

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8  
9 Buckland School Library  
10 Buckland, Alaska  
11 October 7, 2015  
12 8:50 a.m

13  
14  
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16  
17 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman  
18 Percy Ballot  
19 Michael Kramer  
20 Hannah Loon  
21 Enoch Mitchell  
22 Calvin Moto  
23 Raymond Stoney  
24  
25  
26  
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2  
3 (Buckland, Alaska - 10/7/2015)

4  
5 (On record)

6  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Today is the 7th. I'll call  
9 the meeting back to order at Buckland at 8:50 in the  
10 morning. Like Melinda said, we're going to start with  
11 16-50.

12  
13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We have two  
14 length of service awards that are going to be presented  
15 to two of our Council members. They're a little late.  
16 We redid the numbers and realized that in 2013 there  
17 was a couple of awards that should have been given.  
18 We've brought certificates here for those two members.  
19 Bert Frost is going to make that presentation for us.  
20 Bert, thank you so much.

21  
22 MR. FROST: So on behalf of the Federal  
23 Board and the Subsistence Management Program I'd like  
24 to award Calvin Moto, Sr. a 10 year plus 2 service  
25 award for his service on the Northwest Arctic RAC.

26  
27 (Applause)

28  
29 MR. FROST: And likewise Raymond  
30 Stoney. He's only served 20 years plus 2 also on the  
31 Northwest Arctic RAC.

32  
33 (Applause)

34  
35 MR. STONEY: Twenty years with this  
36 agency and I enjoy doing it and I'm still here today.

37  
38 Thank you so much.

39  
40 (Applause)

41  
42 MR. MOTO: I forgot to say I'm happy to  
43 have served with you, the one lady and gentlemen and  
44 you, Melinda, and the rest of the staff. I hope I  
45 brought good information when I come. I try my best.  
46 I want to thank you for this award.

47  
48 Thank you.

49  
50 (Applause)

1 MS. BURKE: Since we have some new  
2 staff in the room, I just want to do some follow up.  
3 It's a lot of work, a lot of time, a lot of effort that  
4 these great volunteers put into serving and being  
5 representatives of their people in these important  
6 matters. You know, we've got some complicated travel  
7 where we've got some weather hampering that sometimes  
8 comes and delays our plans just a little bit, but I  
9 think these last couple years especially this Council  
10 has had some really exceptional meetings. We've gotten  
11 some really great work done.

12  
13 I think the Council does some really  
14 great teamwork and they're always very patient with me  
15 on what we need to do and where we need to go. We've  
16 held two successful meetings out in rural villages the  
17 last two cycles and I think that really says a lot for  
18 this Council, their willingness to be flexible and to  
19 take these important issues to the folks that are most  
20 affected by them. So they do some really great work  
21 and I'm happy to work with them. So thanks everybody.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

24  
25 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
26 Members of the RAC. For the record, my name is Robbin  
27 LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office of  
28 Subsistence Management. Today I'm going to be  
29 presenting a summary of the analysis for Proposal 16-50  
30 and it begins on Page 54 of your meeting book. For  
31 anyone else who's interested in the audience there are  
32 some copies on the table over here.

33  
34 Proposal WP16-50 was submitted by the  
35 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.  
36 The Council is asking the Board to increase the number  
37 of people eligible to harvest muskoxen in Cape  
38 Krusenstern National Monument from only residents  
39 within and adjacent to the monument to all residents of  
40 the resident zone surrounding the monument.

41  
42 In 2005, the Board adopted an ANILCA  
43 Section 804 determination to limit the pool of people  
44 eligible to harvest muskoxen from residents of the 10  
45 communities in the customary and traditional use  
46 determination to only residents living within or  
47 adjacent to the Monument boundary. This 804  
48 determination was in response to a proposal 05-19 and  
49 that proposal was submitted by the Cape Krusenstern  
50 Subsistence Resource Commission and the National Park

1 Service. Only a few Federal permits were available  
2 each year and the intent was to provide subsistence  
3 opportunity for a small number of families living  
4 within or adjacent to the National Monument to harvest  
5 muskoxen.

6  
7 The proponent wishes to increase the  
8 number of Federally qualified subsistence users who may  
9 hunt muskoxen by Federal permit in Cape Krusenstern  
10 National Monument. This proposal would make the  
11 opportunity to harvest one bull muskox under Federal  
12 regulations available to substantially more residents  
13 of Unit 23.

14  
15 The proponent does not wish to change  
16 the harvest limit or the timing of the season. The  
17 total allowable harvest would remain at two bull  
18 muskoxen by Federal permit. This proposal would remove  
19 the restriction put in place by an ANILCA Section 804  
20 determination made by the Board in 2005 at the request  
21 of the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource  
22 Commission.

23  
24 The customary and traditional use  
25 determination does not include all resident zoned  
26 communities. Buckland and Deering are in the resident  
27 zone, but are not in the customary and traditional use  
28 determination. Further, Point Hope is in the customary  
29 and traditional use determination, but is not a  
30 resident zoned community. Only a resident of a  
31 community or area in the customary and traditional use  
32 determination can be allowed to harvest muskoxen in the  
33 Monument with a Federal permit.

34  
35 Therefore, the OSM recommended  
36 modification would be necessary because only residents  
37 of Unit 23 living east and north of the Buckland River  
38 drainage have a customary and traditional use  
39 determination for muskoxen in the hunt area. This  
40 includes residents of Kotzebue, Selawik, Noorvik,  
41 Kiana, Shungnak, Ambler, Kobuk, Noatak and Kivalina  
42 only.

43  
44 In summary, the OSM preliminary  
45 conclusion is to support Proposal 16-50 with  
46 modification to include resident zone community members  
47 living east and north of the Buckland River drainage,  
48 remove regulatory language referencing harvest quotas  
49 and closures, and delegate authority to the NPS to  
50 close the season and determine annual quotas via a

1 delegation of authority letter only.

2

3                   However, I'm here to seek your  
4 direction on this. Again, as I point out, only  
5 residents of a community or area in the customary and  
6 traditional use determination can be allowed. Buckland  
7 and Deering were left out of that because the earlier  
8 proposal in '05 did not request their inclusion. So I  
9 would like to follow your direction on this. If you so  
10 direct us, we can amend our analysis to include a  
11 customary and traditional use determination analysis  
12 for Buckland and Deering.

13

14                   I will take your.....

15

16                   MR. BALLOT: Question.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

19

20                   MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot. So if we're  
21 working through this, then it would make us be able to  
22 hunt in Cape Krusenstern or in our area?

23

24                   MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. This  
25 proposal addresses those who will have the opportunity  
26 to hunt only in the Monument.

27

28                   MR. BALLOT: In Cape Krusenstern.

29

30                   MS. LAVINE: In Cape Krusenstern.

31

32                   MR. BALLOT: It doesn't include  
33 Buckland. We'd have to go there to go hunt?

34

35                   MS. LAVINE: Yes.

36

37                   MR. BALLOT: Oh, were not interested.  
38 It's too far. We have a hard enough time hunting over  
39 here anyway. I don't think I foresee anybody, maybe  
40 one or two, that might be gung-ho. If we are able to  
41 hunt them over here or in Deering, that would be fine.  
42 I don't know if we really need to recruit Buckland and  
43 Deering.

44

45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

46

47                   MR. MOTO: Good morning. Calvin. Why  
48 did they change it to one? We used to get eight  
49 permits, some from the State and some from the -- but  
50 we look at the population differently than I think

1 biologists. We're getting overrun in our village  
2 sometimes, especially in the graveyard area. Sometimes  
3 they go in the trash area, trash the fence and stuff  
4 like that. Anyway, they were talking about why  
5 shouldn't we get more than what we're allowed. I got  
6 one muskox. That was too much for me.

7  
8 The thing is, when they first came,  
9 they were only just a handful. Now we figure there's  
10 -- the last time I went to a muskox conference they  
11 said they had a lot less. One time we saw the most we  
12 saw and then it dropped again because some of them  
13 moved. We're wondering how come we don't -- is this  
14 going to increase the permits or is this going to be  
15 the same?

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, you could  
18 answer that. I'll explain to you, Calvin. The area  
19 they're talking about is Sealing Point area. This is  
20 the Sealing Point area, the one that she's talking  
21 about. It's at Sealing Point area.

22  
23 MR. MOTO: Most of the time the muskox  
24 are hardly around on the Land Bridge. They're always  
25 around on State land. So when we get a Federal permit,  
26 sometimes it's hard for us to harvest because it seems  
27 like they know that the Land Bridge is a dangerous  
28 place or something. Every summer we get about two or  
29 three dozen right across the creek. They don't bother  
30 except once in a while one comes into town. They took  
31 it out. It come back again. Finally they destroyed  
32 it, but gave the meat to the village. It seems like  
33 they're getting braver every year. They're getting  
34 closer to our homes. This is something that should be  
35 looked at or fixed.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Robbin.

38  
39 Go ahead, Raymond.

40  
41 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 Good morning, gentlemen. I imagine, you know, for  
43 quite some time all of us are aware of the muskox  
44 operations in Game Unit 23. However, Mr. Moto is  
45 explaining to all of us that just like within a quarter  
46 mile from Deering on the airport there's always muskox  
47 there. Of course, it's a State land and the people of  
48 Deering are not allowed to hunt on State land. They  
49 had to go 40 miles to harvest a muskox.

50

1 I imagine it's the same at Buckland. I  
2 think, Mr. Ballot, you know about the muskox more than  
3 we do. Why are we in a situation like this between two  
4 agencies, the State and Federal? There should be one  
5 system where at least Mr. Ballot or Mr. Moto could  
6 harvest a muskox as they wish, not just going 40 miles  
7 when you can get a muskox within just a quarter mile  
8 away. There should be some way it could be changed to  
9 work with Buckland and Deering.

10  
11 However, the villages that you have  
12 mentioned in Unit 23, the number of muskox in our area,  
13 but we're not allowed to harvest them at all. They say  
14 we do got one permit for 500 people, so we're not  
15 really interested in a muskox except for mainly for  
16 Deering, Shishmaref and Buckland.

17  
18 Mr. Ballot, I'll ask you the question,  
19 how is it affecting your area when there's two  
20 different agencies when there is a muskox within a  
21 quarter mile away instead of going to 40? How did it  
22 affect you? Is there some way you could explain.  
23 Maybe we could change it and make one harvesting area  
24 for muskox instead of the State and Federal. What is  
25 the difference, Mr. Ballot, between the two agencies?

26  
27 MR. BALLOT: Federal land versus State  
28 land. State land versus Federal land. We just have to  
29 go farther. We do have guys that go out and get a  
30 Federal every once in a while depending on the  
31 condition of the snow and stuff. Of course, we'd  
32 rather have a State permit and be able to hunt anywhere  
33 nearby because it saves money on the gas and stuff like  
34 that. Deering would love that too because you've got  
35 so much right there that harass them all the time.

36  
37 I don't think we're really interested.  
38 Since we're only talking about Cape Krusenstern and  
39 that area, speaking for myself I'm not really  
40 interested in trying to be included because we're not  
41 going to go over there and go hunt. I don't see us  
42 doing that because of the amount of gas it will take  
43 and the weight of the muskox to bring it all the way  
44 back from Kotzebue.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

47  
48 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, before we get  
49 into too much more Council discussion, I think we  
50 should finish going through our presentation procedure.

1 I know we've got Drew Crawford on the line who will  
2 probably have some ADF&G comment and I know we have a  
3 question from the audience as well and that might help  
4 guide us a little more in the discussion portion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Drew.

7

8 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. Another thing we  
9 have a problem in the summer especially when there's no  
10 wind. A lot of times they have to chase the muskox off  
11 the landing field and some planes won't come by unless  
12 there's muskox not on the landing field. That's a big  
13 problem. I think some of the people are wondering how  
14 come we couldn't hunt in the summer or early spring.  
15 It's a real big problem with them because they hang  
16 around the airport there and when the wind stop and  
17 mosquitos bother them, then they go on the landing  
18 field.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We'll get  
23 back to the agenda. We'll start with the State.

24

25 Drew, you're on.

26

27 MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 The Department is neutral on Wildlife Proposal 16-50,  
29 particularly regarding the allocative aspects of this  
30 proposal to expand the pool of Federally qualified  
31 users in Unit 23, Cape Krusenstern National Monument  
32 muskox.

33

34 Over.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Are  
37 we going to the Federal agencies? It's the policy we  
38 have to go through on these proposals. So we're onto  
39 Federal agencies.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

44

45 MR. ADKISSON: The Park Service  
46 supports the proposal submitted by the RAC with the  
47 modification recommended by the OSM Staff.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. Go  
50 ahead, you have the floor.

