: I don't see any comments
12 submitted from Middle Yukon AC on this Proposal, Mr.
13 Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this is outside
16 of the Park Unit, so no SRC comments. No written
17 public comments. Public testimony. Does anybody in
18 the room want to comment on this Proposal.
19
20 Come to the mic, Gilbert. State your
21 name for the record.
22
23 MR. HUNTINGTON: Hello, Jack. Mr.
24 Chairman, Council Members. Did I hear you correctly in
25 saying that you're removing the five cow limit per day?
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's five caribou
28 per day is the harvest limit. But then it changes the
29 seasons when bulls and cows can be harvested. So the
30 Proposal for 21D is bulls are open from February 1 to
31 October 15. And then it was also the cows are open
32 from March 1 -- or from September 1 to March 31.
33
34 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the
37 changes in the season for each one, but still five
38 caribou per day.
39
40 MR. HUNTINGTON: Okay. Okay. So I'm
41 sorry. I'm fine. Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other public
44 comments.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, so the
49 Council's got a motion.
50

1 MR. HONEA: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's been
4 called. Those in favor of the motion, signify it by
5 saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the motion
10 carries. Opposed, same sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No one else on the
15 phone. The justification is the decline of the Western
16 Arctic caribou herd warrants these season changes and
17 the language that the Council took to not include the
18 OSM's recommendations is that the caribou are typically
19 not present during the recommended closure for cows
20 accompanied by calves. So that would be part of the
21 record.

22

23 So continue, Lisa, for 24. And then we
24 have a 26B also. Because we have this -- certain
25 communities have customary and traditional use in 26B.
26 We'll cover that also.

27

28 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
29 Chair. So Unit 24 is a little more complicated. Both
30 WP16-37 and WP16-61, which was submitted by the North
31 Slope RAC propose changes for Unit 24. And the
32 proposed changes for WP16-37 again mirror the current
33 State regulations. And if you're looking at these
34 little maps I handed out -- there's a lot of paper.
35 The green and yellow areas in the southeast corner of
36 Unit 24, that is the Ray Mountain herd. So there
37 aren't any proposed changes for those areas. The State
38 split those into two hunt areas, but that's the only
39 change is one hunt area versus two hunt areas. There's
40 no changes in the actual harvest limits or seasons.

41

42 So for the rest of 24, that blue and
43 purple portion on the maps, WP16-37 for Unit 24A
44 remainder and 24B remainder, that blue portion, the
45 bull season again is restricted during the rut with a
46 season of February 1 to October 14th. The cow season
47 is similarly shortened from July 15 to April 30th. And
48 a prohibition on the take of calves. And again the
49 only difference between the OSM recommended regulations
50 and the 37 proposed regulations for that blue portion

1 24A and 24B remainder is a restriction on the take of
2 cows with calves from July 15th to October 14th. And
3 for this blue portion the OSM recommended regulations
4 for -- that WP16-61 and 16-37 are the same. Although
5 the hunt areas as described by the North Slope RAC in
6 61 was different, but I think it was a mistake on their
7 part.

8
9 I can talk to that more if you want,
10 but moving on to that purple portion, the 24D and 24C
11 sub-units, the 16-37 proposed regulations is again a
12 restriction of bulls during the rut. So with a season
13 of February 1 to October 14th. And a cow season of
14 September 1 to March 31. So the bull season for 24D
15 and C for all of 24 is the same, but the cow season is
16 a little shorter in that purple area. And again a
17 prohibition on the take of calves. And again the only
18 difference between the 37 proposed regulations and OSM
19 recommended regulations is that restriction on the take
20 of cows with calves from September 1 to October 14th.

21
22 So that sums up the proposed changes
23 for WP16-37 and the OSM recommended regulations. WP16-
24 61 has slightly different hunt areas. And I think
25 there's not any changes that 61 proposed for 24D and C.
26 And I expect that's because it's outside of their
27 region, whereas the 24B and 24A, Anaktuvuk Pass is part
28 of that area.

29
30 But any questions.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I was looking
33 at these differences. So.....

34
35 MS. MAAS: And again Unit 24 was also
36 part of the special action, so there is an extra line
37 for the Federal regulations as they are in the CFR and
38 then in the 2015, '16 season that was modified by the
39 special action.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the main
42 difference between WP16-61 and 37 is in the 24C and D
43 cow season and they have a year round bull season,
44 which -- and that's not acceptable. So 16-37, the
45 Proposal follows State regulations of cows July 15
46 through April 30. I would have preferred the Board of
47 Game to be consistent in Unit 24 with September 1
48 through March 31 or something to that effect, but
49 that's not what they did. And I'm not sure what the
50 Board reasoning was for that, but my intention was to

1 stay with State regulation as close as possible.

2

3 Go ahead.

4

5 MS. MAAS: Sure. So again just to
6 clarify for WP16-61, for 24C and D, the North Slope
7 just kept it the same as the current Federal
8 regulation. So if you look at WP16-61 for the
9 remainder, which is C and D, it's the same as the
10 current Federal regulations. And again I suspect
11 that's because that's outside of their area, so they
12 didn't want to propose any changes for that area. And
13 as far as why the State has different cow seasons for
14 24A and B versus 24C and D, they have like a northern
15 Western Arctic management area and a southern Western
16 Arctic management area. And so 24C and D fell within
17 that southern management area, whereas 24A and B was
18 within the northern management area. And I think again
19 it gets to what you were saying about the caribou just
20 being present in different areas at different times.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay. But to
23 stay with what the State has done. I think the
24 original Proposal -- I don't see where OSM includes the
25 elimination of cows with calves on this sheet here. Is
26 that what you said for 24.....

27

28 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. Yes.
29 The only difference between the OSM recommended
30 regulations and WP16-37 proposed regulations is that
31 restriction on the take of cows with calves during when
32 the calves would be nursing. And there is a
33 clarification that needs to be -- the hunt area
34 descriptor also needs to be clarified, but I see that
35 more as a housekeeping issue that the RACs are welcome
36 to comment on, but don't necessarily need to. It's
37 just clearing up, you know, the hunt area descriptor.
38 But otherwise it's just that restriction on the take of
39 cows with calves.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the reason
42 for the previous Proposal. The caribou aren't present
43 during that time and this portion of their range, so
44 I'll stay with -- I feel that the Council should stay
45 with the original Proposal. Stay within the State
46 regulation.

47

48 So I would prefer the Council to make a
49 motion to adopt Proposal 16-37 and then we'll go
50 through the comments from the various entities.

1 MR. HONEA: I make a motion.
2
3 MR. VENT: Is that one concerning Unit
4 24D -- is that saying -- this other one we did was 21,
5 right?
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. The one was
8 21D. This would be 24C, 24D, 24B, and 24A is the
9 Proposal 16-37. And that addresses that there's two
10 different -- slightly different seasons for C and D
11 than there is in 24B and A. But it stays within the
12 State's current season. And with the makeup of the
13 unit, it's so complex, I really don't want to get into
14 disparant regulations.
15
16 MR. VENT: I second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So motion by Don.
19 Seconded by Darrel.
20
21 And so we're going to go through the
22 Tribal comments. Anybody got any Tribal comments on
23 this portion of the Proposal.
24
25 MS. BURKE: No Tribal comments or
26 written public comments on this Proposal, Mr. Chair.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game comments.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there,
34 Jill?
35
36 MS. KLEIN: Hi. Yes, I'm still here.
37 I'm sorry. I'm having a hard time following. So which
38 -- are you still on 6 -- you took action on 16-37. Did
39 you move to 16-38? Or are you on a sub-portion?
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're on Proposal
42 16-37. And the motion is to adopt Proposal 16-37 for
43 the Unit 24 portion of the Proposal.
44
45 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So Unit 24. So it's
46 like a sub-section of it.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which basically
49 mirrors the State regulatory language. Well, it is
50 exactly.

1 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Well, I think, yeah,
2 we would be supportive of that then.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

5
6 And Federal Agencies. Kanuti National
7 Wildlife Refuge. Koyukuk, Nowitna BLM. Any other
8 agencies.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comments, Erin.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So no comments.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Native Tribal
22 Village Organizations.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has the Allakaket
27 Tribe discussed this, Pollock.

28
29 MR. SIMON: (Shakes head negatively)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. So no Tribal
32 comments.

33
34 Darrel.

35
36 MR. VENT: Just as I mentioned before,
37 that, you know, under customary and traditional use we
38 always managed to, you know, let things go as they
39 naturally flow. And usually when the first sign of
40 caribou come going by, we don't usually bother that
41 first batch. I mean I don't know if that has ever been
42 recorded or if the people ever talk about it, but I
43 just wanted to mention that. That way, you know, they
44 always follow the same route, but they always had these
45 leaders. And those leaders are the ones that bring
46 them to these areas. And if you disturb that, we
47 heard, you know, two years ago that that became a
48 problem. We didn't see any caribou because they got --
49 their first batch got disturbed and they went along the
50 coast.

1 So I'd just like to mention that.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.
4
5 Did anybody record Carl's vote on --
6 okay.
7
8 So we got InterAgency Staff Committees.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No.
13
14 Advisory Groups.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional
19 Councils.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No other Regional
24 Councils commented on the Western Interior portion of
25 this Proposal. Or did the North -- is the North Slope
26 look.....
27
28 MS. MAAS: Yeah. The North Slope is
29 currently meeting, so I don't know what they are
30 discussing pertaining to Unit 24. And then again
31 Eastern Interior took no action since it was just a
32 crossover. And it didn't.....
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And we have
35 no clue what Northwest may have addressed this earlier
36 or.....
37
38 MS. MAAS: Northwest Arctic did not
39 address Unit 24.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: North Slope is
42 meeting in Anaktuvuk right now and we don't.....
43
44 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I don't
45 have -- I tried to give Eva a call this morning. I
46 didn't have any luck. But when we were traveling to
47 this meeting yesterday, there was a delay. It seemed
48 like a good delay with getting the Staff up there. So
49 I really don't have any idea of what the status of
50 their meeting is at the moment.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll proceed as we
2 feel fit. And so the -- I know the Koyukuk River
3 Advisory Committee hasn't addressed this issue. We did
4 in the original Proposals to the Board of Game. In
5 fact the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee was -- wrote
6 a letter recommending that the Proposal -- State
7 Proposal 202 was not strong enough in conservation and
8 that there needed to be restrictions in bull harvest
9 during inappropriate times and the cow harvest at
10 inappropriate times. And so the Koyukuk River Advisory
11 Committee was actually a driving force of additional,
12 which was picked up by other Advisory Committees and
13 other Regional Councils. But we have not met on this
14 specific Federal Proposal.

15
16 And the Subsistence Resource Commission
17 has not addressed this Proposal.

18
19 Is there any written comments.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None.

24
25 Public testimony. Is anybody in the
26 room -- come on up, Gilbert.

27
28 MR. HUNTINGTON: Mr. Chair, thank you.
29 For the record, my name is Gilbert Huntington.

30
31 I'm reminded of a meeting that I went
32 to some years ago. I think it was in 1973. When pre
33 all this Federal management and all this. And some of
34 these issues just came up, especially the caribou. And
35 if you're not aware, my dad Sidney and my late uncle
36 Jimmy was on the Board of Fish and Game, which was the
37 regulatory authority at the time.

38
39 And so in light of that, what he
40 brought up at that time -- and I'll reiterate that as
41 best I could. Although it's not likely to get
42 anywhere, I think it should be stated for the record.
43 I'm opposed -- in opposition of some of the language.
44 Especially the language where it says that calves may
45 not be taken. Maybe this is a little effort in humor,
46 but it -- in light history it's real. As most are
47 probably not aware -- they should be aware -- the
48 finest ladies undergarments are made from calf caribou.
49 That's where they came from. So I don't think it
50 should be ever forgotten that it's something that's not

1 done. It has been done. And Lord willing, it will be
2 done. And so I don't think we can forget that. That's
3 our history. And maybe we won't always have Walmart or
4 whatever it is they -- wherever they buy ladies
5 undergarments. But I think, you know, we have to
6 protest that. That it's just a given that it's
7 biologically incorrect. That, you know, it's not
8 politically correct to kill a calf caribou or a calf
9 moose or a cow or this and that. So in light of that,
10 I object to that language.

11

12 Thank you, sir.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that
15 comment for the history of caribou use. I have killed
16 lots of calves in the winter and calves are really good
17 eating. And they're nice -- you know, they're a real
18 nice animal. And they've got really a nice skin. Real
19 nice skin. Real silver, beautiful skin. And so
20 there's a parka hanging on the wall in a cabin in
21 Wiseman where it's made out of caribou calves. From
22 baby calves. And it was a -- like Gilbert's talking
23 about, it was a tradition to take calves -- young
24 calves when they're reddish color for clothing and
25 stuff. And so the record should reflect that there is
26 use of caribou calves, but at this point in the
27 population we can't support. And the Working Group --
28 Western Arctic Working Group has agreed that harvest of
29 calves at this time is inappropriate. But in the
30 future when the herd does return -- and the Western
31 herd has a propensity to rebuild again -- that calf
32 harvest in the future should be appropriate.