1 MS. ADKISSON: And you can check with  
2 Hannah on the SRC comment.

3  
4 MS. ATKINSON: Mr. Chair. I just have  
5 from the Cape Krusenstern SRC that the four members  
6 present supported WP16-50 as written. From the Kobuk  
7 Valley National Park SRC the Commission unanimously  
8 supported WP16-50 as written.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Now  
11 we'll go to the public, a student. You can come up  
12 here.

13  
14 MR. TICKET: My question is why was  
15 Deering and Buckland left out of the Monument.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You could  
18 explain probably better than I will, Robbin.

19  
20 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. At the  
21 time that the proposal requesting a customary and  
22 traditional use determination was forwarded, Buckland  
23 and Deering were not included in the request. It was  
24 just those communities east and north of the Buckland  
25 River drainage, so we only addressed the request at  
26 that time.

27  
28 Thank you for your question.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Robbin.

31  
32 MR. BALLOT: You asked us why we  
33 weren't included, Buckland wasn't included in the  
34 proposal and now it's being considered. Did you want  
35 us to be included for able to hunt in Cape Krusenstern?

36  
37  
38 MR. TICKET: Yes.

39  
40 MR. BALLOT: Okay, you got it.

41  
42 (Laughter)

43  
44 MR. BALLOT: I changed my mind. I will  
45 support with modification.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I do have  
48 a question. For these permit, the two muskox you're  
49 going to get, is it under random drawing or is it  
50 through the grandfather rights? How do you pick the

1 two people that's going to harvest the muskoxen?

2

3 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. That  
4 is.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson,  
9 National Park Service. Let me address two questions  
10 perhaps. First we'll take your most recent one, Mr.  
11 Chair. How would we handle the allocation of the  
12 permits. Very likely that will be with a random  
13 drawing similar to what we've done for the Seward  
14 Peninsula hunts.

15

16 The second thing I would like to  
17 quickly bring up, when you look at the history of  
18 muskox hunting in recent times and how the populations  
19 were distributed following the reintroductions and  
20 their relative growth rates, the Seward Peninsula  
21 animals get much better than some of the other areas.  
22 That's why hunting began on the Seward Peninsula.

23

24 At the time, generally, when some  
25 individual muskoxen moved quite a bit, even though they  
26 tend to expand into unoccupied range, they're largely  
27 much more sedentary than some of the other things like  
28 caribou. Basically given the small numbers of animals  
29 that were available to hunt and looking at past use  
30 patterns, you're seeing things were basically  
31 established around that.

32

33 At the time, clearly Buckland and  
34 Deering were sitting in muskoxen country where animals  
35 were available for them to hunt and there was no  
36 hunting north of that area. It was totally closed.  
37 That's kind of the way that historically the C&T  
38 evolved for Buckland and Deering.

39

40 Several years after that muskoxen  
41 hunting was opened up in the north and west of there  
42 and the C&Ts were again basically looking at the  
43 communities near the muskoxen and that's the way those  
44 C&Ts came up. So, in one sense the C&Ts protected  
45 opportunity for people living nearest the animals.

46

47 When you look at the Cape Krusenstern  
48 animals, it was pretty clear that given what the  
49 population was doing it was very unlikely that the  
50 harvest quota would reach more than two animals.

1 Originally the idea was to narrow those through the 804  
2 down to families that were living on the Monument or  
3 really close to it that didn't have much opportunity  
4 anywhere else. They weren't going to go to the  
5 Buckland/Deering area. Most of them weren't going to  
6 even be able to go in some other areas in Northern 23.  
7 So it's to give them an opportunity for animals close  
8 to them.

9  
10 What's basically happened is most of  
11 those families have since moved back into town, passed  
12 on. So the SRC and the RAC felt it was time to expand  
13 the pool of eligibles. If you expand it too much, what  
14 you wind up getting into is everything is driven by  
15 Section 804 of ANILCA. Competition increases greatly  
16 and often the urban centers or the hubs applications  
17 will swamp local villagers and when that happens, you  
18 watch their opportunity go away as well.

19  
20 It's for those reasons that we  
21 supported the OSM modification. It more closely  
22 parallels the original logic of the C&Ts without widely  
23 expanding C&T where -- if Buckland and Deering get C&T  
24 for that Cape Krusenstern hunt, it's logical for  
25 everybody in Unit 23 to get C&T for Buckland and  
26 Deering area. What you'll see is a huge number of  
27 Kotzebue applications start swamping Buckland and  
28 Deering for those Federal permits.

29  
30 When we started hunting, people didn't  
31 even want to participate in the State hunts and the  
32 problems of having to travel to Federal public lands.  
33 We've tried to deal with that. We coordinate the hunts  
34 with the State to provide the best opportunity that we  
35 can.

36  
37 When we started the Buckland and  
38 Deering hunts with the State, there were very few State  
39 permits available. Mostly they were Federal. Over the  
40 years we shifted those ratios to where now most of the  
41 permits are State, which provides the opportunity for  
42 people to hunt muskoxen close to home. We also  
43 recognize the State permits, so people who have  
44 Federally eligible State permits can use those permits  
45 on either Federal or State lands. So it gives them the  
46 best deal.

47  
48 If you look at what happened in  
49 Buckland/Deering this year, the allowable harvest quota  
50 was based on the biology of the animals. There were

1 four State permits issued and two Federal permits.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. I  
4 still have one follow-up question. These are the  
5 questions that I get phone calls at Kotzebue and they  
6 wanted to know when is the day they could submit their  
7 names to get to the Cape Krusenstern to hunt muskox at  
8 Sealing Point area.

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
11 Adkisson. What we'll do for the 2016 hunt is we'll put  
12 out an announcement.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Could you give me a  
15 copy? That way I could contact these people. We'll go  
16 back to our agenda. Is there Interagency Staff  
17 Committee?

18

19 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I have a  
20 question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

23

24 MR. BALLOT: So, Ken, I'm hearing you  
25 say that if we want to open up this C&T as it's  
26 presented and open this up for Cape Krusenstern, that  
27 would make it eligible to more hunters from Kotzebue to  
28 be eligible to get Federal permits and hunting on our  
29 side.

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: That's correct. I think  
32 you can predict that if you look at the history of the  
33 Tier II hunt that the State manages. This year there  
34 were four permits. One permit went to Buckland, one  
35 went to Deering, the other two went to other residents  
36 outside the C&T area, to like Kotzebue, Noorvik, places  
37 like that.

38

39 So, you know, what you can predict is  
40 that if everybody has C&T and it's a drawing hunt, just  
41 by the sheer population numbers there will be many more  
42 people in Kotzebue applying than Deering or Buckland  
43 probably. So, you know, just a random drawing. It may  
44 or may not happen that way, but there's a risk to it.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Okay. So you understand  
47 that if we open up the C&T to include there, then we'll  
48 have more eligible hunters from our area to hunt in our  
49 area for our muskox if we change to what you're asking.  
50 I think it's better that we keep it within our area.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

2

3 Go ahead, Raymond.

4

5 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
6 We have been discussing the situation about muskox for  
7 quite some time now. It's been 15 years since I  
8 remember discussing harvesting muskox in our area for  
9 Unit 23. The situation that came up to our attention  
10 15 years ago the State says you could harvest any big  
11 game in Game Unit 23 for ceremonial purposes. Are you  
12 sure? Said absolutely sure. The ceremonial has to be  
13 done in Buckland or elsewhere that all big game could  
14 be harvested whether they closed or not.

15

16 My question was 15 years ago to the  
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, now you say that we  
18 could use any big game for ceremonial purposes. They  
19 said yes. That means that that includes muskox. My  
20 question hasn't been answered yet 15 years ago when I  
21 brought that up.

22

23 Now my question is to the gentleman  
24 that's in the speaker, now I'm asking you, can we  
25 harvest a muskox for ceremonial purposes in Game Unit  
26 23 for any villages? That's my question.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
29 Ken, can you answer that for ceremonial purposes?

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. This is Ken  
32 Adkisson. Generally ceremonial kinds of hunts are  
33 special situations and go through their own regulatory  
34 process. Communities can put in for requests for  
35 those. The only example I know of really now for  
36 muskoxen is if you look in Unit 22 in the Federal  
37 regulation booklets, you'll find provisions for a hunt  
38 for whales. Other communities could apply as well if  
39 they chose to do so.

40

41 The State, you know, you could probably  
42 better check with, you know, the State right now on  
43 their specific requirements for things like ceremonial  
44 hunts, but they too have provisions for things like  
45 that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
48 Back to Raymond.

49

50 MR. STONEY: Thanks for the question.

1 The final question would be to Mr. Ballot and he's  
2 aware of permits being issued to Buckland and Deering.  
3 My question is, Mr. Ballot, when you wanted a permit to  
4 harvest muskox, is it very difficult to get a permit  
5 either from State or Federal land? Does State give you  
6 the permit or the Federal?

7  
8 MR. BALLOT: There's opportunity for  
9 both. Some of us get Federal permits and some people  
10 come for State permits. But the history that I  
11 remember when we first started that we were planning to  
12 introduce the muskox here in our area so the village  
13 could hunt them. That's how it was in the past. Our  
14 intention was to make the herd grow. We had a  
15 cooperators meeting, Buckland and Deering, and our  
16 idea was to make the herd grow as much as possible  
17 before we were able to hunt and we did that and then we  
18 started doing community quotas. That was real good for  
19 us.

20  
21 Later on down the line we started  
22 issuing State permit because we could get it right  
23 there by State land. Even though we had Federal  
24 hunting we weren't always successful, but they were  
25 successful in some way because it was going to be meat  
26 for the community or food for the community. Now we  
27 start State permits and now we're starting to see a lot  
28 more of our permits, like Ken just mentioned, that are  
29 going to Kotzebue, to Noorvik, to wherever and that  
30 makes it harder for us to get the permits now because  
31 we put the C&T out there by being able to hunt through  
32 the State.

33  
34 Now we're going to be opening it up  
35 more to more people and then it's going to be a little  
36 more harder for us to be able to get the permits if we  
37 open it up to residents on north side. Then it's going  
38 to be very hard for us. So I'm really concerned that  
39 -- I'd prefer that we keep it within our area if it's  
40 just for the Federal hunt. It may be far, but it's  
41 still possible to be able to go out there and get them.

42  
43 MR. STONEY: My final question.....

44  
45 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
46 Adkisson. I might add that there's another muskox  
47 proposal coming up and that will actually sort of  
48 address increased opportunity for residents who  
49 currently have C&T throughout that Northwest section.  
50 So it would be good to look at that one perhaps as well

1 when you're thinking about it because that's  
2 specifically designed to address the rest of the Unit  
3 23 residents other than Buckland and Deering.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

6

7 Go ahead, Raymond.

8

9 MR. STONEY: My final question would  
10 be, Mr. Chairman, and I'll make it very simple, my  
11 question, as to Cape Krusenstern. As we know, there's  
12 been quite a few muskox in that area. For Cape  
13 Krusenstern, I'll probably ask the State, how many  
14 permits do you issue for Cape Krusenstern including  
15 Kotzebue, Noatak, Kivalina, Point Hope? How many  
16 permits for that Cape Krusenstern?

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman, I can  
19 answer that. Ken Adkisson again. I don't know if  
20 there's anybody from the State. There's two permits  
21 available annually for the Cape Krusenstern hunt and  
22 those are Federal permits and they're limited to the  
23 pool of eligibles from the 804 that was described for  
24 you. The State manages a Tier II hunt in areas of  
25 northern 23, northwestern 23 that are outside of Cape  
26 Krusenstern National Monument and there are six permits  
27 annually currently for that hunt. Those are Tier II  
28 permits.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. Did  
31 that answer your question, Raymond?

32

33 MR. STONEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank  
34 you very much.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

37

38 Go ahead, Calvin.

39

40 MR. MOTO: One thing that you have to  
41 consider when you have the permits, that -- the permits  
42 run in our area, you know, but this is a different type  
43 of weather now and the time when our people want to go  
44 out and get a muskox is around January. Haven't been  
45 able to do that lately because of the inclement  
46 weather. It rained and then the ground froze and not  
47 able to go out and get the muskox. The ideal time for  
48 us is in the wintertime. That way the meat won't spoil  
49 so much, you know. So since we're not able to go out  
50 in January and parts of February, we wonder if we could

1 somehow extend it for one more month or something and  
2 close that between January because it's inconvenient.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,  
5 Calvin. Anyone.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If no other one,  
10 we'll go to the Interagency Staff Committee. Anyone  
11 have a report.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, Robbin, you  
16 wanted this in proposal form to support it or not or  
17 what did you want us to do here?