33

34 I will agree with Gilbert on that
35 issue.

36

37 Go ahead, Eric.

38

39 MR. HUNTINGTON: Just trying to grasp
40 the -- the big picture is that the Western Arctic
41 caribou herd has declined pretty significantly. And so
42 that from what I'm hearing from Darrel here is that the
43 migration's patterns have been interrupted probably
44 unintentionally and inadvertently by mismanagement or
45 regulations, that traditional use hasn't historically
46 been taken accounted for. And that to me, this just
47 further strengthens the case where we should -- Tribes
48 should develop their own processes to consult with each
49 other. To maybe Huslia consults with Nuiqsut or
50 Anaktuvuk Pass, rather than go to the State and come to

1 these meetings where they regulate migration patterns
2 themselves. It's pretty clear to me that -- well, even
3 with my limited knowledge that migration patterns have
4 been interrupted inadvertently.

5
6 So considerations that -- taking that
7 into consideration, I would suggest entirely closing
8 some regions to hunting caribou until those populations
9 begin to migrate and develop the resource in greater
10 numbers. What I'm saying is to perhaps close it for a
11 few years and let them rebuild their numbers to where
12 we could study it better. That probably won't go
13 nowhere, like my dad proposed.

14
15 But on that note, I did -- back in
16 2003, I asked a bunch of young ladies in Anchorage
17 would they ever consider buying lingerie made from
18 animal fur and it -- I got a few laughs about it, but
19 it.....

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MR. HUNTINGTON: It could be actually
24 pretty fashionable. And if there is a cultural fashion
25 show in Anchorage that where they do wear women's
26 fashion, traditional clothing.

27
28 That's just my comment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Eric. At
31 this time I don't think that's going to catch on real
32 well with the limited supply we have.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

37
38 MR. SIMON: And we used to -- in
39 October we used to take caribou calves and caribou cows
40 and then they're all tender meat and fat. And then
41 later on in the mid-winter, February and March, we'd
42 take the large (indiscernible - distortion) and then
43 gets fat during that time so in the fall time we don't
44 usually take bull calves. It was just cows and calves.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the
49 comments, Pollock.

50

1 Any other public comments.

2

3 Go ahead, Ken.

4

5 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
6 just wanted to thank -- for the record thank Mr. Vent
7 for what -- his comments on the head caribou up at the
8 valley and being stopped. This was brought to my
9 attention in Unalakleet several times by the old people
10 telling me that we didn't get caribou anymore across
11 from that area to the Anvik River because the young
12 guys were going out there and shooting the first
13 caribou before they came across the river. And
14 therefore they had no leaders so they stayed on the
15 north side of the Unalakleet River. Never did migrate
16 back down to the Anvik area.

17

18 So I thank him for that.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In the Arctic,
21 shooting a lead caribou was a big sin. Anaktuvuk Pass,
22 you've got anybody that goes out and shoots one of the
23 leaders, we could basically get thrown out of the
24 village for doing something like that.

25

26 In Unit 26B, they opened the season for
27 cow caribou in July '15. And there was thousands of
28 hunters go out there and they kept shooting all the
29 lead caribou since 2010 and they've cut that herd in
30 half. Half of it won't even go near the road. The
31 other half of the herd goes on the west side of the
32 road. And they really don't like to get near that
33 road.

34

35 I talked to the game warden while I was
36 waiting for the plane yesterday. He says on October
37 10th there was a line of hunters down standing on the
38 road and the caribou were on the west side of the road.
39 They wouldn't cross the road because there was all
40 these hunters standing there waiting for these caribou
41 to cross. These caribou migration deflections are a
42 big deal. And so the Haul Road with the all thousands
43 of hunters that come up, especially the boat hunters
44 that are bringing boats into the Ivishak and Rivdin
45 River. Those guys are killing all these lead cows.
46 They're driving them further east. They basically have
47 -- we hardly have any caribou coming into the upper
48 portions of the drainages that I live in because
49 they're cutting them in half. The caribou are
50 terrified of that road now. Before 2010 they couldn't

1 kill a cow caribou till October 1. Well, those caribou
2 were already migrated over the mountains, coming down
3 over the mountains by then.

4
5 That change in 2010 had a big effect on
6 how the caribou migrated into the Central Arctic herd
7 into the Central Brooks Range. So yeah, I'm agreeing
8 with you guys right and left. No, that's -- caribou --
9 anybody who has killed a caribou -- and there's too
10 many people who have killed one. They have a
11 interdigital gland that's a great big nozzle gland that
12 has a very specific scent. And there's lead cows that
13 have a dominant scent and other caribou want to follow
14 that caribou. There's about three or four of those in
15 the front of those herds and they fight over leading
16 those herds. You start shooting those, there can be
17 tens of thousands of caribou behind those four caribou.
18 You can just completely disrupt migrations.

19
20 We're not just talking smoke here. I
21 sat before the Board of Game in 2010 for 20 minutes and
22 tried to talk them out of opening cow caribou off the
23 Dalton Highway in 26B. They didn't listen. Now we've
24 got the caribou herds all split up. We've got a whole
25 bunch of Central Arctics over in the Chandalar. We've
26 got a whole bunch of Central Arctics that's staying out
27 on the North Slope, according to Beth Lenart. So this
28 caribou migration thing is a -- is a not little deal.
29 It's a big deal.

30
31 I'll get off my high horse now.

32
33 You've got me venting about this
34 caribou migration thing.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But it's a big
39 issue. It affects villages down range like Anvik and
40 over in that country. Or Huslia. You know, when they
41 built the Pipeline there was all kinds of airplanes,
42 trucks that just -- that drove the caribou way, way
43 west is what happened.

44
45 So we're on public comments. And so
46 we've got a motion on the floor. And so any further
47 discussion by the Council on the Proposal for Unit 24,
48 Proposal 16-37, as written.

49
50 MR. HONEA: I call the question.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
2 Those in favor of the Proposal 16-37 for Unit 24,
3 signify it by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal passes.
8 Those opposed, same sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none.

13
14 And then we -- this Council needs to
15 address Unit 26B or at least look at the Proposal
16 effect for Unit 26B. Because there's customary and
17 traditional uses. It's a crossover for this Council
18 into Unit 26B.

19
20 MS. MAAS: Just through the Chair. I
21 just want to ask. Would you like to just take action
22 on 37 and then after we get through all the units,
23 address 61? Versus doing 61 unit by unit. Just to
24 take -- go through 37 and then.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Let's go
27 through 37.

28
29 MS. MAAS: Okay. All right. So again
30 Unit 26B is a little more complicated. And both WP16-
31 61 and WP16-37 address caribou regulations in Unit 26B.
32 Again 37 mirrors the State regulations and that
33 includes creation of some new hunt areas. So if you
34 can see on this map, there's four different hunt areas
35 now versus currently there's only one hunt area. And
36 starting in the northwest portion -- that's the purple
37 area -- there's still a year round bull season. The
38 cow season is restricted. It was October 1 to April
39 30th. And the proposed season is July 1 to May 15th.
40 And the take of calves is permitted.

41
42 For this purple northwest portion, the
43 OSM recommended regulations prohibits the take of
44 calves, as well as restricts the take of cows with
45 calves from July 1 to October 15th. So again that's
46 the northwest portion.

47
48 Moving on to the yellow area, that's
49 Unit 26B west of the Dalton Highway. The WP16-37, the
50 bull season is restricted from the current year round

1 season to May 16th to October 10th. And the harvest
2 limit was also reduced to five total. That's total per
3 season. And the cow season was also restricted to July
4 1 to October 10th. And again the take of calves is
5 permitted.

6
7 The OSM recommendation regulations for
8 the yellow portion, the west of the Dalton Highway, is
9 to increase the harvest limit to five per day instead
10 of five total. The bull season would be December 10th
11 to October 14th and the cow season would be October
12 14th to April 30th. And again the take of calves is
13 prohibited.

14
15 And if you look at WP16-61, the North
16 Slope asked for the bull season to be December 10th to
17 October 14th. So that's the reason that the OSM
18 recommended bull season is December 10th to October
19 14th.

20
21 Moving on to the blue portion, which is
22 that area of Unit 26B east of the Dalton Highway. 37
23 again reduces the harvest limit -- the current harvest
24 limit is ten per day and that would reduce to five per
25 day. The bull season would still be year round and the
26 cow season would be July 1 to May 15th. The take of
27 calves would be prohibited. I'm sorry. The take of
28 calves for the proposed regulations is permitted, but
29 for the OSM recommended regulations the take of calves
30 would be prohibited. And again the take of cows with
31 calves would be restricted July 1 to October 15th.

32
33 And lastly the green portion, which is
34 Unit 26B remainder -- that northeast portion -- the
35 WP16-37, the proposed harvest limit is five total per
36 season. The bull season July 1 to April 30th. The cow
37 season October 1 to April 30th. And the take of calves
38 is permitted.

39
40 The OSM recommended regulations for
41 Unit 26B remainder is to increase the harvest limit to
42 five per day instead of five per season. The bull and
43 cow seasons are the same and again the take of calves
44 would be prohibited.

45
46 And there is some differences between
47 the OSM recommended regulations for 37 and 61. And
48 that's primarily due to hunt area. The North Slope for
49 61 only proposed two hunt areas versus the four hunt
50 areas that is under current State regulations and 37

1 proposed regulations.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I see what
4 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council Proposals is
5 actually more beneficial for subsistence users than the
6 State regulation Proposal -- my Proposal 16-37. What's
7 unacceptable under Proposal -- the State regulation in
8 26B is that this bull season doesn't open until May 16.
9 Well, that is not acceptable. The bulls are -- should
10 be open a lot sooner than that to protect cows. And so
11 -- and bulls are very great eating after the --
12 especially after the middle of April. So there's an
13 elimination of one month of prime harvest in 26B for
14 subsistence regulations. So I am prone to agree with
15 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council on their
16 Proposal. And I do not -- I think it's detrimental to
17 subsistence users to not have harvest opportunity when
18 bull caribou are at prime eating.

19

20 And so go ahead.

21

22 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I asked the State
23 about their different bull seasons for Unit 26B. And
24 so according to the State for that portion west of the
25 Dalton Highway, they said the reason for the bull
26 season is to accommodate the Teshekpuk herd because a
27 portion of Teshekpuk moves into 26B in mid-October
28 through mid-May. So that's why they restricted during
29 that time. And then the season is open for bulls May
30 16th to June 30th because they are likely Central
31 Arctic caribou.

32

33 Is that the area you were talking
34 about? That west portion?

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The west portion,
37 the Central Arctic herd goes way over into the
38 Chandalar River Drainage. Then a whole bunch of it
39 comes out. Because there's very little hunting
40 pressure in the springtime, a whole bunch of the
41 Central herd comes down the Sag and the (indiscernible)
42 and crosses the road by Sloan Mountain and on Federal
43 lands. And the Central herd has a whole bunch of bull
44 caribou coming out of the east, southeast, north
45 Central Brooks Range and going. And so not all caribou
46 -- in fact I hardly would say there's very many
47 Teshekpuk that are up there by -- there might be a few
48 Teshekpuk by Galbraith Lake that winter there, but the
49 majority of the caribou in late April and May are going
50 to be Central Arctic caribou coming over from the

1 Chandalar River Drainage and going out towards the
2 Tuluk calving areas. The Kuparuk calving areas to the
3 north.

4
5 And so I don't agree with the State's
6 -- and they've got telemetry to show that. But I don't
7 agree that this closure before May 16th is that
8 beneficial to Teshekpuk, but is detrimental to
9 subsistence users trying to harvest Central Arctic
10 caribou, which that's what I primarily go over there is
11 to hunt. If there's no caribou -- because they keep
12 driving the caribou away from where I live, I have to
13 keep going further north to hunt caribou. And so I've
14 got to go over on that side to hunt caribou sometimes.

15
16 So to put this in regulation, I guess I
17 didn't read all of what the State had done when I made
18 the Proposal, but I just wanted to get it on the table
19 for discussion and analysis. And that's where the
20 analysis is helping us out here.

21
22 So I am opposed to my Proposal 16-37
23 for Unit 26B and I'm inclined to want to adopt 16-61,
24 as proposed by the northwest -- oh, correction -- the
25 North Slope Regional Advisory Council for Unit 26B.

26
27 The Chair would entertain a motion to
28 adopt Proposal 16-61, as proposed by the North Slope
29 Regional Advisory Council.

30
31 MR. VENT: I make a motion.

32
33 MR. HONEA: Second.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion by Darrel and
36 seconded by Don.

37 So we'll go through the Tribal
38 comments. Were there comments to this Proposal from
39 North Slope Tribes or Tribes that have C&T for that
40 subunit.

41
42 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, there was a
43 teleconference held on September 30th. One of the
44 participants was Rosemary from the North Slope RAC.
45 She discussed the changes to the caribou harvest limits
46 and the impacts it's had on their villages. She
47 mentioned the caribou migration routes are impacted and
48 migration patterns as a result are changing. Rosemary
49 and her Tribe feel the management of various resources
50 has not facilitated the management of critical species

1 to address their concerns. So there wasn't anything
2 more concrete than that, but she was referring to this
3 set of Proposals, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Melinda.

6
7 Any Tribal ANCSA Corporation comments.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Alaska Department
12 of Fish and Game comments, Jill?

13
14 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill. So for
15 Proposal -- it was 16- -- and we kind of combined them
16 61 with 62, 63, and 64. But it was to support them with
17 modification. To change the bag limits in open season
18 for caribou in Units -- so to include 26B to agree with
19 State regulations.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any Native
22 or Tribal village comments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anaktuvuk Pass.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nothing.

31
32 So other Regional Advisory Councils.
33 We don't know what the North Slope Regional Advisory
34 Council is doing on this Proposal.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Right. Through the Chair.
37 Just for the record, clarification. WP16-61, 62, 63,
38 and 64 I have just been referring collectively as WP16-
39 61. So I just want to for the record state that when I
40 say 16-61 I mean all for of those Proposals.

41
42 Thanks.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

45
46 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

49
50 MR. VENT: Should we be referring this

1 to the area that's been affected by this. I mean we're
2 making a decision on something that's not with the
3 Western Advisory.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Western Interior
6 Region has people within the region that have a
7 customary and traditional use in 26B. That's why we're
8 talking about it.

9
10 MR. VENT: Okay. Thanks for correcting
11 me there.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Advisory
14 Committee comments. Did the North Slope Advisory
15 Committee discuss this Proposal. They have like a
16 Borough Advisory Committee or something like that.

17
18 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, Melinda Burke.
19 If they did, that discussion was not relayed to this
20 Council.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got a
23 comment, Lisa?

24
25 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Just a clarification.
26 You guys are -- the motion on the table right now is to
27 adopt 16-61 or to adopt 16-37 with -- you could also
28 modify it to include modifications as written by 16-61.

29
30 Chris.

31
32 MR. MCKEE: I think what I was saying
33 is that you -- what I got is that you were adopting --
34 you thought that what they did in 16-61 was more
35 appropriate than what the State had. But it's the same
36 as what OSM is recommending for 16-37. So what I see,
37 unless I'm incorrect about that.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Well, the difference between
40 the OSM recommended regulations for 37-61 is the hunt
41 areas. Because 61 only has two hunt areas and 37 had
42 four hunt areas. But I guess I was also kind of
43 wondering whether you intended to adopt 16-61 as
44 written or as modified by OSM.

45
46 MR. MCKEE: That's the clarification I
47 was hoping for.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. The
50 modification by OSM is to have two hunt areas.

1 MS. MAAS: For 16-61, the OSM
2 recommended regulations is yes, just two hunt areas.
3 But for 37 it's four hunt areas. And that's because we
4 didn't feel comfortable, you know, changing hunt areas.
5 We wanted to wait for RAC input on the hunt areas for
6 26B.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel more
9 comfortable staying with 16-61 as written. And then it
10 eliminates -- completely goes away from 37, my Proposal
11 -- my mistake. And so that will keep it clear in the
12 record for the Federal Board.

13
14 And so any written comments. The SRCs
15 did not address this.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Public testimony.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gilbert left. So
24 Council recommendations. Any further discussion on the
25 Proposal.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MR. VENT: Call the question.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
32 Those in favor or adopting WP16-61 for Unit 26B,
33 signify it by saying aye.

34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36
37 MR. MORGAN: Aye.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
40 sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.

45
46 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, do we need to
47 vote your other Proposal down or will this take care of
48 it. I mean we want to send a clear message to the
49 Board. If so, we would need to bring the other one to
50 the table and then vote against it, wouldn't we?

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we've already
2 adopted Proposal 16-61 and our Proposal is deferred.
3 We could call it deferred.

4
5 MS. MAAS: Sure. An option that the
6 other RACs have done is just to take no actions on
7 other units. So we could just say, you know, you
8 support Unit 21D and 24 for 37 and take no action on
9 Unit 26B for 37.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

12
13 And so that's probably enough caribou
14 for right now.

15
16 So Melinda.

17
18 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I think
19 it's time for a little bit of a break. And also I
20 think Mr. Tim Gervais has just joined us as well. So
21 why don't we take 15 minutes. Get Tim up to the chair
22 -- or to the table. And we'll get ourselves back
23 together to wrap up a few more caribou issues or
24 whatever species you want to talk about.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 MS. BURKE: We're going to get started
31 here in another couple of minutes, folks, if you want
32 to get another cup of coffee, some water or a snack.
33 And also just a little housekeeping item for those
34 folks who are traveling in from out of town. The
35 coffee shop is going to be open tonight for us from
36 about 6:30 to 7:30. They're going to do a hamburger
37 night. So by a show of hands and a little poll I took
38 earlier it looked there was at least ten or twelve of
39 us interested in purchasing dinner down there. So that
40 will begin at about 6:30.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
43 bring the meeting back to order again. And so we have
44 Tim Gervais has arrived. And so we should recap for
45 Tim what we've actually done here on these caribou
46 Proposals while he was traveling.

47
48 So we've adopted parts of my
49 housekeeping placeholder Proposal 37 for Unit 21D, as
50 written in the Proposal. And for Unit 24, as written

1 in the Proposal 37. Then we reviewed -- because we
2 have customary and traditional use determination for
3 26B for some communities in the Western Interior Region
4 on 26B, looking at this sheet here, the State
5 regulatory change for Proposal -- my Proposal 37, which
6 mirrors the State regulation, does not entirely meet
7 subsistence needs for bull harvest in the springtime
8 west of the Dalton Highway. And the North Slope
9 Regional Advisory Council's Proposal 61 does. And so
10 the Council adopted the North Slope Regional Advisory
11 Council's Proposal for 26B. And so that's what we've
12 done to this point.

13

14 The remainder of the other units in 23,
15 22, and 26 are -- those would be covered under
16 Proposals WP16-49 and 52. And then the remainder of my
17 Proposal 37 and the remainder of Proposal 61, those
18 should have take no action since those are outside of
19 our Region and we don't need to take -- shouldn't have
20 no need to take action. Should defer those to the
21 appropriate Councils.

22

23 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
24 take no action on the remainder of Proposal 37 -- or
25 correction -- 67, the remainder of 61, and Proposal 49
26 and 52.

27

28 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I think you
29 meant Proposal 37 when you first -- was that right?

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. 37.
32 Correction. 37.

33

34 MR. HONEA: I so move.

35

36 MR. VENT: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded
39 to take no action on those -- remainder of those two
40 Proposals 37 and 61. And then take no action at all on
41 the entire Proposals 49 and 52.

42

43 Further discussion.

44

45 MR. COLLINS: Just that the statement
46 be in there that they were outside of our area. The
47 minutes should reflect that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Microphone
50 on.

1 MR. COLLINS: The minutes should
2 reflect that we're taking no action because they are
3 outside of our immediate area.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And outside of our
6 customary and traditional use determination for the
7 Western Interior Region.
8
9 MS. MAAS: Sorry. Through the Chair.
10 Western Interior does have C&T for Unit 23.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. We do?
13
14 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I'm not saying you
15 need to change your take no action. But just for the
16 record, you do have C&T.
17
18 Residents of Unit 21D, 24, including
19 residents of Wiseman, but not other residents of the
20 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.
21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I still feel
23 confident in deferring that to the Northwest Arctic
24 Region. So thank you for correcting me.
25
26 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair, I'll withdraw
27 my comments then. That's inaccurate.
28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So further
30 discussion on take no action on those proposals.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
37 called. Those in favor of the taking no action on
38 those Proposals, signify by saying aye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 MR. MORGAN: Aye.
43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.
45
46 So moving on. Melinda.
47
48 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. It looks
49 like -- were we going to continue with caribou. Might
50 somebody refresh my memory.

1 MS. MAAS: It's up to the Chair. There
2 are two more crossover Proposals, 43 and 45, concerning
3 caribou in Unit 22. Again those are crossovers that
4 concern caribou. And they -- it's up to you whether
5 you'd rather consider them now or later.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would prefer to
8 take no action on those also.

9
10 How does the Council for Unit 22 -- the
11 Seward Penn Council can address these units. And I
12 feel that we should take no actions on those also.

13
14 The Chair will entertain a motion.

15
16 What were the numbers again?

17
18 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, 43 and 45.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 43 and 45. So the
21 Chair will entertain a motion to take no action on
22 WP16-43 and 45.

23
24 MR. HONEA: I so move.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got a motion
27 by Don.

28
29 MR. VENT: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

32
33 Any further discussion.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MR. SIMON: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
40 Those in favor of taking no action on those Proposals,
41 signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a vote
50 there, Carl?

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. He must have
4 just dropped off.
5 Okay. Motion carries.
6
7 And so where are we now. Okay.
8
9 Go ahead, Lisa.
10
11 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chair. For the record, my name is Lisa Maas and I'll
13 be presenting a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
14 Proposal 16-38, which begins on page 85 of your RAC
15 book.
16
17 Wildlife Proposal 16-38, submitted by
18 Alfred Demientieff, Jr., on behalf of the Holy Cross
19 Tribal Council, requests that the half mile corridor
20 along the Innoko and Yukon Rivers be open to moose
21 hunting during the winter season in Unit 21E.
22
23 The proponent states that climate
24 change is negatively affecting hunting and that the
25 half mile restriction is confusing to users. The
26 proponent states that removing this restriction will
27 increase opportunity during the winter season and that
28 the Federal registration hunt will preclude any impacts
29 to the moose population.
30
31 In 1994, the Federal Subsistence Board
32 established the half mile restriction along the Yukon
33 River in Unit 21E to protect over wintering moose and
34 to decrease regulatory complexity by aligning with
35 State regulations. In 1995 the Board established the
36 half mile restriction along the Innoko River.
37
38 In 2003 the Alaska Board of Game closed
39 the State winter moose hunt in Unit 21E due to
40 conservation concerns. In 2010 the Federal Subsistence
41 Board delegated authority to the Innoko National
42 Wildlife Refuge manager to set permit conditions and
43 announce closures for the Federal winter moose hunt.
44
45 The Unit 21E moose population has
46 appeared stable over the past 15 years, but is well
47 below the State's intensive management objective. The
48 bull/cow ratio is high and well above management
49 objectives, while the calf/cow ratio is within
50 management objectives. A brow survey conducted in 2006

1 found abundant and under-utilized brows, indicating
2 that habitat is not a limiting factor for the Unit 21E
3 moose population.

4
5 Over the past 15 years, harvest has
6 been within management objectives with 94 to 204 moose
7 being reported per year. Only two to seven moose per
8 year have been harvested during the Federal winter
9 season, about half of these being cows. Overall
10 harvest and Federal winter harvest are well within
11 management objectives and sustainable harvest levels
12 prescribed by the Yukon Innoko Moose Management Plan.

13
14 Adopting this Proposal would increase
15 harvest opportunity, improve access during the winter
16 moose hunt, and decrease user confusion over whether
17 they are within the half mile corridor or not, although
18 users would still need to distinguish between Federal
19 and non-Federal lands.

20
21 Hunting pressure along the Yukon and
22 Innoko Rivers would likely increase, which may result
23 in more law enforcement concerns. Harvest is expected
24 to increase, but should not negatively impact the moose
25 population, which can sustain the expected increase in
26 harvest. Additionally, the Innoko National Wildlife
27 Refuge manager has delegated authority to set hunt
28 parameters to ensure sustainable hunts.

29
30 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
31 support WP16-38, with modification, to delete the
32 language specifying where moose may be taken during the
33 winter season and to remove regulatory language and
34 delegate authority to the Innoko National Wildlife
35 Refuge Manager to set permit conditions and announce
36 season closures via delegation of authority letter
37 only.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lisa.

42
43 Any questions on this Proposal.

44
45 Darrel.

46
47 MR. VENT: Do we have anybody here
48 that's representing this area.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, James Walker

1 and Robert are from that area, but they couldn't make
2 the meeting because of -- go ahead.

3
4 MS. BURKE: If you would like me to go
5 ahead and read it into the record now, I do have a
6 support comment that was given during the September
7 30th Tribal consultation on this Proposal, as well as
8 the GASH AC comment that was submitted today as well.

9
10 And we do have Mr. Ken Chase here to
11 speak to this motion also.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we're --
14 introduction and presentation of the Proposal. Report
15 on Board consultation. Do you want to read that?

16
17 MS. BURKE: Sure, Mr. Chair.

18
19 There were several folks in the
20 community who were out hunting on the day that our
21 Tribal consultation scheduled teleconference took
22 place, but I was able to communicate with Holy Cross
23 Tribe and they did provide comment in support of WP16-
24 38, submitted by Mr. Demientieff from their community,
25 Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks,
28 Melinda.