18

19 MS. LAVINE: I'm requesting a clear  
20 direction in regards to Buckland and Deering in  
21 regards to this proposal. And, which we may have  
22 received, but I'd love to hear it stated for the record  
23 whether or not we would include Buckland and Deering in  
24 a customary and traditional use analysis for the  
25 harvest of muskox in Cape Krusenstern.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: I just want to be real  
28 clear, I guess. If we support this proposal as it is  
29 and it would make our C&T eligible for there and, in  
30 turn, it will make those folks on the north side  
31 eligible to hunt in our area and that's a concern I  
32 have, is that we're going to put a little too much  
33 competition for our Federal hunt.

34

35 I understand that we and the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board we had some talks about it, but I  
37 come to realize that it's not something I really want  
38 to support, speaking for myself. I don't know how  
39 Deering feels about it. If we open C&T for that area  
40 there, then they're going to be able to get a lot more  
41 -- or we're going to have a lot more harder time trying  
42 to get our own muskox on Federal lands here.

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Then Mr. Chair, members of  
45 the Council, we could proceed -- or you could address  
46 my summary. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
47 support the Proposal 16-50 with modification to include  
48 resident zone community members living east and north  
49 of the Buckland River drainage, remove the regulatory  
50 language referencing harvest quotas and closures and

1 delegate authority to the National Park Service to  
2 close the season and determine annual quotas via a  
3 delegation of authority letter only.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Percy,  
6 that's further up. That way you won't -- we won't be  
7 able to hunt muskox on this side. If you open it up  
8 over there, we will.

9

10 It will open it to Kotzebue.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: Right.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: With the  
15 modification.

16

17

18 MS. LAVINE: I'm so sorry. I didn't  
19 quite hear that exchange. Come again?

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was explaining to  
22 Percy if we accept Buckland into this Cape Krusenstern  
23 area hunt, that will open it up for C&T for the  
24 Buckland area for Kotzebue to go harvest muskox to our  
25 area. What Percy is trying to be careful of, he want  
26 to keep Buckland where it's at in Cape Krusenstern,  
27 where it's at so Kotzebue people won't go harvest  
28 muskoxen this way.

29

30 Yeah, go head. The student wanted to  
31 say something. Go ahead.

32

33 MR. TICKET: My other question was how  
34 is Buckland and Deering able to hunt for muskox in the  
35 past?

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll have that  
38 addressed to you, Robbin.

39

40 MS. LAVINE: Well, I may not be able to  
41 answer that question. I just wanted to clarify, Mr.  
42 Chair, through the Chair to the members of the Council,  
43 this would only address customary and traditional use  
44 of muskoxen in Cape Krusenstern National Monument.  
45 Only in it. As far as I know, we would only be looking  
46 at that. I would like to, perhaps, defer to somebody  
47 else as to whether assessing Buckland and Deering's  
48 customary and traditional use of muskoxen on Cape  
49 Krusenstern -- I don't know if that would impact  
50 activity, anybody else's activity anywhere else.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead. You wanted  
2 to come up and speak. Go ahead, you have the floor.

3

4 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. My  
5 name is Jennifer Hardin for the record. I just wanted  
6 to also add to Robbin's statement that the proposal  
7 that we're looking at today is just in relation to  
8 customary and traditional use determinations in the  
9 Monument. So any changes to other units would have to  
10 be assessed under other proposals.

11

12 MR. BALLOT: So you're saying that if  
13 we support this proposal, there will be no foreseeable  
14 future that someone is going to think that they have  
15 C&T for Federal hunt on our side, eastern side.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're just trying to  
18 understand it better in layman language. We're trying  
19 to understand it in our point of view.

20

21 MS. HARDIN: Sure. And maybe Ken wants  
22 to jump back in, but in terms of changing customary and  
23 traditional use determinations in this area, we don't  
24 have a proposal for that in front of us and that would  
25 need to go through the process the same as this type of  
26 proposal.

27

28 MR. BALLOT: Okay. That sounds good  
29 then. So nobody will be able to use an argument to say  
30 -- well, whatever. Okay.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Council members. Ken  
37 Adkisson again. Yeah, I don't see this proposal as a  
38 C&T proposal. What it's really trying to do is remove  
39 the 804 restriction on the Krusenstern hunt to open it  
40 up to people who are currently Federally -- would  
41 otherwise be Federally eligible. So there's nothing in  
42 the proposal that was aimed at changing the existing  
43 C&Ts.

44

45 If this proposal is adopted with the  
46 OSM amendment or suggestion, it would simply leave the  
47 C&Ts as they exist now in place and expand the pool of  
48 eligibles within that framework.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

1 MS. HARDIN: Through the Chair. Thank  
2 you, Ken. This is Jennifer Hardin again. What Ken  
3 states is correct. This proposal was to open the hunt  
4 up to the members of the communities in the resident  
5 zone community. All the members of the resident zone  
6 community. Because the resident zone community is now  
7 defined to include all of the communities including  
8 Buckland and Deering, we just wanted to ensure that we  
9 were addressing your proposal adequately.

10  
11 In the original customary and  
12 traditional use determination proposal that was  
13 received in 1997, Buckland and Deering were not  
14 considered because they were not part of that proposal.  
15 So we want to make sure that we are addressing the  
16 proposal that you intended to submit.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

19  
20 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It  
21 take me awhile to understand this whole issue about  
22 muskox. We always talk about region something  
23 designated and Cape Krusenstern is over there across  
24 from Kotzebue, that's a Monument, and Buckland is here  
25 on BLM and so is Deering so I'm understanding. Let's  
26 leave Krusenstern as is and then submit a new -- look  
27 into Buckland's need and let the State answer Raymond's  
28 question on muskox issue. So maybe in the future I'm  
29 understanding that we need to put in a new proposal  
30 primarily for Buckland region designated and Deering  
31 designated. Am I correct?

32  
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, you are correct.  
34 Thank you. Anyone else.

35  
36 Go ahead, Robbin.

37  
38 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I  
39 don't believe there needs to be a new proposal to look  
40 at whether Buckland and Deering should have customary  
41 and traditional use in the Monument. It can be part of  
42 this proposal, but the original proposal forwarded by  
43 your Council was to include the people eligible --  
44 increase the number of people eligible to harvest  
45 muskoxen in the Monument from only residents within and  
46 adjacent to the Monument to all residents in the  
47 resident zone surrounding the Monument.

48  
49 Buckland and Deering are now at this  
50 point in time part of that resident zone community, but

1 in the past you weren't part of the customary and  
2 traditional use assessment and you were not determined.  
3 It doesn't mean that you don't have C&T for the  
4 Monument, but we just need to do an analysis. We can  
5 make an amendment to this proposal if you wish or just  
6 proceed with our recommendation, which is to follow  
7 your direction, including those resident zone  
8 communities north and east of the Buckland River  
9 drainage.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

12

13 MR. STONEY: Okay. I'll give a very  
14 simple question for the lady here. Of course, you know  
15 we're discussing the situation of the problems with the  
16 muskox. Are you aware of the conditions and population  
17 in Cape Krusenstern, our entire Game Unit 23, the size  
18 and the counts of these muskox, are they harvestable?  
19 I guess you know more than we do how many muskox is in  
20 the area. That's my question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead and answer.

23

24 MS. LAVINE: I would love to defer to  
25 Ken on that because I am not a biologist. I did not do  
26 that assessment, but I imagine, especially through the  
27 delegation of authority letter, it would be up to the  
28 land manager of the Park to be able to keep track of  
29 the herd, its health and how much the herd could handle  
30 in regards to harvest. So this proposal would ensure  
31 that on an annual basis that negotiation would occur  
32 between -- well, through the informed assessment of the  
33 land manager.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
38 ahead, Calvin.

39

40 MR. MOTO: The one thing I want to know  
41 is the staff, where do they stand on this? Would they  
42 like us to accept the proposal as presented or with the  
43 modification? I was wondering if the staff would  
44 recommend to us what we should do with this.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, after all these

1 deliberations and stuff, I'm feeling more comfortable  
2 that we did work together and the young gentleman's  
3 request to include and why and all that kind of stuff,  
4 but after fully understanding that there's not going to  
5 be very much or hopefully no implications in regard to  
6 other C&T or the other way around where we're going to  
7 have a lot more competition for our region, for  
8 Buckland and Deering, I would move, if there's no more  
9 deliberation, to support Proposal 16-50 with the  
10 modifications included.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

13  
14 Is there a second.

15  
16 MS. LOON: Second.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Second by Hannah.  
19 Yes, ma'am.

20  
21 MS. BURKE: I just want to make sure  
22 that I have the justification down here, Percy. Before  
23 we had discussed concerns of the pool being too large  
24 and it being hard for the residents of the smaller  
25 communities to receive one of those registration  
26 permits. Can you just restate really quickly what you  
27 just said about why you're going to support with  
28 modification.

29  
30 MR. BALLOT: Because I understand that  
31 in the future C&T, if it was for our area, then it  
32 wouldn't be expanded to the outland north of our  
33 area, but it would have to be another part of a  
34 proposal.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Got it, Melinda?

37  
38 MS. BURKE: Yes.

39  
40 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. I'd  
41 like to clarify. So when we initially wrote this  
42 summary, the analysis, we supported the proposal with a  
43 clarification, a modification that actually did not  
44 include Buckland and Deering. So now my request is --  
45 so basically the clarification of the modification to  
46 the original support was, okay, we're going to clarify  
47 the community is north and east of the Buckland River  
48 drainage and we understand that does not include  
49 Buckland and Deering.

50

1                   But now perhaps we may want to actually  
2 modify the modification. So we could say if we were  
3 going to assess the C&T for Buckland and Deering, then  
4 we would look for a motion from the Council to support  
5 our modification with an additional modification to  
6 include a customary and traditional use analysis for  
7 Buckland and Deering.

8  
9                   So that would be perhaps my question.  
10 So there would be the original -- the Council supports  
11 the OSM modification as written or the Council supports  
12 the OSM modification with an additional modification to  
13 include Buckland and Deering. Those, I think, would be  
14 the two options before.

15  
16                   MS. BURKE: That was what I wanted to  
17 clarify before we went to the vote, quickly, was  
18 whether it was simply with the OSM modification or with  
19 the C&T discussion that was had.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else on  
22 this matter here.

23  
24                   MR. BALLOT: I think the OSM is fine  
25 for C&T.

26  
27                   MS. BURKE: So you want it as modified  
28 by OSM?

29  
30                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

31  
32                   MS. BURKE: You're comfortable with  
33 that?

34  
35                   MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh (affirmative).

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. There was a  
38 second on this. Is there a question on this.

39  
40                   MS. LOON: Question.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
43 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

44  
45                   IN UNISON: Aye.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposed.

48  
49                   (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay, Melinda.  
2 We'll take a 10 minute break.

3  
4 (Off record)

5  
6 (On record)

7  
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll call this  
9 meeting back to order at 10:00 a.m. We're on WP16-51.  
10 Go ahead, Lisa, you have the floor.

11  
12 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
13 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is  
14 Lisa Maas and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of  
15 Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting the summary  
16 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-51, which  
17 begins on Page 66 of your RAC book.

18  
19 Wildlife Proposal 16-51, submitted by  
20 the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
21 Council, requests that the portion of Unit 23 remainder  
22 occurring north and west of the Kobuk River drainage be  
23 opened to the harvest of one bull muskox with the  
24 season of August 1st to March 15th. There's a map of  
25 the proposed hunt area on Page 70 of your RAC books.

26  
27 Currently, this portion is open only  
28 under the State's Tier II permitting system. The  
29 proponent states that adoption of this proposal would  
30 provide Federally qualified subsistence users with  
31 additional harvest opportunity and would reduce  
32 regulatory complexity by aligning Federal and State  
33 regulations.

34  
35 Muskoxen were reintroduced into Unit 23  
36 in the 1970s near Cape Thompson. In 2012, surveys  
37 estimated around 300 muskoxen in Unit 23 remainder.  
38 Due to changes in herd distribution and survey  
39 methodologies, it is difficult to determine a  
40 population trend, however local managers believe the  
41 population to be stable. The bull:cow ratio in 2012  
42 was estimated at 32 bulls per 100 cows.

43  
44 Federal harvest of the Cape Thompson  
45 muskox population is currently limited to Cape  
46 Krusenstern National Monument. The State's Tier II  
47 hunt, which was established in 2000, has an annual  
48 quota of six bulls and on average four bulls per year  
49 have been harvested.

50

1                   Adoption of this proposal would  
2 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified  
3 subsistence users and would require collaboration  
4 between managers on setting State and Federal harvest  
5 quotas. Due to the quota, no impacts to the muskox  
6 population are expected. As the State's Tier II system  
7 favors previously successful hunters, adopting this  
8 proposal would result in more equitable distribution of  
9 permits.