29
30 And Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 comments.

32
33 Jill.

34
35 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill. The
36 preliminary recommendation is to oppose their Proposal.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39
40 MS. KLEIN: And I didn't know if
41 Melinda -- when she was going to share the Fish and
42 Game AC comments. I don't know when that comes up.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That comes up a
45 little bit further down this list.

46
47 MS. KLEIN: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we'll get to
50 those here in a couple of minutes.

1 So we've had the Native Tribal Village
2 comments.

3
4 Regional Advisory Councils. Other
5 Councils met on this Proposal. YK-Delta did, I think.

6
7 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. The YK-
8 Delta RAC voted to oppose this Proposal. Rationale
9 stated, there will be almost no benefit to Federally
10 qualified users because there is very little Federal
11 land within the corridor. Adopting this Proposal would
12 result in increased enforcement concerns for local
13 residents. The original closure was requested by the
14 local communities and unless there is support from
15 those same communities there is no reason to change the
16 regulation.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm looking at my
19 map here. It shows BLM land coming right up against
20 the river. Upstream of Holy Cross between Paradise and
21 Holy Cross. And there's some around -- right across
22 the river from Anvik. So those lands adjacent to the
23 river would fall under Federal regulations.

24
25 Go ahead, Lisa.

26
27 MS. MAAS: I'd just like to point out
28 there is a map on page 89 of your RAC book. And that
29 crosshatch area are all the Federal public lands within
30 the half mile corridor. So it might be easier to see
31 that checkerboard of lands on that map. Page 89.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those -- yeah.
34 There's just a couple of spots where it's actually
35 right up against the river. On the bigger map it
36 looked like between Paradise and Holy Cross it was
37 right up against the river.

38
39 But it's -- is there any BLM person
40 here that's familiar with that area.

41
42 Come on up to the mic. State your name
43 for the record, please.

44
45 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, I'm Bruce Seppi,
46 Wildlife biologist with the Anchorage Field Office BLM.
47 And I think the reason that this Proposal or this rule
48 was put into place originally was that moose congregate
49 on the river and there's a conservation concern mainly.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is it your opinion
2 that the limited BLM lands contacting the river would
3 be hard to enforce?

4
5 MR. SEPPI: It's hard to enforce now.
6 And I think moose are probably taken within that half
7 mile already, so that is true.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Yeah. I
10 remember Sidney Huntington talking to us why they
11 wanted that half mile corridor is because he talked
12 about cows with baby calves being right out by the
13 river. And they would be the first -- be subjected to
14 the harvest first. That's the reason the Board of Game
15 originally adopted that.

16
17 MR. SEPPI: Right. I think especially
18 in the winter moose come down and congregate right on
19 the river in those willow belts. And is this Proposal
20 then just for that winter hunt? Or it would -- that's
21 just for the winter hunt. So essentially that's the
22 moose are congregating especially early in the winter,
23 but I think the idea behind it was to -- a conservation
24 effort so you wouldn't be shooting the animals out
25 where they were congregating the most.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Okay. I
28 just wanted to clarify what the Federal lands that
29 would be in effect for this Proposal.

30
31 So I'll keep moving down this list
32 here. So there's the -- the other Regional Advisory
33 Councils -- YK-Delta was opposed to this because
34 there's very little Federal land.

35
36 The Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
37 Ken, do you want to speak to the Proposal?

38
39 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Kenneth Chase. I'm the Chairman of the Villages called
41 GASH, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross. And we
42 had a teleconference yesterday and it's pretty fresh in
43 my mind. So I don't have the paper here, but the --
44 just a little history of the -- you were kind of
45 touching on it there -- is back in 1995 we had a
46 meeting in Holy Cross. And it was called because there
47 was a lot of people at the time concerned about the
48 cows being taken. At the time it was the five days at
49 the end of the season, end of September. And we were
50 told by a lot of people -- a lot of hunters and

1 subsistence users and everything that hey, let's stop
2 this cow take because we're going to be ruining our
3 harvest. We'll have to do something with the bulls
4 also.

5
6 So we had a Holy Cross meeting
7 specifically there and then the four villages came
8 together. They had reps there. And it was pretty
9 hotly discussed. There was some pretty big arguments
10 on both sides. And so the GASH Committee voted to do
11 this with the -- because the people wanted it to try to
12 stop the cow killing out off the islands. Especially
13 off the islands and along the corridor along the river.

14
15 And the four -- interesting right now
16 that just Holy Cross is opposing it. And that was
17 brought up yesterday in our meeting also that we feel
18 there's a breach there. That the other four villages
19 should say something about it or should have the
20 opportunity to weigh in on the closure. So our
21 Committee voted unanimously with Holy Cross, one
22 person. Shageluk had two. Anvik had two. And
23 Grayling had one yesterday for our meeting. And they
24 all voted unanimously to leave it as it is.

25
26 And we also talked -- the same
27 discussion also was the hunt for the fall, which is now
28 subsistence starts in August and runs through -- it
29 goes into the season of the 5th -- we start the 5th for
30 our State hunt. And we were talking in the Committees
31 real supportive of trying to get a new season done
32 where we were lined with the Federal subsistence hunt
33 and start both of them on the 1st of September going
34 through the 25th. And try to stop some of the problems
35 that we were having. And we don't see any problem as
36 far as take. There was only five moose average for the
37 last five years taken in that winter, spring hunt.

38
39 And the Federal lands in 21E is about
40 62 percent Federal lands. And they're a little
41 inaccessible. That's true. The moose -- there's a lot
42 of -- there's a big block of Federal lands up the
43 Bonzala River about 20 miles east -- west of Anvik.
44 And then there's a big block of land between Shageluk
45 and Anvik and then northwest of -- northeast of
46 Grayling. So there's a lot of area there that could be
47 hunted.

48
49 And so we oppose that proposal.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I see the
2 proposal is for the half mile on the Yukon. What I see
3 on the maps here is that there's hardly any of that.
4 Federal land is right up against the river, so it's YK-
5 Delta's RAC in accessing the proposal is mute because
6 it doesn't apply and there's not enough Federal land
7 there really.

8
9 The area away from the river is open
10 and so there's no need to delineate, you know, if
11 there's a State, Federal hunt there. So we don't have
12 to worry about -- the user wouldn't be subjected to --
13 I don't want people to get the idea they can shoot
14 moose just right off the river. Just to shoot moose
15 along the bank because that's on the bars, because
16 that's -- somebody's getting a lot of.....

17
18 MR. CHASE: Well, that's.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so there's not
21 -- not going to be on Federal land especially with this
22 mean high water mark and, you know, where that actually
23 is along there so I think it would be setting up the
24 hunters for failure, is what I think it would be doing.
25 So I understand.

26
27 MR. CHASE: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's always good to
30 hear all the sides of the story.

31
32 Any questions for Ken there on the
33 Advisory Committee comments in opposition to the
34 proposal.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, thanks again.

39
40 MR. CHASE: Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the -- that's not
43 Park lands. Any written comments.

44
45 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other than that,
48 public testimony. Any other public testimony on that
49 Proposal 38.

50

1 Gilbert.

2

3 MR. HUNTINGTON: Mr. Chair, thank you.
4 Gilbert Huntington again. You know, even though I
5 don't live down in this area, I will always oppose any
6 what's called no regulations to restrict any
7 subsistence harvest that is unjustified as far as the
8 biology is concerned. If the resource can withstand
9 the harvest, I don't see any reason not to allow
10 whomever that may be -- wherever they live the access
11 to that resource regardless of what anybody says, you
12 know.

13

14 I do have family down there right now
15 and, you know, they don't hunt in the winter or
16 anything, but I think that it's a wrong thing for
17 anybody to say that, you know, even though you're
18 hungry you can't go hunt that moose. Even though
19 there's a lot of moose. Regardless of how small a
20 piece of land that is, we've got no business telling
21 anybody that they need to go hungry. You know, that
22 just -- that goes against everything right in this
23 world, you know. Just because oh, there's all --
24 that's where they hang out. It don't matter to that
25 person that's hungry. We got no business telling them
26 they can't do it. As long as the moose is there,
27 there's no reason that person can't go hunt.

28

29 That just goes against my very being to
30 think that anybody can say that, you know. Just
31 because that we can, you know, it's no different from
32 the Fish and Wildlife like telling me right now I can't
33 go out in the Brooks Range, take my buddy Pat, go sheep
34 hunting because I don't live there. Even though he did
35 it back in the '50s, you know. And my grandparents did
36 it -- that way back when, you know.

37

38 That's just nonsense.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your
43 comment, Gilbert. There's a hunt. It's just that the
44 area where this closure is -- is in State regulation
45 also. And so if the areas are closed, we don't want
46 people to get ticketed if they're not on the Federal
47 lands.

48

49 Go ahead, Lisa.

50

1 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
2 just like to clarify that under State regulations there
3 is no winter hunt. So during -- currently during the
4 winter hunt users must distinguish between State and
5 Federal land as well as if they're within the half mile
6 corridor or not.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought we had
9 like a joint permit.

10
11 MS. MAAS: There's no winter hunt under
12 State regulations.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
15 So the -- but these huge blocks of Federal lands don't
16 really -- there's only a couple of spots where they
17 come right to the river. Those -- the delineation is
18 so indiscreet here that I can't -- these would all have
19 to be precisely posted for the users to know exactly
20 where they could come up to the river around this
21 Paradise -- between Holy Cross and Paradise. That's
22 the only place where the Federal land actually touches
23 the Yukon.

24
25 MR. GERVAIS: Well, it's the Innoko,
26 too, Mr. Chair. That area above Shageluk.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Well, the --
29 that's -- you know, the closure is along the Yukon
30 River itself. It's not on the.....

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Both rivers. The Yukon
33 and Innoko.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, it is, oh, okay.

36
37 Yeah. I see that one spot over there.
38 What is the scale.

39
40 What does the Council think about this.
41 These are -- there's basically three spots where the
42 Federal land actually touches.

43
44 Oh. These little, squiggly marks
45 there. That's what you're showing is would actually
46 touch the Federal.....

47
48 MS. MAAS: The crosshatched areas.

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Crosshatched.

1 MS. MAAS: Yep. That under the legend
2 it says Federal public lands within half mile corridor.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. I see. So this
5 island down here below Holy Cross is one of those.

6
7 MS. MAAS: Sure. So looking at the map
8 on page 89, there's some, yeah, crosshatch areas just
9 north of Grayling. And across from Grayling some
10 crosshatch areas between -- just south of Paradise.
11 And then a little bit south of Holy Cross, as well as
12 along the Innoko River, within the Innoko National
13 Wildlife Refuge.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if this Proposal
16 was enacted, could these areas be marked by the BLM?
17 They cannot. I mean could they be delineated by
18 mapping provided for the subsistence users?

19
20 Go ahead.

21
22 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair, Bruce Seppi
23 again with BLM. We do have maps and we go through
24 great efforts to make maps that show Federal lands for
25 that subsistence hunt, but on the ground its pretty
26 difficult to tell.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is a complex
29 area. You know, it's just little micro areas where
30 people would actually be able to use. Like this --
31 some of these are relatively close to the community.

32
33 And can there be -- could the BLM and
34 the Refuge System put markers on the banks of where the
35 Federal lands are? And GPS those and put markers in
36 there?

37
38 MR. SEPPI: I suppose we could, but I'm
39 not sure -- you know, those places are very small. And
40 so you'd have a marker, but even within that half mile
41 area you'd be off of Federal land. So if someone was
42 going down the river thinking I can go anywhere a half
43 mile off the river, then they'd be in violation because
44 they weren't on Federal land.

45
46 It's difficult. Yes, it could be done,
47 but that would be difficult.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Go ahead,
50 Melinda.

1 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, this
2 conversation, I think we've had it once before in
3 Fairbanks this spring. If I remember correctly, we did
4 -- I think with Jeremy and Kenton's help and I think
5 Bruce was there, too. I think we discussed some of the
6 complexities of what actions we're talking about. And
7 if memory serves -- and I could definitely try to get
8 the transcript tomorrow. But if memory serves, I think
9 we discussed this and that it would near impossible to
10 make something like that happen.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We talked
13 about this up by Kaltag also. Except it was even
14 easier. Easier up there.

15
16 So this -- I'm really concerned about
17 people getting off of the Federal land onto State lands
18 in these little micro spots. Whereas these larger
19 blocks like up here in the Innoko Refuge and stuff,
20 those are way easier to delineate.

21
22 So I'm concerned about -- that's one of
23 my main concerns is people getting tickets for getting
24 off in the Federal land.

25
26 Because Pollock was hunting under a
27 moose hunt and it was real hard to know where -- you
28 know, where the boundaries were. It's wintertime. You
29 know, things are snowed in. And so it was considerably
30 harder.

31
32 What does the Council want to do with
33 this Proposal.