10  
11                   The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
12 support WP16-51 with modification to specify that  
13 harvest would be by State or Federal permit and to  
14 delegate authority to the Superintendent of the Western  
15 Arctic National Parklands to close the season and to  
16 set quotas and the number of Federal permits via  
17 delegation of authority letter in order to provide hunt  
18 management flexibility.

19  
20                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22                   I would be happy to take questions.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Any  
25 questions from the board.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.

28  
29                   MR. MITCHELL: Since 2000 there have  
30 been only been two muskox harvested?

31  
32                   MS. MAAS: Since 2000 there have been  
33 on average four muskoxen per year harvested.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. If  
36 there are no other questions, we'll go -- okay, go  
37 ahead, Mike.

38  
39                   MR. KRAMER: Going through that Tier II  
40 process, you know, I've noticed in the last five years  
41 maybe a lot of the same people are always qualified to  
42 get muskox. I'd like to get one one day, but it's  
43 going to take me 20 years to qualify. You know, that's  
44 the ridiculousness of this Tier II is that people who  
45 apply over and over and over again can get it.

46  
47                   I think what they need to do is they  
48 need to start letting them harvest one and then give  
49 them five years to let someone else for the next five  
50 years be able to harvest. That way the resources are

1 spread out amongst the community or region and not just  
2 a specific five or ten people who harvest these  
3 animals. I see it as kind of a discrimination against  
4 the other people that would like to harvest these  
5 animals. I mean I'd like to get one one day. I just  
6 need to figure out what I got to do to be able to apply  
7 for it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You've got an answer  
10 for that?

11

12 MS. MAAS: Sure. The proposal would  
13 open this hunt area to all Federally qualified users,  
14 so that should result in more equitable distribution of  
15 permits since currently it's only under State  
16 regulations. This proposal would also open this hunt  
17 area under Federal regulations.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Under Tier II?

20

21 MS. MAAS: The Tier II is only for  
22 State.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before it was  
25 Federal?

26

27 MS. MAAS: The Federal hunt would be by  
28 State or Federal permit and the way the permits are  
29 allocated is a good question and something that will  
30 need to be figured out if this proposal is adopted.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I could see his  
33 point. Yeah, he's on the right direction that we need  
34 to spread out people that are able to harvest muskoxen  
35 instead of the same people over and over. If they  
36 could draw, maybe they could stop them or we could put  
37 it in a hat and draw every year and if you happen to  
38 get picked year after year, it's just luck of the draw.

39

40

41 If they open it to the public and say,  
42 hey, this is time to hunt muskoxen in a certain area  
43 and this is how many people that could be able to  
44 harvest, maybe we could put all their names in there  
45 and draw and we could have alternates if they don't get  
46 it or for some reason they're not going to harvest to  
47 make sure the quota is taken. I could understand his  
48 point. That would just be luck of the draw if you  
49 happen to get drawn twice year after year.

50

1                   We need to make it fair because under  
2 the State Tier II they have the same people over and  
3 over and that's when I get a headache. I want to go  
4 here for the Federal. I want everybody given a chance  
5 to be able to harvest muskox like he say. We need to  
6 point that out and make it public to everyone. When is  
7 the dates, could you put your name in there to have it  
8 drawn or it could be chosen. Not just say, okay,  
9 you've got one week to decide. Give them a chance in  
10 every area in every village.

11  
12                   Go ahead, Percy.

13  
14                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Maybe  
15 we should have somebody describe the process for Tier  
16 II selection from the State or whoever and the history  
17 on that.

18  
19                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We still have  
20 Drew Crawford, who will provide agency comments and  
21 perhaps he can address that question if we want to keep  
22 moving through our procedures.

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else.  
25 Go ahead, Raymond.

26  
27                   MR. STONEY: Well, Mr. Kramer and Mr.  
28 Ballot, my question is why are these permits being  
29 issued to the same persons for like five years or so?  
30 Why are they doing that? I mean what's the sense of  
31 that? I know that Mr. Kramer would have an opportunity  
32 to hunt muskox if he wanted to, but they can't give it  
33 to him. Why? That's my question, is why.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's for the State,  
36 right?

37  
38                   MR. BALLOT: I think it's State.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Drew will answer this  
41 one when we call the agency comments on this one here.  
42 Drew will answer it and he'll answer your question. I  
43 know what you're saying, Raymond, but he's the one  
44 that's going to be with the State.

45  
46                   If we have no other questions here from  
47 the board, we will -- go ahead, Enoch.

48  
49                   MR. MITCHELL: I don't have a question,  
50 just a comment. The Noatak people, a lot of us don't

1 really hunt moose and muskox. A lot of Noatak people  
2 depend on the caribou mostly, the main diet. But those  
3 that do hunt, there was one teacher got one about 2000  
4 maybe and that meat went all over community. One  
5 muskox will feed a lot of people. Also our caribou is  
6 going down and we don't know which way it will go in  
7 the future, but maybe one day we will depend on muskox.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,  
10 Enoch. What Enoch is referring to is that when he  
11 mentioned the caribou, the films didn't develop right,  
12 so I don't think we'll have a count this year. So  
13 that's what he was referring to. That's why I had to  
14 mention it. It's a heartache. We'd like to see the  
15 numbers if they're declining. I had to change the  
16 subject a little bit, but that's what he's referring  
17 to.  
18

19 Is there anyone else here from the  
20 board. Yeah, somebody had their hand. Okay, Nikki  
21 with the State. Now we're going to call on the State.  
22 Go ahead, Nikki.  
23

24 MS. BRAEM: Through the Chair. There  
25 were a couple questions regarding muskox regulations  
26 Tier II. The date for which Tier II applications are  
27 taken -- I looked it up online because I didn't have it  
28 on the top of my head, so let me just read. It starts  
29 November 1st to December 15th are when you need to  
30 apply for Tier II permit hunts, whether it's a Tier II  
31 in some other part of the State, wherever. That due  
32 date, November 1 to December 15th is the application  
33 period.  
34

35 As to how Tier II -- the process by  
36 which it works out who gets a Tier II permit, that's a  
37 little more complicated. So if it would be all right  
38 and I don't know that it's going to affect your  
39 decision about this Federal proposal because Tier II is  
40 a State thing, I'd like to kind of talk about the Tier  
41 II process when we get to my staff report because it  
42 will allow me to think exactly about the questions  
43 you're asking and I can have it better than the top of  
44 my head. If that would be all right with you. Because  
45 this isn't about Tier II.  
46

47 As I understand it, having been  
48 chatting in the back of the room there, this proposal,  
49 which would have a Federal permit for this area, came  
50 about because of your frustrations with Tier II with

1 the State program. So I think this was meant as a  
2 remedy of sorts, what they're proposing now. I'm not  
3 more familiar with this particular proposal and that,  
4 but I'd be happy to talk about Tier II in more depth,  
5 because we could go on for a day about Tier II, when we  
6 get to my staff report if that's all right with you  
7 guys.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's okay  
10 with us. I think you can hear our frustration that we  
11 have to live with the Federal lands and we have to deal  
12 with the State lands. To us its all one land anyhow,  
13 you know. I can't understand why -- I'm not even going  
14 there. When the time comes when they're done here,  
15 I'll call the State to comment on this one here.

16

17 MR. BRAEM: That sounds good.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is there anyone else  
20 here from the board that has a question on this  
21 muskoxen. Go ahead, Calvin.

22

23 MR. MOTO: My question is when the  
24 Federal and State people come to our village to give  
25 out the Tier permits, we never hear about it, but the  
26 first people that hear about it are the ones that  
27 always be there. So the same people get the permits.  
28 It's first come, first serve, you know. What gets to  
29 me is sometimes we have a couple of people that go  
30 there and they know they're not going to hunt, but they  
31 want to take the permits so somebody won't get the  
32 muskox.

33

34 What I'm trying to say is that maybe  
35 when you go State and Federal permit, people are going  
36 to our villages to announce at least a week or so ahead  
37 that you're going to be in Deering to issue permits.  
38 Not just all of a sudden show up in our village, you  
39 know, like they've been doing because first come first  
40 serve a lot of time it's the same people that hear  
41 first. They get the permits. So that's where we get  
42 repetition of people getting their permits.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

45

46 Anyone else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll go to

1 agency comments. ADF&G. Drew, you're on.

2

3 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
4 Drew Crawford with Department of Fish and Game in  
5 Anchorage. The Department's preliminary recommendation  
6 for WP16-51 is that we are opposed. The State of  
7 Alaska already has a Tier II muskox permit within Kobuk  
8 River that is open at the same time as this proposal,  
9 August 1st to March 15th. This Tier II permit can be  
10 used on State or Federal lands. A Federal hunt was  
11 established for the same area and dates. It would only  
12 be valid on Federal lands requiring hunters to know the  
13 land ownership and their location. Over.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you, Drew.

16

17 MR. CRAWFORD: I can discuss Tier II  
18 hunts if you're interested at this time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, we want to  
21 hear. This is going to come up again. We need to hear  
22 about the Tier II hunt that's happening for the State.

23

24 MR. CRAWFORD: Okay. Tier II  
25 subsistence permit hunts are for residents only. The  
26 hunts are held when there's not enough game to satisfy  
27 all subsistence needs. Hunters must answer questions  
28 on the applications concerning their dependency on the  
29 game, their livelihood and availability of alternate  
30 resources. Applications are scored based on responses  
31 to the questions and permits are issue to those with  
32 the highest scores. Details are included on the  
33 subsistence supplement, which is available in Fish and  
34 Game offices in your area or online during November and  
35 December. Over.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You put in  
38 scores instead of under the grandfather rights and we  
39 won't get into that, but you said something about  
40 score. So if 10 people happen to score the same for  
41 the two muskoxen, so out of 10 who are you going to  
42 pick?

43

44 MR. CRAWFORD: I can't answer that at  
45 this time, but I can check back and let you know what  
46 I've been told on that. Over.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The reason why I'm  
49 leading to this is some people say, oh, this guy hunt  
50 before and we'll just give it to him and what we're

1 saying, Kramer and I, these are the same people over  
2 and over. Other people need to be given a chance to  
3 harvest muskox in each region that is open for the  
4 State. Federal I could understand.

5  
6 I'm going to push for a drawing permit  
7 for Federal when the time comes, but for the State,  
8 most times even in Kotzebue, it's always the same two  
9 people over and over. The way I understand it, those  
10 two people are the ones that decide who's going to be  
11 the hunters. It's not harvesting them. To me, it  
12 turned out to be hunters even they're Natives because  
13 they're the same people over and over.

14  
15 What we're trying to tell you, Drew, is  
16 that we need to change it for the State where everyone  
17 has a chance to harvest muskoxen and keep it fair to  
18 everyone. Don't give them grandfather rights. Oh, he  
19 had it last year, we'll give it to him again. Do you  
20 get what I'm saying?

21  
22 MR. CRAWFORD: I do. Let me go talk to  
23 some folks and I'll get back to you with an answer  
24 later in the meeting.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And this question  
27 came up last year too and I asked at the AC in  
28 Kotzebue. We asked it, Kramer and I, and this has been  
29 happening. I mean we need to quit saying we'll get  
30 back to you. We need an answer by next meeting if  
31 possible and we need to do it. I'm going to push,  
32 Drew. I'll hold it on you. Melinda, take this note  
33 heavily in bold that we need an answer by next meeting  
34 on this, how the State is going to go, and I'm going to  
35 push for it.

36  
37 MR. CRAWFORD: I'll get something for  
38 you.....

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: This time I'm going  
41 to really push it. In other words, I'm going to demand  
42 it. Go ahead, Percy.

43  
44 MR. BALLOT: I'm just wondering, Drew,  
45 who does the questionnaire or the survey on the Tier II  
46 questionnaire where I think people that hounded them  
47 get a lot more points.

48  
49 MR. CRAWFORD: I would assume the folks  
50 in the Nome Fish and Game office in Unit 23 would be

1 doing those permits for Seward Peninsula area.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Is Ken around?

4

5 MR. ADKISSON: I am, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Do you have a question?

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, we were just  
12 wondering the Tier II questions that are asked, who  
13 gets permits and the concern is over the years that  
14 we're seeing the same people getting them and I think  
15 someone is going to answer some of these questions.  
16 That was a concern or been a concern for the last two  
17 years.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: To Mr. Ballot through  
20 the Chair, I guess. It would really be better to hear  
21 from the State on their exact process, but what I could  
22 say about it is I mean it's a fairly wide geographic  
23 area covered by the Tier II permits. It's a  
24 questionnaire sort of thing that you fill out and you  
25 answer the questions and then based on the points that  
26 you get for each question the top ranking applicants  
27 get the permits. My understanding is where there are a  
28 lot of top ranking applicants it then goes to kind of a  
29 random drawing.

30

31 So one of the big questions I think is  
32 the questions and the point values and how those are  
33 scored and it would probably be best to address those  
34 through your State local fish and game advisory  
35 committee regarding request for changes and so forth.  
36 I suspect that the form itself is developed and  
37 approved at a higher level within the Department of  
38 Fish and Game, but I don't know that for sure and we'll  
39 see what Drew has to say later.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

42

43 Go ahead.

44

45 Lisa, you'll be next.

46

47 MS. ROBISON: Mr. Chair. This is  
48 Hillary Robison from Western Arctic National Parklands.  
49 We've been discussing muskox issues with the State and  
50 through our conversations we have a copy of the 2014

1 Tier II permit, which might be different than the 2015  
2 permit, but you can at least take a look at the 2014  
3 permit and see what questions were asked. We would be  
4 able to print out a copy of that for you later or we  
5 can take potentially a five-minute break now and try to  
6 put it up on the screen if you'd like to look at it.  
7 But then you could get an idea of what the format looks  
8 like.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

11

12 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, it would be good to  
13 see if we could see what kind of hokey-pokey questions  
14 they've got, you know. I see that the State is against  
15 this proposal. I am for this proposal for the reason  
16 that it's giving the fairness to others. The State --  
17 the next time I'm at a State meeting, and I am on the  
18 Kotzebue Advisory Council, I'm going to make sure that  
19 we lull that Tier II permit and make it a drawing for  
20 local area resident users. That way there's a fairness  
21 and there's not just these specific people that hunt  
22 them all the time. That gives other people the  
23 opportunity to be able to harvest these animals and  
24 it's a subsistence resource that should be shared.

25

26 The greediness of the Tier II style to  
27 my mind is it should not even be allowed anymore  
28 because that's a source of discrimination against other  
29 users. After a while they gain so many points the rest  
30 of us people who keep wasting ink putting in for these  
31 permits will never get them because the State system,  
32 to me, appears to be a failure and it's a favoritism  
33 type of a way of being able to give permits to people  
34 that have applied for the last 20 years. I think the  
35 Federal proposal here gives us the opportunity to open  
36 it up to others in a fair way and I am for this  
37 proposal because I'd like to see other people -- I'd  
38 like to get one with my kids. I'd like to be able to  
39 experience getting a muskox and being able to eat it  
40 and learn with my kids on how to be able to process it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

43

44 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I think the  
45 Council has put some really good justification on the  
46 record already regarding your feelings and the way you  
47 intend to act on this proposal. Tier II and what the  
48 State process is is definitely outside of the purview  
49 of this proposal, but it's very clear that your actions  
50 would like to open up the pool of eligible users.

1                   Perhaps if we could finish up our  
2 action on this proposal and move on there might be time  
3 towards the end of the day to have a little more  
4 discussion on the record about Tier II and perhaps put  
5 something up on the screen as was suggested. I think  
6 the Council, from my notes and my observations, it  
7 seems like we're pretty clear on how we intend to act  
8 on this and I think we should go ahead and get to that  
9 point and over lunch perhaps we could talk about some  
10 specific questions that we'd like Drew and the other  
11 State folks or even just amongst yourselves we can  
12 definitely have more of a discussion if time allows  
13 today on Tier II, but I think we should go ahead and  
14 act on this proposal. Just my suggestion.

15  
16                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So  
17 we're on State of Alaska.

18  
19                   MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. This is Ken  
20 Adkisson. Would you like the Park Service's comments  
21 on the proposal?

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Ken.

24  
25                   MR. ADKISSON: The National Park  
26 Service supports Proposal 16-51 and for two primary  
27 reasons. The area under discussion is largely Noatak  
28 National Preserve managed by the National Park Service.  
29 Two, under the current existing Federal regulation,  
30 there is no Federal opportunity. There's no open  
31 season, so there really isn't any hunting under Federal  
32 regulations regardless of what kind of permit you have.  
33 If this proposal is adopted, we would go forth with  
34 probably some kind of a Federal permitting system, but  
35 for Federally qualified users, you know, if they had a  
36 State permit, they could use that as well on the  
37 Federal land.

38  
39                   So we support the proposal with the OSM  
40 staff recommendation to add in under the Federal  
41 regulation by State or Federal permit.

42  
43                   Thank you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. Any  
46 other Federal agency out there or here want to comment.

47  
48                   Go ahead.

49  
50                   MS. ATKINSON: Mr. Chair. Hannah

1 Atkinson with the National Park Service. I just wanted  
2 to report that the Kobuk Valley National Park SRC  
3 unanimously supported WP16-51 as written. And the Cape  
4 Krusenstern National Monument SRC, the four members  
5 present did not take a position on WP16-51.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any other  
10 agency on this.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, anyone on the  
15 tribal for this proposal here, WP16-51.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, anyone else,  
20 Melinda. Interagency Staff Committee.

21

22 MS. BURKE: We don't have anything  
23 specific from the Interagency Staff Committee. We have  
24 the public.

25

26 MR. LEE, JR.: Hi, this is Raymond Lee,  
27 Jr. So I understand if I have a Federal permit I can  
28 shoot it on a State? Is that what you're saying or  
29 either way?

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No.

32

33 MR. LEE, JR.: Okay, that's all. Thank  
34 you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, you have  
37 the floor.

38

39 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
40 to clarify that. If this passes, you could hunt on  
41 Federal land with a State or Federal permit, but it  
42 doesn't work the other way. You would only be able to  
43 use a State permit on State lands. You couldn't use  
44 the Federal on State lands.

45

46 So, to clarify that, on Federal lands  
47 if this passes you could use a State or Federal permit  
48 to hunt muskox, but it doesn't work the other way. So  
49 on State lands the Federal permit would not apply. So  
50 only State permits on State lands.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
2 ahead, Kramer.  
3  
4 MR. KRAMER: I'd make the motion to  
5 support this proposal with OSM modification.  
6  
7 MR. MOTO: Second.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. It's been  
10 seconded.  
11  
12 MS. LOON: Question.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
15 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.  
16  
17 IN UNISON: Aye.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.  
20  
21 (No opposing votes)  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now a little joke on  
24 this. Who bring the muskox to begin with? We didn't  
25 have them a few years ago. We had no headaches.  
26  
27 (Laughter)  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to the  
30 agenda.  
31  
32 MS. BURKE: On our last proposal.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On our last proposal  
35 is what she's saying, my boss. Dall sheep.  
36  
37 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. It looks like  
38 we have one more proposal left that we have not acted  
39 on. WP16-53/54, change hunt area and name and provide  
40 delegated authority for Dall's sheep.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So who's going  
43 to.....  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: Lisa.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Lisa's going to on  
48 this one here.  
49  
50 MR. BALLOT: So moved. I want to eat

1 sheep.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MS. BURKE: Page 77 in the meeting

6 materials.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Ready? You have the

9 floor.

10

11 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 Members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name

13 is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the

14 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-53 and 16-54, which

15 begin on Page 77 of your RAC book.

16

17 Wildlife Proposal 16-53, submitted by

18 the National Park Service, requests that harvest quotas

19 for sheep in the Baird and DeLong Mountain hunt areas

20 be announced by the Superintendent of the Western

21 Arctic National Parklands and that the Federal

22 subsistence season in these hunt areas be closed.

23

24 Wildlife Proposal 16-54, also submitted

25 by the National Park Service, requests that Unit 23

26 remainder or Schwatka Mountains hunt area for sheep be

27 divided into two hunt areas, those portions within and

28 outside of Gates of the Arctic National Park and

29 Preserve, and that there be no open season for the hunt

30 outside of the Park.

31

32 The proponent states these changes are

33 necessary due to conservation concerns and to aid in

34 the recovery of the declining sheep population. The

35 proponent also states that the change in hunt area will

36 improve management by addressing biological and

37 jurisdictional issues. This proposal is a follow-up to

38 Wildlife Special Action 15-07 and also relates to

39 Wildlife Proposal 16-66, which concerns sheep in Unit

40 26A.

41

42 A correction is needed in the proposed

43 regulation in your RAC book on Pages 78 and 83. The

44 regulation currently reads within Gates of the Arctic

45 National Park; however, the intent of the proposal was

46 to maintain open seasons in both the Park and Preserve

47 portions of Gates of the Arctic. So please pencil in

48 "and Preserve" in your RAC books.

49

50 There are three distinct sheep

1 populations in Unit 23. The DeLong Mountains, Baird  
2 Mountains and Schwatka Mountains. If you refer to the  
3 proposed sheep hunt area map that Melinda just passed  
4 out, the different hunt areas reflect the different  
5 sheep populations. Unit 23 represents the Northwestern  
6 most margin of the range for Dall sheep, resulting in  
7 low density populations that are particularly  
8 susceptible to severe weather events.

9  
10 Since 2011, the Baird and DeLong  
11 Mountain sheep population has declined 70 percent.  
12 Similarly, the large rams to ewe-like ratio has  
13 declined 75 percent since 2011 and the lamb to ewe-like  
14 ratio has declined 90 percent, meaning there's been  
15 very, very low recruitment. No surveys have been  
16 conducted recently in the Schwatka Mountains, but  
17 similar declines are suspected.

18  
19 From 2004 to 2014, the sheep harvest  
20 from Units 23 and 26A averaged 23 sheep per year with  
21 the majority of the harvest occurring under Federal  
22 registration permits. The current decline is likely  
23 greater than the decline in the 1990s, which prompted a  
24 seven-year closure of both Federal and State sheep  
25 hunts in Unit 23.

26  
27 In 2014, Federal and State sheep hunts  
28 in Unit 23 were closed via special action and emergency  
29 order respectively due to conservation concerns. In  
30 March of 2015, the Alaska Board of Game closed the  
31 State season. In July of 2015, the Federal Subsistence  
32 Board closed the 2015-16 Federal subsistence season via  
33 Special Action 1507.

34  
35 Adoption of this proposal would  
36 decrease harvest opportunity for Federally qualified  
37 subsistence users, but would enhance the recovery of  
38 the sheep population. The recent drastic declines in  
39 recruitment in total population indicate any harvest  
40 could worsen the decline and hamper recovery. Closure  
41 of the Federal hunt is necessary to ensure the  
42 continued viability of the Unit 23 sheep populations.

43  
44 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to  
45 support with modification to establish a  
46 may-be-announced season and to issue a delegation of  
47 authority letter to the Superintendent of Western  
48 Arctic National Parklands to set quotas and to open and  
49 close the season. This is to provide for maximum  
50 management flexibility and quick responses to the

1 changes in the sheep population.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Lisa. I  
6 just have a simple question. I know what you're  
7 saying, but what is the idea of separating the Baird  
8 and the DeLong with this proposal?

9

10 MS. MAAS: I'm sorry. What would be  
11 the -- separating what?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: To be split into two  
14 areas. Near Noatak and Kivalina, those mountains  
15 there, you split into two areas. My question is why  
16 you guys decided to split into these two areas.

17

18 MS. MAAS: Sure. I'd like to defer to  
19 Ken if he's still on the phone.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Ken, why?

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Coming back  
24 to what Lisa said earlier, the biologist tend to look  
25 at sort of having three fairly distinct sheep  
26 populations in Unit 23 and that they don't seem to be --  
27 you know, from what we know about them, don't seem to  
28 intermix a whole lot and so forth.

29

30 So there's the sheep in the Baird  
31 Mountains, there's the sheep in the DeLong Mountains  
32 and then there's the sheep in the kind of Unit 23  
33 remainder, Schwatka, that people tend to look at more  
34 as if it's part of the Central Brooks Range sheep  
35 population rather than the Western Brooks Range  
36 animals.

37

38 For management purposes for surveying  
39 things, it's been fairly established for a long time,  
40 both with the State and the Federal, that it's easier  
41 to get sheep data out of the Bairds than it is the  
42 DeLongs. The animals are much more distributed in the  
43 DeLongs. It's harder to do counts and so forth. Then  
44 also the sheep in the DeLongs don't really know which  
45 side of the divide maybe they're on or Federal lands,  
46 so you've got Unit 26a.

47

48 When the sheep crashed back in late  
49 '80s, early '90s and sheep hunting was closed for so  
50 long, when they got it going back open again and looked

1 at the traditional use patterns and things, it kind of  
2 resulted in a different management strategy for the  
3 Bairds and the DeLongs. So if you look in the existing  
4 Federal reg book for example, you find that the Baird  
5 Mountains are closed to sheep harvest except for  
6 Federally qualified users. If you look at the DeLong  
7 Mountains, you'll find that the Federal public lands  
8 are not closed and that provided an opportunity for the  
9 State to continue providing drawing sheep hunt  
10 opportunities as well as subsistence.