34
35 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. HONEA: Well, thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 I just had one question. Now, Jill and her -- if she's
41 still online. I don't know her -- I guess it's the
42 same one. She was with YRDFA. But they took an
43 opposing view to this. And I was just wondering what
44 their justification was. If she could explain.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's not -- she's
47 not with YRDFA anymore. She's with the State of
48 Alaska.

49
50 MR. HONEA: Oh, okay. I mean yeah,

1 okay. I mean I was just -- yeah. I did say that she
2 was with YRDFA.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, right.

5

6 MR. HONEA: But I just wanted to know.
7 You know, she didn't mention a justification for
8 opposing it.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have a
11 justification from the State aspect, Jill?

12

13 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill. I think
14 it was related to trying to minimize disturbance to the
15 moose because they were concentrated in their winter
16 feeding grounds in Unit 21E. And we also wanted to
17 keep State and Federal regulations aligned with regard
18 to the half mile closed corridor.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

21

22 So we've had public comment, public
23 testimony. Regional Council recommendation. I'm in a
24 quandary here. So I -- you know, I want to accommodate
25 people, but I don't want to set them up for failure
26 either. And so I'm -- so Council recommendation.

27

28 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right, Donald.

31

32 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Jack. Is it not
33 possible to ask the Refuge's viewpoint on this?

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's -- a lot
36 of this land down here by Holy Cross would be -- some
37 of it's BLM land. But some is -- up here it's Refuge
38 land. Innoko Refuge up here and then the BLM. And
39 then you have the BLM in a table here. And you want
40 their opinion?

41

42 MR. HONEA: Well, actually I was
43 wondering if you -- I mean because isn't this winter
44 hunt at the call of the Refuge manager?

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

47

48 MR. HONEA: So I was actually just
49 wondering what their viewpoint was on this, if they had
50 any.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where is the Refuge
2 manager.
3
4 MR. HONEA: What their position was.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
7
8 MR. HONEA: Thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. That's a
11 valid question.
12
13 MR. HAVENOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council Members. My name is Jeremy Havenor. I'm the
15 Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for Koyukuk, Nowitna,
16 Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. And with this
17 Proposal, the Refuge has a neutral stance. We don't
18 see a biological concern as there is a 40 moose quota
19 that is set. We do have some concerns regarding the
20 land status, as you guys were talking about. We do not
21 want to make regulations more confusing. As you can
22 see with this map on page 89, there is a lot of
23 different lands mixed in here and we want to keep
24 things as simple as possible for subsistence users in
25 this area.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does that
28 answer your question? Yes.
29
30 Council's recommendation for action on
31 this Proposal.
32
33 Go ahead, Don.
34
35 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 think -- I mean, you know, with the -- we haven't heard
37 any really proactive toward it. And I don't know very
38 much about this hunt. You know, how long it's been on
39 the books or whatnot, but I think they're fortunate to
40 even have a hunt. And myself, I -- you know, with a
41 couple of the RAC guys missing and they know about this
42 and with the GASH, you know, opposing it, I would do
43 the same.
44
45 Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that
48 comment, Don.
49
50 And did Robert and James have any

1 comment on this proposal transmitted.

2

3 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. They did
4 not. I was hoping James would be able to call in. I
5 tried him earlier and wasn't able to get a hold of him.
6 I was hoping he'd be able to call in for this portion.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So the Chair
9 will entertain a motion to adopt the Proposal. To vote
10 it up or down.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: So move.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Tim.

15

16 MR. VENT: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

19

20 Discussion on the Proposal.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I think
23 we'd be setting up hunters for failure the way it is
24 now because it's complicated enough to figure out where
25 the Federal land is. And by opening this up with so
26 much State land along the river there, that I think
27 we'd be creating problems for the hunters in going out.
28 And with little benefit. Because as you mentioned,
29 there are some pretty big blocks not too far off the
30 river where it would be clearer that you're off --
31 you're on Federal land.

32

33 The only exception of an extensive one
34 would be the one above Shageluk there. There's quite a
35 large area of the Innoko River that is within the half
36 mile corridor in Innoko, but I don't know of anybody
37 travels up that far to hunt from Shag. It's still
38 quite a ways up the river. So I would vote against
39 this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Further
42 discussion.

43

44 Darrel.

45

46 MR. VENT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I know we
47 have kind of like a similar problem in our area where
48 we don't have the winter hunts no more. We used to
49 have winter hunts and I guess they had the same thing.
50 They had winter hunts, but they had to get it cut out

1 because there were problems with the population of
2 moose. So I understand where Ken is coming from. And
3 opposing this would maybe a benefitting factor to maybe
4 helping to get the moose population back up. It's the
5 same thing that we're facing in our area.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So any further
8 discussion.

9
10 Tim.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'd just like to
13 state that we're not -- the WIRAC's not understanding
14 all the ramifications because we're not getting
15 information from Robert and James on it. So in that
16 case, I'm going to defer to the GASH RAC, as they're
17 our best source of information about the local feelings
18 about it. And then if Holy Cross, the Tribal Council
19 or the village or anybody wants to pursue it in the
20 future, I'm open to listen to it. But it's just we're
21 not getting good information on some of the pros for
22 the hunt, for the change. So I'll just stick with the
23 status quo and vote down this Proposal.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26
27 Any further discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. HONEA: Call for the question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
34 Those in favor of the Proposal, signify it by saying
35 aye.

36
37 (No aye votes)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
40 sign.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I wish there was
45 more Federal lands that was actually beneficial to the
46 local people. And I understand what they want, but I'm
47 just concerned that this would cause a lot of
48 enforcement issues. And so that would be the primary
49 justification for my -- the Advisory Committee
50 opposition to this Proposal is another justification

1 for the Council's -- and then the moose population --
2 concerns for the moose population also in the
3 justification.

4
5 So all right. Moving on to the next
6 Proposal. Go ahead, Lisa.

7
8 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. For the record, my name is Lisa Maas. And I
10 will be presenting a summary of the analysis for
11 Wildlife Proposal 16-39, which begins on page 102 of
12 your RAC book.

13
14 Wildlife Proposal 16-39, submitted by
15 this Council, requests that all Nowitna National
16 Wildlife Refuge lands downstream of the Little Mud
17 River drainage in Unit 21B be open to moose hunting
18 during the September 5 to October 1 season and the to
19 be announced winter season.

20
21 The proponent states that this proposed
22 change would increase harvest opportunity for Federally
23 qualified subsistence users and that the moose
24 population can sustain an increase in harvest. In
25 2007, the current seasons including the extended
26 Federal season of September 26th to October 1st and the
27 to be announced winter season were established. A part
28 of a Wildlife Proposal analysis in 2012, it was
29 realized that due to an oversight in hunt area
30 descriptors in 2006 only part of Nowitna National
31 Wildlife Refuge is included in the hunt area with the
32 extended fall and to be announced winter seasons. As a
33 result, users are not able to hunt Refuge lands that
34 were formerly open during the extended Federal fall
35 season and can only access the Refuge at the mouth of
36 the Nowitna River versus all along the Yukon River.

37
38 In 2008, 2,300 moose were estimated in
39 all of Unit 21B, which is well below the State
40 management objective of 4,000 to 5,000 moose. Recent
41 surveys on the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
42 indicate that the Refuge moose population is stable
43 under a best case scenario, but may be declining. The
44 bull/cow ratio is modest, averaging 25 bulls per 100
45 cows over the past 15 years. The calf/cow ratio has
46 averaged 28 calves per 100 cows over the past 15 years.

47
48
49 Most, about 97 percent of the reported
50 moose harvest in Unit 21B, occurs under State

1 regulations. Only zero to five moose per year have
2 been harvested using a Federal registration permit.
3 Prior to 2012, residents of Ruby received the majority
4 of the Federal permits. After the clarification in
5 hunt area descriptors in 2012, residents of Ruby have
6 only accounted for ten to thirty percent of the Federal
7 permits. In 2008, the only year with a moose
8 population estimate for Unit 21B, harvest was within
9 the State management objective of less than five
10 percent of the population.

11
12 Adopting this Proposal would enable
13 Federally qualified subsistence users to hunt portions
14 of Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge during the extended
15 Federal season of September 26 to October 1st, when
16 bull moose are most active. And would improve access
17 for residents of Ruby and Tanana to Nowitna National
18 Wildlife Refuge during this time period. The
19 administrative burden on Nowitna National Wildlife
20 Refuge would increase and hunter compliance and
21 reporting may decrease because hunters would no longer
22 be funneled through one location. There are no
23 conservation concerns as harvest under Federal
24 regulations is extremely low. The affected area is
25 currently open 40 days longer than the requested season
26 and prior to 2012, the affected area was open during
27 the requested season of September 26 to October 1st.

28
29 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
30 support WP16-39, with modification to remove the
31 regulatory language for the Unit 21B winter season and
32 delegate authority to the Federal land manager to open
33 and close the season via delegation of authority letter
34 only.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 Sorry. I would also like to just point
39 out that there are maps of the current and proposed
40 hunting areas on pages 105 and 106.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would you like to
43 explain the OSM's recommendation to eliminate the five-
44 day season with consultation and all that? And the
45 preliminary conclusion.

46
47 MS. MAAS: So you're asking for
48 clarification on the modifications proposed by OSM?

49
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MAAS: Sure. So the -- as
2 submitted, the Proposal reads that portion -- right.
3 The only modification is removing that regulatory
4 language and putting that into a delegation of
5 authority letter. And that's primarily an
6 administrative thing just to clean up how the
7 regulations look in the handy-dandy regulation booklet.
8 And we're trying to do this across the board whenever
9 we have the opportunity to try and remove some of that
10 language just so it's easier for the user when they're
11 looking at the handy-dandy booklet.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But the consultation
14 will still be in place.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Right. Yeah. Nothing's
17 changed. The only change is instead of seeing all that
18 language in the handy-dandy booklet, we take that out
19 and put it in a delegation of authority letter. And
20 then it's listed at the end of the handy-dandy booklet
21 in a table.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.
24 Appreciate that clarification. I've been seeing that
25 removal in the last couple -- the last proposal and I
26 was wondering where that was coming from.

27
28 So this is Don's proposal that we
29 submitted last March. And so any questions on the
30 presentation and the Proposal.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The maps are on 105
35 and 106. Shows what the -- our Proposal looked like.

36
37 So do we have any Tribal consultation
38 comments.

39
40 MS. BURKE: No. There were no comments
41 on this proposal, Mr. Chair, from Tribes or from the
42 public.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game comments.

46
47 Jill.

48
49 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill. So let
50 me make sure I'm on the right one. 39. Okay. So on

1 the 39 -- sorry. I just want to make sure I'm on the
2 right Proposal. Is it 39 or 30.

3

4 MS. MAAS: 39.

5

6 MS. KLEIN: 39. Okay. Sorry. I have
7 a typo. Okay. The Department's -- so preliminary
8 recommendation for Proposal 16-39 is to support with
9 the modified language by OSM. And to follow up on what
10 Lisa was saying to help correct some of that wording in
11 the regulations. And we're supportive of that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks, Jill.

14

15 And Federal Agencies. Koyukuk Nowitna
16 want to speak to the Proposal.

17

18 MR. HAVENOR: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
19 Council Members. With this Proposal, like the last one
20 we just discussed, we are remaining neutral on this as
21 there is no biological concerns. Overall, it's a low
22 harvest and the moose -- or excuse me. The moose
23 population is relatively stable in that area. We are
24 seeing similar concerns with land status in the area.
25 With this hunt boundary expanding along the river,
26 there still is Native Corporation land and Village
27 Corporation hands present. And subsistence hunters
28 need to know that those lands are managed under State
29 jurisdiction and those hunts are not open. So if this
30 Proposal were to carry, we would do our best to get
31 maps made and do outreach and, you know, let everybody
32 know the status of these lands in that area.

33

34 And the other concern we had is when
35 this hunt was limited to the Nowitna River drainage, we
36 did have good harvest report compliance. And we were
37 seeing 100 percent reporting there.

38

39 That was one other thing I wanted to
40 mention.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if they're issued
43 a Federal registration permit, they can still -- they
44 can reply through progress report? Or can they call
45 your check station and say I've killed a moose outside
46 the Novi and below the check station and -- your office
47 there and report by phone instead of going all the way
48 up to the check station? Are you going to require them
49 to go to the check station?

50

1 MR. HAVENOR: No. With this permit
2 they can definitely mail that in and call in as well.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

5
6 MR. HAVENOR: Just at the check station
7 it was nice meeting with the hunters as they came in
8 and going over rules, regulations, and then getting
9 harvest reports as they were leaving. So.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the check station
12 would be unnecessary if this Proposal passes? The
13 check station and the extension of the fall hunt would
14 be unnecessary?

15
16 MR. HAVENOR: That's a good question.
17 I think, you know, we would more than likely stay out
18 there just for people that might be coming up the
19 river. As -- and one thing I wanted to point out on
20 page 106 is that this map that is currently shown and
21 has the crosshatch area, those areas that are on the
22 State -- or -- yeah. State land, village corporation
23 land, and Native corporation land would not be open.
24 So I just wanted to point that out.