11  
12 So dividing it up is to kind of reflect  
13 the different uses and the management issues associated  
14 with them. Does that answer the question?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. The reason why  
17 I asked you why. I grew up in Noatak and I grew up  
18 hunting sheep. We used to hunt that (in Inupiaq) Kelly  
19 and Aggie and sometimes every 10, 12 years across  
20 Kotzebue, that high mountain, whenever you go Kotzebue.  
21 That's why my question is why. The elders used to tell  
22 us -- Enoch, you could correct me on this here -- that  
23 they used to say these are the same sheep, they just  
24 migrate to different areas and these are two different  
25 mountain ranges.

26  
27 This question was given to me by  
28 someone that used to live in Noatak that wanted to hunt  
29 sheep but he couldn't due to he couldn't get a permit  
30 and he's an elder, but he's my next door neighbor. So  
31 he'd go talk to me and that question really comes from  
32 Sylvester from Kotzebue now. He used to be from  
33 Noatak. And we used to hunt there. He's barely older  
34 than me. Like I say, we used to hunt (in Inupiaq)  
35 Kelly and Aggie.

36  
37 Basically what you're saying these are  
38 different stock and you really -- being from Noatak, I  
39 know these are not completely different stock. These  
40 are the same herd or whatever you want to call them,  
41 these sheep there.

42  
43 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
44 Adkisson. Yeah, I understand what you're saying and we  
45 will take that information back to our biologist. As  
46 far as having hunting opportunity, even though for  
47 management purposes this might be broken up into  
48 different hunt areas, there's nothing that says you  
49 couldn't get a permit for one or both of the hunt areas  
50 and be able to hunt in either one of them. Whether or

1 not you're able to get a permit at all is a whole other  
2 story about how many permits are available and how  
3 they're allocated.

4

5 As you're probably aware of, having  
6 been with the RAC for so long, the history of sheep  
7 hunting, since it did open up, went through a whole  
8 series of changes. There were season adjustments to  
9 try to make sure that people had an opportunity to hunt  
10 in the winter with snowmachines and so forth. There  
11 were like trophy destruction or trophy nullification on  
12 the rams. All kinds of things were tried to try to  
13 keep making opportunity available and some worked, some  
14 didn't.

15

16 I think right now what we're looking  
17 for through the letter of delegated authority is some  
18 flexibility to work with the RAC and the communities to  
19 try to improve the situation as the sheep population  
20 recovers. So, you know, any input like that from the  
21 folks is valued.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

24

25 Go ahead, Lisa.

26

27 MS. MAAS: I'd just like to clarify  
28 that the only new hunt area that is proposed is this  
29 yellow portion on your map that's inside the Gates of  
30 the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The Baird and  
31 DeLong Mountain hunt areas are already in regulations,  
32 so the purple and green areas on your map there's no  
33 changes proposed to those hunt areas.

34

35 The only changes proposed to these are  
36 closing the season due to the decline of the population  
37 and then the other part of the proposal is establishing  
38 that new hunt area, which is that yellow area and  
39 that's primarily again for the management  
40 jurisdictional issues because that's the Federal lands  
41 within the Schwatka Mountains area.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The reason why I came  
44 up with this, like I told you, I had a question from  
45 Kotzebue on this here. Just your wording is split  
46 into two areas by establishing a new hunt area. To me  
47 that is opening a new area where we could hunt. That's  
48 Upper Kobuk. Very seldom they do go Upper Kobuk, but I  
49 know they go there, but very seldom they do. That's  
50 why I asked the question why.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
2 Adkisson.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.

5  
6 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. We're not  
7 really creating a new hunt area in a sense. We're just  
8 taking an existing hunt area and dividing it into two  
9 parts for management purposes.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Ken, I  
12 would advise maybe next time you use your wording when  
13 we restructure and we find out this is where they hunt  
14 instead of saying new area. That's why it got to me  
15 like that. In layman terms you should say we find out  
16 when we did an investigation that they harvested in  
17 this certain area. That's why I'm coming from there.

18  
19 Okay, thank you, Ken.

20  
21 I mean these words are layman terms.  
22 We've got to learn to understand to work together  
23 because when you come up with certain things I could  
24 translate them different compared to you. That's where  
25 I'm coming from. Our layman terms, we need to work  
26 together on these here.

27  
28 Go ahead, Kramer.

29  
30 MR. KRAMER: When was the last time a  
31 count was done throughout Game Management Unit 23? A  
32 few years before it closed I wanted it closed, but they  
33 continued to harvest. They said there was a  
34 sustainable harvest. Throughout the bad winters that  
35 we've had I knew that our sheep population was dropping  
36 dramatically. I think what we need to do is we need to  
37 just shut it down unit-wide for the preservation of  
38 future stocks for them to rebuild and possibly move  
39 into the Baird and DeLongs to repopulate the area.  
40 That's my concern right there. If they continue to  
41 hunt, then they're going to continue to delete the  
42 population.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.  
45 Thanks, Kramer.

46  
47 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
48 I've heard over the years that the number of sheep were  
49 declining to a critical point. It would seem more  
50 reasonable for us for the future hunters in the future

1 for them to become a very good healthy stock. We have  
2 known that climate has something to do with it because  
3 it rains and snows and freezes and it would be hard for  
4 them to dig down and they would go lower to the bottom  
5 and try to go look for food to the bottom of the  
6 mountain and there are wolf predators and humans as  
7 well and competition going on. I think it's very  
8 critical right now instead of wasting our money and  
9 whatnot I'm in support of putting a closure until it's  
10 very healthy, until it's two thousands.

11

Thank you.

12

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Lisa.

13

14  
15  
16 MS. MAAS: Just in response to Mike's  
17 question about the surveys. There were surveys  
18 conducted in the Baird and DeLong Mountains in 2011 and  
19 the most recent one 2014. So in between those three  
20 years is when the decline happened. The population  
21 declined 70 percent. And there has not been recent  
22 surveys in the Schwatka Mountains hunt area.

23

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair.

24

25

26 MS. RATTENBURY: Kumi Rattenbury on the  
27 phone.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: Kumi, do want to get  
30 this?

31

32 MS. RATTENBURY: Yeah, sure. So I just  
33 wanted to update you that we did do a survey on the  
34 western Baird Mountains this past July 2015. We also  
35 did a survey in Arctic National Park and Preserve this  
36 July. So we did survey that Schwatka Mountain area and  
37 the western Baird Mountains this year. Western Baird  
38 Mountains is still down, but I mean just over 200 adult  
39 sheep left. So that's on par or lower than what was  
40 there when it crashed in the early '90s.

41

42 The other part of the story is that  
43 there were some rams a little bit better than last  
44 year, but last year was pretty low. This year the  
45 number of rams per ewe-like might be somewhere in the  
46 range of 20 per 100 and that's not enough for the  
47 population to keep going. So it's probably going to  
48 stay low for several years before it starts recovering.

49

50 The story in Gates of the Arctic is a

1 little bit different. Overall, that population in the  
2 central Brooks Range it's more continually -- there is  
3 a lot more interchange between sheep in different areas  
4 and adults are down 25 percent. There might be like  
5 7,000 adult sheep still left in Gates of the Arctic,  
6 which is lower than it used to be.

7

8                   The area that we've done consistently  
9 every year since 2009 in northwestern Gates of the  
10 Arctic, which is close to Anaktuvuk Pass, there are big  
11 drops in the number of sheep in really lowlands in  
12 2013-2014, but this year in 2015 adult sheep was  
13 stable. So, in other words, they didn't decline again  
14 this year. And the number of rams that we have across  
15 Gates of the Arctic including in the Schwatka Mountains  
16 area is 40 rams per 100 ewes. So that's a little bit  
17 higher than your average that we've seen in previous  
18 surveys.

19

20                   I don't have a good idea for how much  
21 the Schwatkas have dropped because the last time we did  
22 it was 2010 and we didn't get a lot in the 2010 data,  
23 but the story is good from Brooks Range. It looks a  
24 little bit more promising. But in the Baird Mountains  
25 and DeLong Mountain out west it still looks -- well,  
26 we're not sure, sorry, for the DeLong Mountains in  
27 2015, but for the Bairds it was (indiscernible), but  
28 the DeLongs probably has also continued to decline this  
29 year.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
32 ahead, Kramer.

33

34                   MR. KRAMER: I'd like to see continuous  
35 counts on a yearly basis. To really really monitor the  
36 sheep populations in the Baird and DeLongs. We need to  
37 step up the predator control on the wolves because I  
38 know the wolves have a dramatic effect on sheep. As a  
39 matter of fact, about five maybe years ago I found a  
40 three-quarter curl ram and the only thing that was  
41 eaten out of him was just his groin area, but he was  
42 killed by wolves and then eventually he was probably  
43 finished off.

44

45                   Predator control I those areas need to  
46 be stepped up and need to be a lot more lenient on  
47 people who are pursuing these animals, the wolves  
48 within the Baird and DeLongs. You know, there needs to  
49 be a greater amount of wolves to be allotted to guides  
50 and/or other users who can harvest these animals to be

1 able to protect the sheep.

2

3 I know that climate has a lot to do  
4 with it, but we need to step up and start really trying  
5 to protect our sheep population and to try and  
6 encourage them to produce and be strong. So I'd like  
7 to see further counts on a yearly basis to ensure that  
8 we don't have a real severe crash like we did a few  
9 years ago. You know, make it a critical count on a  
10 yearly basis to be able to check on their habitat and  
11 make sure they're doing well. Mainly is step up on the  
12 predator control.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.  
15 Anyone else.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we will go to  
20 the agency comments. Fish and Game, State of Alaska.

21

22 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
23 Crawford with the Department of Fish and Game in  
24 Anchorage. The Department's preliminary recommendation  
25 for Proposal WP16-53/54 is to support as modified by  
26 OSM. Over.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Federal  
29 agencies. Anyone from the Federal agencies on this  
30 here.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken  
33 Adkisson, National Park Service. The Park Service  
34 supports that proposal with the OSM modification.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any other  
37 agency. Go ahead.

38

39 MS. ATKINSON: This is Hannah Atkinson  
40 with the National Park Service and I have comments by  
41 the Kobuk Valley SRC. The Commission unanimously  
42 supports WP16-53 as written. And the Cape Krusenstern  
43 National Monument, the four members present, of the  
44 four members present two members supported WP16-53 and  
45 two members did not take action on the proposal.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone  
48 else.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone from the  
2 tribal on this here.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. BURKE: And, Mr. Chair, I don't  
7 have any written public  
8 comments from any of the public or any of the tribes.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
11 Yeah, Kramer is right, we need to do more aerial  
12 surveys. The ones I mentioned, those four, basically  
13 five places, but really four places when we grew up in  
14 Noatak where we used to harvest sheep, you know, it's a  
15 wide range, but that's what the elders used to tell us  
16 and they're divided in different areas.

17

18 What we're saying is here we need to  
19 count and we need to put a severe stop to this so they  
20 could rebuild because even we know the rams are going  
21 to die anyhow, the full curls, but we need to keep it  
22 and stop the harvest completely until they rebuild  
23 because they crashed a few years ago like he said. We  
24 need to close that until the numbers are satisfactory.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 Anyone else.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you want us to  
33 support this or oppose this proposal is what you're  
34 saying from the board here, right?

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: I'm kind of a little  
41 confused and concerned too like my neighbor over here.  
42 When he saw Hannah's comments about the decline of the  
43 sheep in those areas and why we're trying to support a  
44 proposal that -- we're closing it, but we're going to  
45 give somebody authority to open it or maybe now it's  
46 open for future. What's going to make them say we're  
47 going to open it now? Are you going to be, like he  
48 say, having yearly surveys or something like that? How  
49 is that going to work out? We're trying to save the  
50 sheep, but we don't have a plan or what's going to

1 happen.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

4

5 Go ahead, Lisa.

6

7 MS. MAAS: Sure. The reason we  
8 recommended modifying the proposal from a closed season  
9 to a may-be-announced season is if you close a season,  
10 you need to have another proposal to open the season  
11 and then you'll also have to go through that closure  
12 review, which adds more work and things like that. So  
13 a may-be-announced season you can effectively achieve a  
14 closure because the Superintendent is not going to  
15 announce a season until the sheep population has  
16 recovered, but it just allows that flexibility and it's  
17 less work basically in the long run because you won't  
18 have to submit another proposal to open it and you  
19 won't have to go through those closure reviews every  
20 three years.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, but I think you  
23 hear what Mike, me and Percy is trying to say. We need  
24 to close it, yet we need to be able to have numbers in  
25 there to reopen it. We set a goal, we need this many  
26 sheep in our count to reopen it. It's just a comment  
27 because we're concerned about the sheep as Natives.  
28 Going to close an area, yet they're able to harvest  
29 full curl rams.....

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken

32 Adkisson.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Can you wait a

35 minute?