25
26 And, you know, there are some area over
27 by Tanana where folks can hunt a lot closer. But over
28 from Ruby to the Nowitna check station, they would
29 still have to come most of the way over there. And,
30 you know, we could definitely see people still coming
31 to the Nowitna to hunt. So I don't think we would get
32 rid of the check station, but that's something that
33 could be discussed.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I was just
36 wondering how that would be administered. You know,
37 the discussion was that there would be administrative
38 complexities. This Proposal has fairly extensive areas
39 near the mouth of the Novi and then up by Tanana,
40 unlike the previous Proposal that we reviewed, which
41 were micro dots against the river.

42
43 I would not want people bucking current
44 going up to the check station. I would like to see
45 some other methodology of reporting through -- in a --
46 with your -- you have an RIT in Ruby at all? Or.....

47
48 MR. HAVENOR: Mr. Chair, we do not
49 currently have an RIT in Ruby or in Galena right now.
50 We're looking to hire one. But we've done in the past

1 is we've worked with the Tribal Councils and they have
2 had somebody issue out permits there. And in Ruby it
3 was -- oh. I'm drawing a blank right now.

4

5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ed Sarten.

6

7 MR. HAVENOR: Yeah. Ed Sarten. And
8 then in Tanana it's kind of been mixed. But we
9 definitely work with the Tribe Councils and get permits
10 issued out to them to where they can issue them out to
11 the subsistence users.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Refuge is
14 concerned about the compliance with reporting. If
15 somebody's issued a permit, they could call it in or
16 send it in or something like that.

17

18 Are people returning the unused
19 portions of the permits in a timely manner? If they
20 don't harvest moose, they don't return them?

21

22 MR. HAVENOR: What had happened in the
23 past was we would have to make quite a few phone calls
24 to collect those. Which we did get them all
25 eventually, but it was just a little more
26 administrative burden.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But I think
29 for the benefit of the subsistence users in Tanana and
30 in Ruby that this Proposal would be very beneficial for
31 somebody who hasn't harvested. And there's got to be
32 some methodology for either online reporting -- a lot
33 of people are computer literate -- or call into your
34 office in Galena. Or one way or another for people
35 that hunt that upper part by Tanana, I would like for
36 them to be able to call in or email you or something to
37 report -- and if they harvest. And then if -- you
38 know, then you're going to be making phone calls about
39 the people who don't turn their permits in anyways.
40 And so I think that this administrative hurdle can be
41 jumped.

42

43 So I want to discuss that part of it.

44

45 Tim.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair, I wanted to --
48 I'm not quite understanding the map on -- map two on
49 page 106. Where it's showing proposed hunt area, why
50 is -- why does that crosshatched area have areas that

1 aren't part of the Refuge on it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Lisa.

4

5 MS. MAAS: Sure. Through the Chair.
6 That crosshatched area, that's the hunt area. As
7 you're aware, I mean some hunt areas are just Unit 26B
8 or Unit 23. So there's a lot of non-Federal land
9 included in hunt areas. So as the Proposal was
10 submitted, it just said all Nowitna National Wildlife
11 Refuge lands downstream of the Little Mud River. And
12 so that's what that crosshatched area is showing, is
13 just the hunt area. And you can see that little
14 checkered line around it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you look at this
17 big map with the pink colors on it, you can see.....

18

19 MR. GERVAIS: Right. But I'm just
20 saying I don't think that map on 106 is right because
21 it should say that that's the 21 -- Unit 21B instead of
22 saying it's the proposed hunt area. The proposed hunt
23 area is only on the Refuge.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For the Federal
26 Board presentation, you could eliminate the
27 crosshatching. It could be a dark boundary on the hunt
28 area and eliminate the crosshatching across the State
29 lands. They will get a colored map also at the Federal
30 Board level.

31

32 Go ahead, Lisa.

33

34 MS. MAAS: Sure. That's -- we can
35 certainly do that and accommodate that. But I just
36 want everyone to understand I mean it was submitted at
37 that portion within Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
38 and the boundary of Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
39 includes the Native -- yeah. The State lands and the
40 Native lands. So that crosshatch boundary is a Refuge
41 boundary. And I mean so this is the hunt area. And
42 understandably not all -- the entire hunting area isn't
43 all Federal lands. But as the hunt area is described,
44 you know, this is correct. And we can certainly modify
45 it to be Federal public lands within the hunt area, but
46 this was just trying to show the hunt area.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think Tim's just
49 talking about clarity for the Council about what's the
50 Federal line. Like any of the conservation units,

1 there's Native Corp lands inside of the units. And
2 those would not be subject to Federal regulation.

3
4 So -- but there's a significant portion
5 of the Yukon River drainage along that abut -- the
6 Refuge lands abut the river. And so this is -- this
7 Proposal has merit.

8
9 Any other questions of the Koyukuk,
10 Nowitna, Innoko Refuge on the Proposal.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: None.

15
16 Thank you, Jeremy.

17
18 Oh, go ahead. Oh, Darrel, go ahead.

19
20 MR. VENT: Yeah. I had a little
21 question there. You know, this is a mix between
22 Western and Eastern. What was the recommendations by
23 Eastern.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, yeah. We're
26 going to get to that.

27
28 So we're -- Native Tribal
29 organizations.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nothing there.

34
35 And so other Regional Councils.
36 Eastern Interior comments, Melinda.

37
38 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Eastern
39 Interior Council took up WP16-39. A motion was made to
40 adopt the Proposal. Council Members felt this would
41 help Federally qualified subsistence users in Tanana.
42 There does not appear to be a conservation concern.
43 Users would need to be careful of what land management
44 area they are on. Should this Proposal pass, the
45 Council voted unanimously to support the Proposal as
46 submitted.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so
49 that answers Darrel's question.

50

1 So we're -- go ahead, Don.
2
3 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Yeah. I was able to testify before the Eastern RAC on
5 this. And that's why I believe that, you know, whether
6 it's across borders, whatever you call it, you know, I
7 think that getting a relationship with them is
8 important and supporting each other. And I appreciate
9 their vote.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.
14
15 And so did the Ruby Advisory Committee
16 take this Proposal up.
17
18 MR. GERVAIS: No, they didn't. But I
19 talked to the chair, Ed Sarten, on yesterday about it.
20 And he thought in general that they'd unanimously
21 support it.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
24
25 And did the Middle Yukon Advisory take
26 this Proposal up.
27
28 MS. BURKE: If they did, Mr. Chair, I
29 didn't see. I'm looking in my email and I don't see
30 anything from the Middle Yukon AC.
31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
33
34 So public testimony. Do we have any
35 public testimony from people here in Galena.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none.
40
41 And then there's Regional Council
42 recommendation. The Chair will entertain a motion to
43 adopt the Proposal WP16-39.
44
45 MR. SIMON: So moved.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock.
48
49 MR. VENT: Second.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

2

3 Discussion by the Council.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Under discussion -- thank
6 you, Mr. Chair. Under discussion I'd like to also
7 mention for the record this is also open to subsistence
8 hunters in Galena. And I know in the past they have
9 taken advantage of that. So, you know, it would
10 benefit them, too.

11

12 And, you know, the take here. Maybe we
13 had -- and, you know, I could get facts from Jeremy
14 from the Wildlife Refuge camp there on the Novi. I
15 think maybe we're talking about six hunters from --
16 half a dozen from Tanana, half a dozen from Ruby. And,
17 you know, I could -- I respect the Refuge's, you know,
18 concern about, you know, the myriad of land. Whether
19 it's Native allotment, State, it's BLM, the Refuge in
20 itself. But, you know, over the years since this was
21 on the book and it -- you know, we lost that in the
22 last three, four or five years or something, I don't
23 think there's been an infraction of, you know, getting
24 off Refuge land and, you know, carrying a moose on
25 something. So I -- but I respect that.

26

27 You know, and I also think that it's --
28 you know, to us -- and this is what I said before the
29 Eastern Interior RAC meeting, too, was also it's a cost
30 thing for us. I mean I can't afford to be going up
31 there. You know, maybe if I can afford up there, but
32 to go about half way and from maybe 20, 30 miles down
33 from Tanana or something. And, you know, I just think
34 it's a beneficial thing. And I think the take is so
35 minimal that, you know, I hope enforcement or anything
36 else is not going to be a deterrent to passing this.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Don.

41

42 And my intention was to adopt the
43 amended language of the OSM, you know, to clarify this
44 Proposal. I don't think that's a problem with the
45 Council.

46

47

48 MR. VENT: I have no problem.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. It's

1 basically the clarification language that the OSM has
2 put out.

3

4 Ray.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I like that
7 modification, too, because it brings the decision
8 making closer to home. That kind of gets at what I was
9 talking about before, although this one is a fairly
10 extensive winter season. If it was a shorter one, I'm
11 hoping in the future that the delegation letters would
12 allow the local manager to move those dates if people
13 aren't going out with weather and so on. But this gets
14 out -- takes it out of the regulation that you have to
15 go through the whole process of adopting and allows the
16 local manager to make decisions on opening, closing,
17 and so on.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the regulation
20 is the same. It's just that it's not going to be
21 written out to this extent in the book.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Right.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no change to
26 this language. This will be one portion of the.....

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So other Council
31 discussion on the Proposal.

32

33 Tim.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I would urge the
36 Council to support this. You're just going to save
37 these subsistence users from Tanana and Ruby a lot of
38 fuel and cold weather skiff ride. That's quite a bit
39 of -- there's a lot of people that have allotments up
40 river from Ruby and for them to make the extra -- they
41 can access those Refuge lands through, you know, Deep
42 Creek and Ungjek Creek and Twin Slough. And they can
43 just do that off of their, you know, camp at their
44 Native allotments and then do a shorter boat trip for
45 those more western portions of the Refuge.

46

47 And I'm sure it's a similar situation
48 for the Tanana people that can access those eastern
49 portions of the Refuge without going all the way to the
50 Nowitna. So big fuel and weather exposure benefit to

1 opening up these other areas to the hunt.

2

3 And this is how we thought we had the
4 hunt originally, so it's just kind of returning the
5 hunt boundaries to the original intent.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Very important
8 comments there, Tim. Appreciate that.

9

10 These drainages that cross the Corp
11 lands can actually access portions of that Refuge. So
12 that's an important aspect for the Board to understand.

13

14

15 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

18

19 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
20 Chair. Just on the -- one other complication on this,
21 too. There is actually no winter hunt. So, you know,
22 we haven't had any on the books for years. And I don't
23 see for one in the near future. So that's kind of a --
24 it's there, but we haven't ever asked for one. I just
25 wanted to clarify that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's on the books,
28 but it hasn't been used to this point. If the moose
29 population recovers to the point where it can support
30 it, then we may have that winter hunt. But it's on the
31 books.

32

33 So any further discussion on this
34 Proposal by the Council and the modified language --
35 OSM language, is what.....

36

37 MR. SIMON: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question?

40

41 MR. SIMON: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
44 Those in favor of WP16-39, as modified by OSM to change
45 the hunt area for the Nowitna Wildlife Refuge, signify.
46 Below the mud fork of the Little Mud River. Doing it,
47 signify it by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed say.....
2
3 MR. MORGAN: Aye.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:aye.
6
7 (No opposing votes)
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. You're back
10 again. Thank you.
11
12 So the Proposal is adopted.
13
14 So Melinda.
15
16 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, it's about 5:30.
17 They're going to have a dinner purchase available at
18 the coffee shop from 6:30 to 7:30. I would urge the
19 Council to try to maybe get through one, maybe two more
20 Proposals before we finish up. Mr. Chair, if there's a
21 couple that kind of shoot off the page at you, that you
22 think might be taken up fairly quickly, we have all of
23 the analysts here in the room and ready to present, Mr.
24 Chair.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What would be some
27 fairly quick Proposals to go through there, Chris?
28
29 MR. MCKEE: Well, I'd hate for you --
30 the Council to have to bring up caribou again so soon
31 after going so long, but there is 25/26 and 31/32, both
32 of which are kind of two separate things. One of the
33 Proposals would be covered by Lisa and the other would
34 be covered by Palma because they're different scopes.
35 But they cover a herd that even though you have C&T for
36 caribou in Unit 17C, the actual -- there was an .804
37 done for the Nushagak herd. And so you could actually
38 address those by taking no action on them because
39 nobody in your region actually can harvest that herd.
40
41 So those are a couple that would be
42 fairly quick. But they'd still need to be presented to
43 the Council, but I see those as fairly quick ones.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Let's do
46 those. Let's do the 25/26.
47
48 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair. For the record, my name is Lisa Maas. And
50 Proposal 16-25/26 begins on page 159 of your RAC book.

1 Wildlife Proposal 16-25, submitted by
2 the Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee, and
3 Wildlife Proposal 16-26, submitted by the Nushagak Fish
4 and Game Advisory Committee, requests that the split
5 season for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula in Unit 17
6 be changed from August 1 to September 30th and December
7 1 to December 31st to August 1st to March 31st and that
8 the harvest limit be increased from two to three
9 caribou.

10
11 This is a crossover Proposal because
12 residents of Lime Village and Stony River have a
13 customary and traditional use determination for caribou
14 in portions of Unit 17. However, currently only
15 residents in portions of Unit 17 are eligible to hunt
16 caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula.

17
18 I'll pause here and leave it up to the
19 Council whether they would like to take no action on
20 this Proposal since currently no one from the Western
21 Interior Region is eligible for this hunt. Or if they
22 would like me to continue with the summary of the
23 analysis.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. Since we don't
26 have anybody in the Western Interior Region that has
27 C&T for this Nushagak Peninsula herd, the Council can
28 take no action. So we'd have to take -- well, we'd
29 just vote to take no action.

30
31 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
32 adopt Proposal 16-25/26 with the intention to take no
33 action.

34
35 MR. COLLINS: So moved, Mr. Chairman.

36
37 MR. VENT: Seconded.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
40 Further discussion.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 You do? No.

45
46 No further discussion.

47
48 Those in favor of taking no action on
49 these two Proposals, signify by saying aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.
4
5 (No opposing votes)
6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Don is out of
8 the room.
9
10 Are you still on the phone there, Carl.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently not.
15
16 MS. BURKE: Should we wait for a second
17 for Don?
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We need Don's
20 vote.
21
22 MS. BURKE: Carl hung in there for a
23 long time.
24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I thought he
26 was there.
27
28 We're taking a moment. Don went off to
29 the loo for a second.
30
31 (Pause)
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need your vote,
34 Don.
35
36 MR. HONEA: What's that?
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need your vote.
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we thought we had
43 Carl on the phone, but we do need you to vote with us
44 on this.
45
46 MR. MORGAN: Yes, I'm here.
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. There's -- is
49 that you, Carl?
50

1 MR. MORGAN: Yes. I did vote take no
2 action.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Carl voted to
5 take no action. The vote is to take no action on a
6 Proposal that doesn't affect our customary and
7 traditional uses within 17. So Don is also in favor,
8 so that take no action is unanimous.

9
10 So moving on, Palma.

11
12 MS. INGLES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
13 and Council Members. For the record, my name is Palma
14 Ingles and I'm in the OSM and I'm an anthropologist.

15
16 As with our last Proposal, since people
17 do not have traditional hunting rights for 17 in your
18 unit, I'm just going to brief through this Proposal.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Which Proposal are
21 we on?

22
23 MS. INGLES: This is on 16-31/32.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26
27 MS. INGLES: And page -- yes, thank
28 you. Page 192.

29
30 Proposal 16-31/32 was submitted by the
31 Nushagak Advisory Committee and the Togiak Advisory
32 Committee. They request a change in the Federal
33 Subsistence Regulations to allow same day airborne
34 harvest of Nushagak Peninsula caribou during the winter
35 hunt, which is January 1st through March 31st.

36
37 The proponents state that allowing same
38 day airborne subsistence harvest of the Nushagak
39 Peninsula's caribou herd in Unit 17 would provide more
40 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
41 during the winter hunt season. Aircraft have been
42 traditionally used for harvest of these resources in
43 the Bristol Bay area and lately we've had a lot of poor
44 snow cover of the area which has prevented people from
45 using snowmachines like they traditionally did. And
46 this has contributed to the recent low harvest of
47 caribou in this area. So both proponents are hoping to
48 be able to use same day airborne harvesting and they
49 think it would impact the herd as the harvest is
50 controlled by permits issued, not by the means of

1 access.
2
3 Do you want me to continue or would you
4 like me to stop there, Mr. Chair?
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is outside of
7 the region, so for the same reasons we'll -- we will
8 take no action on this Proposal.
9
10 And so I -- the Chair will entertain a
11 motion to adopt Proposal WP16-31 and 32, with the
12 intention of taking no action.
13
14 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.
15
16 MR. SIMON: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.
19
20
21 Any further discussion.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MR. COLLINS: Question.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
28 called. Those in favor of taking no action on these
29 two Proposals, signify by saying aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Still there, Carl?
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we got the
38 vote anyway, so.....
39
40 (Laughter)
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Same reasoning,
43 justification.
44
45 So we've covered those Proposals.
46
47 MS. BURKE: Well, that was fast, Mr.
48 Chair.
49
50 How does the Council feel about trying

1 16-40, change in methods and means for black bear in
2 Units 24A, 24B, and 24C.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

5

6 MS. INGLES: Okay. Good afternoon
7 again or evening, as we shall say, Mr. Chair and
8 Council Members. For the record, my name is Paula
9 Ingles and I'm an OSM.

10

11 Proposals 16-40 was submitted by Gates
12 of the Arctic National National Park Subsistence Resource
13 Commission. If this Proposal is adopted, residents of
14 Alatna, Allakaket.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What page are we on.

17

18

19 MS. INGLES: I'm sorry. For the
20 record, that's on page 124 in your book.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

23

24 MS. INGLES: And if this Proposal is
25 adopted, the residents of Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles,
26 Evansville, Hughes, and Wiseman would be allowed to use
27 an artificial light when hunting a black bear at a den
28 site. They would also be allowed to harvest a sow
29 accompanied by a cub at a den site. Both activities
30 would be allowed in the portions of the Gates of the
31 Arctic National Park and Preserve that are within the
32 Koyukuk River drainage in Unit 24 from October 15th
33 through April 30th.

34

35 I had a map. Would you like -- I have
36 maps over there, Melinda. I didn't pass them out
37 because I didn't know we were going right to 16-40.

38

39 So let me give you just a little bit of
40 the background on this. Using an artificial light when
41 taking a black bear and taking a sow with a cub were
42 illegal in State and Federal regulations until 2008.
43 In 2008, the Alaska Board of Game allowed the use of an
44 artificial light to take a black bear, including a sow
45 with a cub at a den site during the season from October
46 15th through April 30th in an area that includes the
47 Koyukuk River drainage.

48

49 So we consider this activity part of
50 customary and traditional use. The ethnographic

1 literature contains detailed descriptions of den
2 hunting by residents of the Koyukuk Athabascan
3 communities. Historically, natural and artificial
4 lights were used.

5
6 So on this, the OSM preliminary
7 conclusion is to support the Proposal with modification
8 to include a head lamp or a handheld artificial light
9 only.

10
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any questions
14 about the Proposals from the Council.

15
16 Go ahead, Darrel.

17
18 MR. VENT: Well, I don't want to move
19 my mic here so I'll have to speak a little closer.
20 Because if I move it then we're going to lose the
21 communication again here.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MR. VENT: My input on that is that we
26 do hunt black bears in the den, but the thing that we
27 understand with black bears is that if you catch a cub
28 and, you know, they're not very big, it's not worth
29 catching at that time. So what we usually do is, you
30 know, they usually have their -- they're born around
31 February. So we kind of keep that time limit between
32 February and March. You know, in those areas we tend
33 to not be looking for the dens around that time. It's
34 either before from, you know, November up to December
35 or January. That's when they -- you know, the cubs are
36 -- they're not born.

37
38 But, you know, we tend to keep those
39 areas in mind when we start hunting. That's like, you
40 know, the cubs -- you know, they'd be pretty good size
41 by the time April comes around. So, you know, they'd
42 be good to eat then. Their meat's good. They're
43 healthy. You know, they don't have any worms or
44 anything yet. So, you know, it's a good time to -- you
45 know, the way we understand it. That's how we respect
46 this animal.

47
48 But using light, you know, a lot of
49 times we tend to try to keep our hunting in the daytime
50 because if you're using a light in the nighttime, it's

1 -- it's not -- you know, it's for safety reasons. You
2 don't want to be going in there and that -- it all of a
3 sudden pops out at you. That's -- the minute it's dark
4 you're trying to look around with your flashlight.
5 That ain't a good thing to be doing.

6
7 So, you know, I understand what they're
8 talking about here. I, you know, support this
9 Proposal. So thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

12
13 So are we going to work through the --
14 any Tribal comments, Melinda?

15
16 MS. BURKE: No, Mr. Chair. No Tribal
17 comments on this Proposal.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Alaska Department of
20 Fish and Game comments.

21
22 Jill.

23
24 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill. The
25 Department's preliminary recommendation for Proposal
26 16-40 is to support it with the modification by OSM.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Was that
29 readable on the record. Okay.

30
31 And Federal Agencies. Does the
32 National Park Service have comments on this.

33
34 Jeff.

35
36 MR. RASIC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
37 the record, I'm Jeff Rasic. I'm the Chief of Resources
38 for Gates of the Arctic National Park.

39
40 The Park Service is happy to see this
41 Proposal advancing. I'll save you the rehashing of the
42 regulatory history of this, but we found ourselves in
43 the position of prohibiting this or restricting this
44 harvest because at one point it was open to any State
45 resident. We feel strongly about this being a
46 traditional activity and an allowable one in Gates of
47 the Arctic, so we're pleased to see the SRC advance
48 this Proposal. Our intent is to allow this harvest and
49 we recognize the long tradition of it happening in this
50 area.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
2 that for the record.

3
4 Any comments from the Council.

5
6 Go ahead, Pollock.

7
8 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I've just got some
9 comments on this. This is Koyukon Athabascan practice
10 that they hunt black bears in the fall time. And I
11 know most other areas, they don't eat the black bear.
12 But now days hunting bears in the season in the fall
13 time now is spreading more across the State, so I don't
14 really understand why you have to use an artificial
15 light to -- are you hunting at nighttime? Or.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Proposal -- this
18 basically is mirroring the State regulations, which
19 allows artificial light. So some people use a light.
20 And I saw your son's Facebook post of using a light
21 checking dens the other day, so I just wanted to state
22 that for the record. That actually occurs. And so I
23 hate to say that on the record, but I do know that
24 people use a light for checking dens and, you know,
25 just to make sure. Because it is a big animal and all.
26 And so if you're hanging around those dens, it's.....

27
28 Yeah. Go ahead, Darrel.

29
30 MR. VENT: I understand where Pollock's
31 coming from, our traditional use. But it is true that,
32 you know, sometimes when you look in these dens you
33 don't really see -- actually can see up in there
34 because it's so dark inside the den. Even in the
35 daytime you're looking in there and it is dark. You
36 know, we tend to use our -- you know, it's like a
37 traditional culture that you send a youngster in there
38 to take a look around in there.

39
40 But the thing I did when I went in
41 there was I had some earplugs and I had a pistol. And
42 I had a light because I had to look around. Because
43 when you go in a den sometimes they tend to curve off
44 to the side or something and you can't really see. So,
45 you know, that's just our practice. We -- you know,
46 when we're growing up, that's what they taught us to
47 do. And in order to be lucky, you had to go up in
48 there and see for yourself.

49
50 So that's -- you know, my point of view

1 is just that's -- I guess that's what artificial light
2 means. It's, you know, it's like I said it would be
3 safer. That's what I'm saying.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the proposal
6 -- OSM's modification is for hand held light or
7 headlamp. So that's what the light.....

8

9 Go ahead, Pollock.

10

11 MR. SIMON: Yeah, we traditionally hunt
12 with -- we use sticks, put the stick down in that
13 bear's den and if the bear is in there, you poke him.
14 He would come out and stick his head out and look at
15 you, that's a (indiscernible) it means that you're
16 going to have a good life. That's when you pull the
17 trigger on the bear. If you poke him and he doesn't
18 wake up and doesn't stick his head out, then there's
19 something wrong with your life.

20

21 That's traditionally, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I had the
24 good fortune of knowing an elder who lived to be 105
25 years old, Denny Albert. And he told me that he's from
26 Bear Paw on the Kantishna River. And he told me he'd
27 break off a diamond willow -- dead diamond willow and
28 break it off to where there's splinters. And then they
29 would stick it in there and twist it until they -- and
30 then you would twist it into the bear's fur. And when
31 you pulled it out you could tell if you got a bear in
32 there because you can see that hair in the -- so that's
33 one of the ways.

34

35 These are all things that are not
36 typically talked about in the public forum, but we're
37 kind of forced into this thing.

38

39 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But there's other
42 ways to check these dens. But some people are using
43 lights and so -- but it should be totally legal for
44 subsistence users to have that option. They don't have
45 to do that. They just have the option of doing that.

46

47 So that's what the record should state
48 is that these options for checking dens and harvests
49 should be available to the subsistence users.