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: It's the intent of the  
38 Park Service to survey the sheep in the western Bairds  
39 on an annual basis and if we have the funding and  
40 staffing available, we'll expand that into the DeLong's  
41 area. It's been pretty typical in past sheep  
42 management Unit 23 to sort of treat the DeLongs -- or  
43 the Bairds as kind of an index for the DeLongs. I'm  
44 not sure how really good that idea is, but it's  
45 something that's been done for years and years. So we  
46 will be doing surveys every year in the Bairds and  
47 we'll try to expand that as possible to the DeLongs.

48

49 We'll be bringing updates from all of  
50 those. Kumi Rattenbury gave you the basic results for

1 the 2015 survey and that would have been part of  
2 Hillary Robison's agency report towards the end of the  
3 meeting. So we'll be bringing all that information to  
4 you hopefully on an annual basis. I think you can  
5 count on we're not going to probably open up something  
6 without the RACs concurrence.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. What  
9 we're really trying to say, I think you need to expand  
10 your aerial surveys to another area because they do  
11 migrate one way or the other. Not only just in a  
12 certain area, they do migrate outside to the Baird and  
13 DeLong Mountain. As a Native and as a harvester, I've  
14 seen that. You're doing your surveys in a certain  
15 area, same place, year after year.

16

17 You need to expand it.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, we heard  
20 you loud and clear. I think that's going to be one of  
21 the topics in one of our next survey discussions.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Fifteen, twenty years ago  
28 when we were having concern about being able to hunt  
29 sheep, we set a planning place to make they grow and  
30 then we did real well. They grew. Now, since 2004, we  
31 hunted 20 to 30 a year, which is quite a bit, 2012.  
32 Now we're going down again and we're off. What are we  
33 doing wrong over here? You know, we set a plan to make  
34 them to be able to harvest and let them grow at the  
35 same time, but now we've harvested so many. When are  
36 we going to get in the right plan to make sure that  
37 what we're doing for these folks is to make that herd  
38 grow and be able to hunt? Are we getting too many or  
39 what are we missing?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Answer anyone. Go  
42 ahead, Kramer.

43

44 MR. KRAMER: I know a lot of it has to  
45 do with climate change. As a matter of fact, when I  
46 went up to that one area, there was a lot of icing on  
47 the -- I mean you look at the mountains and they look  
48 like glazed pieces of ice. You know, sheep find it  
49 pretty difficult to be able to get their food. They  
50 got tony little hooves that -- and they can only do so

1 much. I know that up there in Kivivik they wintered  
2 there a lot. I've hunted them there in the past.

3  
4 It's very difficult for them to  
5 survive. They have to go further down and when they go  
6 further down, they get closer to the wolves. The  
7 wolves find it easier to pick them off because they  
8 don't have much for floatation. They have tiny little  
9 hooves. So that's where wolves really pick them off.

10  
11 That's why I'd like to step up the  
12 predator control within those areas and try to  
13 eliminate part of the problem to be able to allow these  
14 sheep to be able to live more at ease and be able to  
15 repopulate. At least with these yearly counts we get  
16 more of a basis as to how they're doing. I'd like to  
17 hear on a yearly basis as to how they're doing. I'd  
18 like to try and get out and go look and see how they're  
19 doing and at the same time try and harvest some wolves.  
20 It would be good if we could try and really step up the  
21 predator control in those areas.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

24  
25 Anyone else.

26  
27 (No comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Where are we at on  
30 this.

31  
32 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We are in  
33 Council discussion and recommendation. We've heard  
34 what OSM modifications are. If you feel like you have  
35 enough information, we're ready for a motion.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
38 I'll ask for a motion from the board, how they feel  
39 about this, support or oppose this.  
40 You guys want to have more discussion on this or what.

41  
42 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I don't  
43 hunt sheep. In our area, we don't hunt sheep. That's  
44 why I'm waiting for suggestions from these guys over  
45 here.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For my comment, I  
48 don't hunt sheep anymore because I want to see them  
49 rebuild and to come back. Without complete, no  
50 harvest, until we are satisfied with the numbers.

1 That's what I'm really saying. We need for them to  
2 come back. Due to global warming and it's so slippery  
3 out there, that for some reason or another they're  
4 declining. Predators are one of them, but nature is  
5 the other big factor to this, I think.

6

7 Go ahead, Hannah.

8

9 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10 When we see less and less whitefish, we always wonder  
11 what happened, but when it comes -- we don't hunt sheep  
12 ourself, but our forefathers did. They used to walk  
13 from Selawik and cross the Kobuk River and start going  
14 up in summertime and go up and hunt sheep and caribou.  
15 Before it freezes they let the pack dogs bring  
16 everything they have to with rocks. You know, compact  
17 everything, the caribou and the sheep down and bring  
18 them close to Selawik. If they can't, they will put  
19 them high up in the trees and then that was the days  
20 when I heard sheep was good and hunted really good and  
21 successful so they could bring to their home.

22

23 Right now we don't hunt them. Just  
24 leave them alone. Leave them alone. They're not much  
25 anymore. Why even talk about it? Just leave them  
26 alone.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
31 So the way I hear it, they want to support or oppose  
32 this here. If we support it, it's going to open the  
33 hunt somewhere else. That's the way I get a feeling on  
34 this one here. Correct me if I'm wrong what I'm saying  
35 then.

36

37 Go ahead, Enoch.

38

39 MR. MITCHELL: Sheep is part of our  
40 Inupiat life. If we don't get moose or caribou, we get  
41 sheep. That would tide us over. A lot of times when  
42 we get sheep it's the time when we're hunting caribou.  
43 We go way upriver where the mountains are and there's  
44 sheep there. We probably get one just for a change in  
45 diet by the camp. It's small, not much meat, so we  
46 don't really hunt those very much. I mean I like it if  
47 there's no caribou.

48

49 As for this proposal, I would support  
50 it because it will move it up further, make the area

1 more bigger so the hunters can kind of spread out  
2 instead of just going to one spot. Mostly the sheep  
3 hunts are being done by sport hunters nowadays. I  
4 think we spread them out all over Alaska would be good,  
5 so I'm kind of in support of it. We still hunt sheep  
6 if it's there when we need it and we know how to get  
7 it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what you're saying  
10 is your proposed to support this. You're making a  
11 proposal to support this.

12

13 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

16

17 MR. KRAMER: I'd like to support this,  
18 but with full closure. And when it has a sustainable  
19 harvest amount for local subsistence users and sport  
20 hunters completely eliminated from ever hunting sheep  
21 until the population has become over a certain quota.  
22 What I'm trying to say is that we harvest first and  
23 sport hunters will eventually be able to get it, but at  
24 this point in time that they be completely eliminated  
25 from any harvest period. I'd like to see full closure  
26 of Game Management Unit 23 for sheep hunt for the  
27 purpose of preservation of this species and future  
28 stocks to be able to increase to one day we'd be able  
29 to harvest it again.

30

31 It's a viable resource, you know. Only  
32 Kotzebue and Noatak. I know Kiana, Ambler, maybe  
33 Shungnak and Kobuk also harvest it also. We need to  
34 look at a preservation standpoint and be able to step  
35 up and say, well, let's just stop period until we have  
36 a sustainable harvest. I'm in support of it with  
37 modification that we have full closure until a  
38 harvestable quota is met and for subsistence users  
39 only. No sport hunters be allowed to hunt until we can  
40 come up with a harvestable quota to allow sport hunters  
41 to be able to hunt them and that we have full say so as  
42 to when they can hunt them.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Now  
45 we'll have to ask Enoch to pull his proposal from  
46 earlier. He left the room. We'll get back to yours.  
47 Go ahead, Lisa.

48

49 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd  
50 just like to clarify that currently under State

1 regulations there is full closure. So currently there  
2 is no sport hunting. There already is full closure  
3 under State regulations. It's closed to all sport  
4 hunting. The proposal as written, as submitted by the  
5 Park Service, closes the season in all portions of the  
6 sheep range within Unit 23 except those portions in  
7 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve in the  
8 Schwatka Mountains area.

9

10 And the OSM modification is, instead of  
11 a full closure, to establish a may-be-announced season  
12 which essentially achieves the same thing as a full  
13 closure, but just allows a little less administration  
14 and flexibility.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I get you know.  
17 Okay, thank you. I think we will wait for Enoch  
18 because Kramer came with a completely different with a  
19 closure on this.

20

21 Go ahead, Melinda.

22

23 MS. BURKE: So, Mike, with Lisa's  
24 further explanation that there already is a full  
25 closure on the State side, do you feel comfortable with  
26 Enoch's motion?

27

28 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I'd like to see  
29 also full closure on the Federal side. That way there  
30 is absolutely no sheep taken anywhere in Gates of the  
31 Arctic, Schwatkas, DeLongs, Bairds, due the fact of  
32 preservation of the species. I'll second his motion.

33

34 MS. BURKE: It sounds from what I'm  
35 hearing like those -- oh, go ahead, Lisa.

36

37 MS. MAAS: I'm just clarifying. So  
38 you're saying you would prefer a full closure versus a  
39 may-be-announced season?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

42

43 MS. MAAS: And also a modification to  
44 close that portion within Gates of the Arctic National  
45 Park.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Go ahead,  
48 Calvin.

49

50 MR. MOTO: I support Mike. The reason

1 the last time we were able to hunt sheep in our area I  
2 think was in the '40s. We used to have sheep near  
3 Rabbit and in those other mountain ranges between  
4 Deering and Nome and sport hunters pretty much got rid  
5 of them. I think the elders were really upset about  
6 the fact that there are no more sheep. So I support  
7 what mike was saying. That's all I had to say.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
10 Anyone with a question on this. Go ahead, Melinda.

11

12 MS. BURKE: Lisa, will you restate,  
13 since Enoch was out of the room, what the modifications  
14 that were suggested and what that would sound like just  
15 like you did a second ago.

16

17 MS. MAAS: Sure. So right now the  
18 suggestion is to support full closure of the Federal  
19 sheep season in all of Unit 23.

20

21 MS. BURKE: I mean you didn't state it  
22 in the form of a motion, Enoch, but if you're okay with  
23 Mike's modifications to the proposed language with the  
24 full closure on the Federal side as well, if you're  
25 comfortable with that, we can go with Mike's. Mike's  
26 got a motion on the table and a second from Calvin it  
27 sounds like.

28

29 MR. MITCHELL: Yeah, okay.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Can you  
32 clarify his statement and then Mike's.

33

34 MS. BURKE: So it sounded like what  
35 Enoch was talking about earlier was supporting as  
36 written and it sounds like Mike with a second from  
37 Calvin wants to take it a step further with the full  
38 closure with no may-be-announced season as shown on  
39 Page 90.

40

41 MS. MAAS: Also to close those portions  
42 within Gates of the Arctic National Park. As Mike  
43 proposed, a full closure in all of Unit 23.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

46

47 MS. LOON: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
50 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone opposed.  
4  
5 (No opposing votes)  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. Thank you, guys.  
8 Now we're done with these proposals.  
9  
10 Thank you, Lisa.  
11  
12 Thank you, Ken.  
13  
14 Drew, thanks.  
15  
16 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Mr. Kramer and  
17 I were talking last night a little bit and we don't  
18 want to bring it back on the table, but it sounded like  
19 he would like to put on the record a little more  
20 clarifying language on the snowmachine proposal just to  
21 make sure that the intent is very clear as this  
22 proposal moves along in the process. So I just wanted  
23 to bring that forth to you, Mr. Chair, and if it was  
24 okay to allow Mike to make a few statements back on the  
25 snowmachine proposal to make that clarifying language.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.  
28  
29 Go ahead, Kramer.  
30  
31 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, when I made that  
32 proposal I wanted to add the furbearers and the moose,  
33 sheep and bear to that with the intent to harvest, not  
34 harass, not herd. That way it makes it look better on  
35 paper. It's toward when people are actually going to  
36 harvest these animals. That's what I wanted to clarify  
37 and that's what I wanted to add to that proposal.  
38  
39 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. What was  
40 his motion? I thought he said that. I was sitting  
41 right by him. I thought he said intent to harvest. I  
42 thought he already did that.  
43  
44 MS. BURKE: I think he alluded to it,  
45 but Mike just wants to make sure it's stated clearly on  
46 the record.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That will be in our  
49 record. Thank you, Percy. Back to the agenda. I  
50 think the board is done with all the proposals.

1 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. There's  
2 item number C. I don't necessarily want to take it up  
3 right this second. We still have some other biological  
4 updates and some other issues to hear about, but I just  
5 wanted to point out that on Page 278 of your book you  
6 will see the 2014 annual report to the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board along with the response from the  
8 Board. You should have each gotten that in the mail.  
9 If you've had a chance to review it and if you have any  
10 questions.