50

1 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

4

5 MR. HONEA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
6 know why we don't do those practices anymore. I
7 remember they used to in the old village of Kokhrines
8 where most of us are originally from, from Ruby. But I
9 -- to me, I guess, you know, when we're talking about
10 artificial lights, we're talking about flashlights,
11 headlights or something. And to me, I mean I don't
12 know. To me, it's a safety issue. And I have no
13 problem with it. I mean, you know, culturally I'll
14 leave it up to these guys that do these practices. But
15 to me, I mean I just deem it a safety issue.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're -- was
20 there any written comments on this Proposal.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I read through
25 the harvest history and Wiseman's not reflected as
26 harvesting bears in the one year that they took a
27 subsistence survey, but black bears -- but Wiseman also
28 harvests grizzlies. And so if I'm looking for bears
29 for meat, I'm looking for black or grizzly bears. And
30 so we ate those. Although the bears in the Brooks
31 Range, they dig roots -- the grizzlies -- and they're
32 very good eating. Unlike bears -- grizzlies that are
33 on the salmon streams. So we do harvest those
34 grizzlies for meat.

35

36 But grizzlies and black bears for us is
37 our fourth alternate. We hunt caribou. We hunt sheep.
38 We hunt moose. And if we don't have those, then we
39 hunt bears. And so that's -- and if we have caribou
40 migrating into the area then we have plenty of meat.
41 We don't harvest the bears. And so that's why that
42 doesn't reflect as heavily as some communities that
43 only have moose and bears and very few caribou. And so
44 I wanted to clarify that for this record.

45

46 And so the Council is at Council
47 recommendation. The Chair will entertain a motion to
48 adopt the Proposal 16-40 -- WP16-40, with modification
49 to -- it's for flashlight and headlamp is the
50 modification?

1 MS. INGLES: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
2 regulation would say headlamp or hand held artificial
3 light only.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah. That's
6 what this Council's understanding is.
7
8 So do I have a.....
9
10 MR. VENT: So moved.
11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You so moved? And
13 we got a second.
14
15 MR. SIMON: Second.
16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
18
19
20 Any further discussion.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MR. HONEA: Question.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's
27 called. Those in favor of the Proposal, as modified
28 with light specifications, signify by saying aye.
29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.
31
32 MR. MORGAN: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.
35
36 And those opposed, same sign.
37
38 (No opposing votes)
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the motion
41 carries.
42
43 And so what do you think, Melinda?
44
45 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, since we have
46 Mr. Morgan on the line, I think there's one action item
47 that we can take care of while we've got a good number
48 of Council Members. I would like to very quickly take
49 up the future meeting dates. If the Council Members
50 would turn to page 451 of your book, you will see the

1 fall calendar. I'll let you know which weeks are
2 unavailable.

3

4 But just in case word hadn't really
5 gotten around yet, I wanted to let everyone know that
6 we have finally gotten an approved venue location and
7 the All-Council Meeting that you've heard mentioned a
8 couple of times during today's discussions is going to
9 happen. So the week of March 7th this winter instead
10 of all of the Councils meeting in their respective
11 regions, everyone will come into Anchorage. We will
12 have an All-Council Meeting the week of March 7th there
13 in Anchorage at the Dena'ina Center.
14 So it's not necessary to choose dates for that meeting,
15 Mr. Chair.

16

17 But for the fall 2016 meeting, if you
18 look at that fall calendar that's in your book, the
19 week of October 17th -- you'll want to mark that out.
20 Southcentral is meeting that week, but there's also AFN
21 in Fairbanks. So I'm not telling you it's unavailable,
22 but generally this Council in the past hasn't wanted to
23 meet the week of AFN. Page 452.

24

25 And then the other week that would be
26 problematic and you definitely won't be able to choose
27 any dates, the week of October 24th there are actually
28 three Councils who have -- we're only going to be able
29 to do two. Two of the Councils were choosing on the
30 same day so that will need to be negotiated at another
31 time. But the week of October 24th, we won't be able
32 to have that many meetings that week.

33

34 So if the Council would like to take
35 action on this this evening or just kind of start to
36 think about it and take it up first thing in the
37 morning, but I thought while we had Carl on the line
38 the Council might want to discuss it now, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, we can
41 have a little chat about it.

42

43 I like the week of October 10, in the
44 middle of October. The first week in October is really
45 close to the end of our hunting season. And we're
46 hunting all the way to the 1st of October for -- so if
47 we've got meat to take care of and stuff like that,
48 that's a little bit tight. But the middle of October
49 is ideal. And Pollock was talking about that earlier.

50

1 Tim.
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: I like the week of
4 October 10th also. To have a meeting like on this week
5 or later, you have no -- if you fell out, you couldn't
6 -- you wouldn't be able to attend or it would be
7 difficult to do teleconference.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.
10
11 MR. GERVAIS: So I would -- I'm
12 supporting the week of the 10th.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Council
15 Members comments.
16
17 MR. MORGAN: Mr. Chairman. This is
18 Carl.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Carl.
21
22 MR. MORGAN: I agree that starting the
23 10th. That's about the best time because down the line
24 of October it's starting to get pretty busy.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Got that
27 loud.
28
29 Any other comments on that week.
30
31 MR. HONEA: It's fine with me.
32
33 MR. SIMON: What week?
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The week of the 10th
36 of October. Probably the 11th and 12th or something
37 like that.
38
39 MR. SIMON: That's fine with me.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel, good with
42 you?
43
44 MR. VENT: I'm good with that.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the Council
47 is fairly comfortable with this week of the 10th.
48 October 11 and 12 most likely.
49
50 MR. VENT: Location?

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Location.
2 Discussion on location. We haven't met in Aniak and we
3 do have this -- these InterTribal -- I'm drawing a
4 blank.

5
6 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, the one thing
7 that we -- this Council has discussed with Aniak is
8 it's really difficult to get the teleconference to work
9 well in that room. So just wanted to remind the
10 Council that.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That room is
13 completely unacceptable. That -- we cannot have a
14 meeting in that gym again. Nobody can hear me at five
15 feet from the table. The acoustics are horrible. If
16 Aniak can -- if we can find a facility in Aniak, but we
17 do -- what about other communities along the.....

18
19 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair, thank you.
20 While we had maybe discussed it prior, I really -- I
21 was mentioning the location in McGrath is excellent. I
22 mean the B&B whatever is right across the road from
23 where we meet. And I just find everything excellent
24 there. I have nothing against Aniak, but, you know,
25 the -- unless something was fixed there -- you know, my
26 preference would be McGrath.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I'm getting a
31 push back on Aniak, so -- and the meeting -- you know,
32 the acoustics -- I have had several meetings where
33 nobody can hear what's going on and the public is just
34 at a complete loss. So if in the future there can be a
35 facility to meet there with better acoustics, that
36 would -- I would like to meet lower on the river at
37 some point, but at this point it's been a real problem.

38
39 And so McGrath has been kicked around
40 here. Is that -- Ray's in favor of McGrath.

41
42 Tim.

43
44 MR. GERVAIS: Can we go to Shageluk and
45 check out the bison?

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Home on the range.
50 So getting into those -- I don't know. That's a fairly

1 small community.

2

3 Go ahead.

4

5 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chair. Have it in
6 Grayling.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Grayling. Where's
9 your runway? On the hill? Or.....

10

11 MR. CHASE: No, it's on the river and we
12 got a good meeting place.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay.

15

16 MR. CHASE: You can all get there and
17 the Council's never been there before.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So does the
20 Council want to entertain a meeting in Grayling.

21

22 MR. VENT: Is there accommodations for
23 -- housing for the people.

24

25 MR. CHASE: We could come up with it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm more inclined to
28 have a Kuskokwim meeting this next fall for various
29 reasons of the fishery. The pilot program that we're
30 having there. And that would -- we've had a Yukon
31 meeting here at Galena. We usually jump back and forth
32 across from Kuskokwim to the Yukon. And because the
33 Kuskokwim has got this pilot program, that's one of my
34 primary reasons for having -- wanting to have a meeting
35 at -- but I would definitely keep Grayling in mind for
36 possibly the next meeting or spring of 2017 meeting
37 would be a definite possibility.

38

39 Any comment on that, Melinda.

40

41 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. We've --
42 with my other Council, Northwest Arctic, we've
43 successfully held a couple of meetings the last two
44 years in rural communities. We were hoping to meet in
45 Kaltag for this meeting. Unfortunately, a lack of a
46 phone line in the biggest building in the community
47 made it impossible. We have to have teleconference for
48 Staff and for increased public participation. But I
49 have successfully had a couple of other small village
50 meetings. We were approved for Kaltag, so I'm happy to

1 ensure that we have a good groundwork laid out and I'm
2 happy to talk to Ken and the other folks from the GASH
3 area and kind of get a skeleton outline done, Mr.
4 Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. We can get an
7 outline for that for the spring of -- March-ish -- 2017
8 meeting. But McGrath. What about McGrath for the fall
9 of 2016.

10
11 Carl, do you got any comments?
12

13 MR. MORGAN: I pretty much agree with
14 you because the pilot program, fishing season is
15 already done. The different departments, Fish and Game
16 and the Division of Subsistence will have the numbers
17 on the fish. How it's working. How this new
18 organization's starting to get going, the grassroots.
19 And I agree. I think we should meet in one of our
20 discussions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

23
24 Darrel.

25
26 MR. VENT: When they have adequate
27 communications in Aniak, I'd say that that would be an
28 ideal place to meet to discuss this fishing.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can you come up with
31 a different place than the -- where we've been having
32 meetings there, Carl? That would facilitate the
33 Council? The acoustics is.....

34
35 MR. MORGAN: I think McGrath because
36 it's already set up. Like Don said, you know, we've
37 had good -- we've always had a good place to stay. And
38 it's accommodating and it'd be easier to go. Kalskag,
39 there's just no B&Bs, no, and I think McGrath is a
40 perfect choice.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We've got a
43 vote for McGrath.

44
45 Pollock.

46
47 MR. SIMON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Ever
48 since I got on this RAC years ago, it's six years that
49 we have meetings in the smaller communities, sometimes,
50 so that we can meet the peoples that we represent, but

1 sometimes we restrict the small communities because the
2 meeting times always change and then they're
3 (indiscernible - distortion).

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. I don't know
8 about, you know, like Chuathbaluk and some of those
9 other communities down there. If they don't have what
10 we're looking for, for a meeting.

11

12 MR. MORGAN: They don't.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They don't.

15

16 So well, Carl seems to think McGrath's
17 it. So preliminary it looks like McGrath is the
18 primary for the fall meeting of 2016.

19

20 MS. BURKE: A motion.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've got a motion
23 to.....

24

25 MR. HONEA: I'll second that motion if
26 it -- did you entertain the motion?

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you make a
29 motion.

30

31 MR. VENT: I make the motion.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And, Don seconded.
34 So McGrath on the week of the October -- the week of
35 the 10th. But probably October 11 and 12.

36

37 Further discussion on that.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. HONEA: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
44 Those in favor of that meeting place and date, signify
45 it by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 MR. MORGAN: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that looks like
6 where we're going.
7
8 So thank you, Melinda.
9
10 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Thanks for the Council for agreeing to meet a little
12 bit later into the evening.
13
14 Thanks so much, Carl, for being on the
15 line. We really appreciate you being able to
16 participate today. And if you're able to tomorrow, it
17 would be great to hear your voice again.
18
19 Dinner will be in about half an hour
20 down at the coffee shop, so if we can get Staff to help
21 run the Council down there and then back to the house,
22 that would be great.
23
24 Some things to keep in mind for
25 tonight, Council. Tomorrow -- I think prior to us
26 taking up some more Proposals, I'd really like to take
27 care of the FRMP item. Ray is only going to be here
28 with us for about half the day and I think these
29 discussions, we definitely want to make sure to have
30 that while Ray is here. And we'll move right into the
31 Proposals and try to wrap those up.
32
33 Another thing that I left at the house
34 that the Council is staying at is the list of Board of
35 Fish Proposals that I had printed out. So if the
36 Council would like to, you know, just have a little bit
37 of homework or just to kind of check it out and see if
38 there's anything that the Council would like to
39 discuss, I left those there at the table at the house.
40
41
42 Okay. It sounds like they made their
43 way here.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I reviewed some of
46 those Proposals and there's a couple that are a little
47 bit concerning. So the State Board of Fish Proposals.
48
49
50 MS. BURKE: Carl, we're going to lose

1 -- Ray has to go back to Anchorage to go to the Board
2 Meeting. Do you think that -- if you can't call in in
3 the morning, do you think you can join us for a bit in
4 the afternoon?

5
6 MR. MORGAN: I think I can. I'll try
7 to make -- I will make the best effort to tune in in
8 the afternoon. What time do you start in the
9 afternoon?

10
11 MS. BURKE: I'm hoping we can start
12 somewhere around 8:15 like we did this morning. As
13 close to 8:00 as possible. We still have several items
14 to get through. So if you could, you know, call in
15 when you can, we'd love to hear your voice on the other
16 end of the line, sir.

17
18 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'll try call in
19 before noon.

20
21 MS. BURKE: Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

22
23 MR. MORGAN: Okay.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Carl.

26
27 MR. MORGAN: You bet.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point we
30 should recess the meeting until tomorrow morning at
31 8:15-ish. And so we're going to dinner now. So thank
32 you.

33
34 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Enjoy your meeting
35 in Galena.

36
37 (Off record)

38
39 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