11  
12 I haven't heard any items yet that you  
13 want to put on this year's annual report, but we can  
14 continue to think about that as the day goes on. If  
15 there is something that folks feel like they want to  
16 address as a concern to the Board for this fiscal year  
17 2015, I can take a couple of those now. If any other  
18 issues come up throughout the day, we can add to that  
19 list as well.

20  
21 It sounds like maybe Calvin has  
22 something.

23  
24 MR. MOTO: I'll get back to that after  
25 consideration and thinking about it. I was wondering  
26 if there was a way I could rescind my nay on that 16-  
27 48. I was the only one that said nay and it took me a  
28 while to deliberate in my mind and think about it.  
29 After consideration, I think I should have said aye.

30  
31 MS. BURKE: So just to restate that,  
32 Mr. Moto, for the record on Proposal WP16-48 you would  
33 like the record to reflect that you have an aye vote,  
34 which would mean unanimous consent from the Council?

35  
36 MR. MOTO: (Nods affirmatively)

37  
38 MS. BURKE: Got it, sir. No problem.  
39 So 2015 annual report we'll take that up again towards  
40 the end of the day. It looks like Percy might have  
41 one.

42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, before I lose my  
44 train of thought. I keep hearing about surveys. We  
45 need to do the sheep surveys. We need to do caribou  
46 surveys to do a better job. We need to do the muskox  
47 counts for a better job. I just wanted to make sure  
48 that's something we discuss more for annual report or  
49 questions.

50

1                   The other one is for the Buckland area.  
2 I know that we have a no-fly zone at certain times up  
3 in Noatak and I think it's about time that we start  
4 considering Buckland as one of those because when we  
5 start having a month or two or three weeks or even less  
6 of time to hunt caribou, it's really hard for us. A  
7 lot of us don't have the time to be going out there  
8 everyday or be out there all the time. So that window  
9 toward the end of October or early October to have  
10 planes flying around on our coast all the way from the  
11 islands to a certain miles up the river is going to  
12 have an impact on our ability to hunt and harvest  
13 caribou. We're seeing that more and more.

14  
15                   So I would ask a lot of you if you want  
16 to make some comments in regard to that to clarify what  
17 I'm saying because he's been out there a lot with the  
18 kids.

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

21  
22                   Go ahead.

23  
24                   MR. LEE, JR.: This is Raymond Lee, Jr.  
25 again. It would be nice if they have a no-fly zone  
26 from the Samisho (ph) Islands to the Kuk River, but not  
27 all the way up. Just by the shelter cabin there. Also  
28 along the Selawik Mountains on this side and also the  
29 other side because the caribou migrate from Selawik to  
30 that way. There's a lot of airplane traffic. When the  
31 first caribous are coming, they really fly down there.  
32 I don't know why they're doing that, but the local  
33 hunters know that they have to let the first ones go by  
34 so they can always get caribou all the time and that  
35 sort of thing. Then they change their routing so they  
36 go more back into the mountains away from where they  
37 cross right down in the mouth of the river. It makes  
38 it harder for us to get caribou.

39  
40                   That's all. Thank you.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

43  
44                   Go ahead, Kramer.

45  
46                   MR. KRAMER: As to Raymond's comment  
47 there, I know that it would be very, very difficult to  
48 get a controlled use area put in that area. I think  
49 probably the quicker and easiest way to be able to  
50 eliminate air traffic from that area would be the

1 government agencies that has guide use or transporter  
2 use areas within those areas eliminate those as guide  
3 use areas to be able to provide a noise-free highway  
4 for these caribou to move this way. That would  
5 probably be an easier way to do it because I know  
6 trying to enact a controlled use area is like an act of  
7 Congress and beyond.

8  
9 If these government agencies would be  
10 willing to help us out by eliminating commercial use  
11 within those areas and only allow it to the Upper Tag  
12 or wherever it is that they have them to be able to  
13 allow these caribou to move freely this way and south.

14  
15 I understand where he's coming from and  
16 it would probably be an easier way if we were to see  
17 who has commercial uses within those areas to see if  
18 there's a possibility they could eliminate those  
19 commercial use areas or restructure them somewhere else  
20 where it makes it easier for the caribou to move  
21 towards Buckland and possibly sooner for them to be  
22 able to harvest.

23  
24 With our caribou herd declining, we  
25 need to make steps and we need to take steps to be able  
26 to ensure that a lot of people are able to harvest  
27 these animals and to make it easier on the animals  
28 because of the decline.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.

31  
32 Enoch, you had something.

33  
34 MR. MITCHELL: The way Noatak goes  
35 about it was we brought it up to our AC board and put  
36 it in proposal form, bring it to the Board of Game in  
37 Board of Game meeting and that's how we do it. We give  
38 good testimony and you get good information on your  
39 conflicts. Get support from other agencies. Get  
40 support from other groups like Noatak, Kotzebue. When  
41 you've got a lot of support, it would be possible and  
42 you can get what you want.

43  
44 We had a lot of support from Noatak.  
45 We went to NANA, went to school, to the students, to  
46 the public, to different villages. As Natives, we bond  
47 together on something like this going on. If you guys  
48 are having a conflict, you guys need help, call on  
49 Noatak and they'll be able to help you guys. They'll  
50 be glad.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,  
2 Enoch. I just have a quick question to Susan. The  
3 boundary they're talking about, it's not in a wildlife  
4 refuge area, is it? What Kramer is saying is we have a  
5 lot of conflict of outfitters, transporters further  
6 down towards Selawik area.

7  
8 MS. GEORGETTE: The Refuge boundary is  
9 at the eastern edge of Selawik Lake, so that whole area  
10 kind of south of Selawik Lake and Kuk River. Most of  
11 the lands in that area are NANA lands, so our area is  
12 really east of Selawik. It's further upriver that's  
13 open to transporters and all.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The reason why I  
16 asked is I was going to say maybe you could eliminate  
17 getting permits for transporters, outfitters to go in  
18 certain area. You could close it out. That will ease  
19 off Buckland a little from people bothering them when  
20 the caribou are migrating this way.

21  
22 Thank you. Go ahead, Percy.

23  
24 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I was just going to  
25 say even if there's not a no-fly zone, we want to  
26 create an awareness. Whether we work out, like Lance  
27 has mentioned with the people that work around our area  
28 or do business around our area or the landowners, we  
29 want to start that process that we need to do something  
30 about that because down the line, if this keeps up,  
31 we're going to be having a hard time during the winter.

32  
33  
34 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, I'm happy to look  
35 at a map with anyone and if there's areas that are open  
36 on the Refuge that are of a concern or that are being  
37 used we can talk more about that.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Susan. Anyone  
40 else here. Kramer.

41  
42 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I see some of it is  
43 owned by NANA up to Deviation Peak and Kiana Hills and  
44 also BLM lands. I think anywhere south of the Waring  
45 Mountains and that falls under the National Park and  
46 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. I think it would be  
47 a great idea to see if there's a possibility that NANA,  
48 Park Service and also Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.  
49 I'd like to check with Lance to see if he has any  
50 permit holders within that area also.

1 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, this is Lance.  
2 There is no sport hunting allowed on the NANA land.  
3 Guides, outfitters and transporters, we don't issue  
4 permits for them.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

7  
8 Go ahead, Susan.

9  
10 MS. GEORGETTE: The transporters and  
11 guide that are permitted on the Refuge, those areas  
12 south of the Waring Mountains are not closed to them,  
13 but all the reports we get of the areas they use are  
14 only the Upper Tag and the far Upper Selawik. That's  
15 only for commercial uses. There's also the private  
16 pilots, which are different, so we issue permits to  
17 commercial uses. We have a fair amount of control over  
18 that. The Refuge is open to hunting. If someone in  
19 Kotzebue or Galena has their own plane and wants to  
20 land in the Waring Mountains, which they do once in a  
21 while -- not many people do it. I think it's Super Cub  
22 kind of access and it's a long ways to go. But that's  
23 a different -- I mean we don't issue permits for that.  
24 I mean the Refuge is open for that.

25  
26 MR. BALLOT: Do you report that? I  
27 mean these guys are right on our pathway, our doorstep  
28 for the caribou herd, the Selawik Hills. So can we get  
29 a report of what kind of activity with planes are in  
30 that area?

31  
32 MS. GEORGETTE: Sure. The commercial  
33 users are required to report by January. So we'll know  
34 -- I have the information from last year and then we'll  
35 know by January for the 2015 season. I can provide  
36 that to Melinda to send out or at the next RAC meeting.

37  
38 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Because like I say  
39 we've been seeing a yellow plane or a striped plane  
40 with blue stripes or however just buzzing the caribou  
41 from the Kuk River on up and they're following the  
42 caribou migration. We can see them right there and  
43 dipping down once in a while and they're always on the  
44 beach side so you know they're maybe trying to push  
45 them up toward the mountain like Lolly was mentioning.

46  
47  
48 We see a couple of planes that have  
49 been landing in Elephant Point and we didn't know  
50 what's going on there, so whoever has authority over

1 the State land they should know what kind of activities  
2 are going on and should make us aware as a tribe that  
3 you have this type of activity going on.

4

5 We had that very communication with you  
6 guys in the past. I know that with what's her name.  
7 So we always knew what was going on when there was Fish  
8 and Game doing an activity or we'd know it was them  
9 down there or another group doing some business in our  
10 area, but we haven't been getting that kind of  
11 information lately from anybody. So that's why there's  
12 so much frustration from the hunters when they come  
13 back home and they have nothing in their boat.

14

15 MS. GEORGETTE: Yeah, I hear you on  
16 that, Percy. All of us from any of these agencies or  
17 anywhere need to do a good job letting villages know.  
18 I think Mike was saying earlier that providing any  
19 information people have on numbers or whatever helps.  
20 One thing about controlled use areas is that when the  
21 Board of Game sets those up they're only for hunting  
22 trips, but there could be people out there doing other  
23 things. Doing reality TV shows or scientific research.  
24 There's all this other plane activity that can go on  
25 out there. All those agencies need to let the village  
26 know.

27

28 I mean people haven't been doing a good  
29 enough job if you guys don't know what those people are  
30 doing in your area, so I  
31 appreciate those comments on that.

32

33 MR. BALLOT: I just want to mention I  
34 don't think buzzing caribou from the plane is  
35 scientific research.

36

37 MS. GEORGETTE: No, it isn't, but it's  
38 whether it's transporters, whether it's a private guy  
39 in his plane from Nome, whether it's someone trying to  
40 get footage of caribou migrating. It's hard to know  
41 because it could be any of those. Knowing whether it's  
42 a commercial user makes a difference and if it's a  
43 private pilot. There's rules about how to use a plane.  
44 Kind of depending on what's going on it depends on who  
45 enforces it.

46

47 So, yeah, we all need to do a better  
48 job letting you know what's going on with the aircraft  
49 traffic.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

2

3 Go ahead, Calvin.

4

5 MR. MOTO: I know for a fact it's  
6 harder to monitor the transporter when the mine in  
7 Candle was in operation. What would happen is some of  
8 the transporters knew some people that owned the mine  
9 and they'd say they were just going to go visit and  
10 they wind up with caribou somehow. When they were  
11 there, the caribou went to Deering. Now they're going  
12 over the same time as they pass Buckland here.

13

14 But it used to be we'd wait a long time  
15 for them to come to Deering area. Since the mine  
16 closed there, it's been a lot easier to monitor. I  
17 think it has been. Now NANA has some spotters out, you  
18 know, and let them know. Before that it was really  
19 hard to monitor the transporters. I just thought I'd  
20 bring that up.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

23

24 Thank you, Calvin.

25

26 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
27 think we've had a really great discussion so far.  
28 We've got some draft items down. It sounds like there  
29 will be a little more discussion over lunch and I think  
30 this will be another thing to bring up again towards  
31 the end of the day.

32

33 I wanted to, if it's okay with you, Mr.  
34 Chair, move up one item. We have some patient  
35 gentlemen that have been here from the BLM who will be  
36 departing this afternoon and I know Percy at dinner the  
37 night we arrived, you had mentioned that there might be  
38 some questions from the community for some BLM fellows.  
39 So I wanted to see if it was okay if we could take them  
40 up before lunch, Mr. Chair. We have Mr. Bruce Seppi  
41 and Mark Spencer who are here for the BLM who will just  
42 be with us for another few hours.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. That's under  
45 agency reports, right?

46

47 MS. BURKE: Yes, sir.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead, BLM.  
50 You have the floor.

1 MR. SPENCER: Good afternoon. My name  
2 is Mark Spencer and I'm the district manager down in  
3 the Anchorage Field Office, BLM. Today I'd like to talk  
4 a little bit and just review the boundary change in  
5 BLM, which I think most of you are familiar with. Also  
6 Bruce Seppi to my right will give you an update on the  
7 game management numbers for Unit 23.

8  
9 As most of you know, back in January  
10 BLM did a reorganization and we approved a change in  
11 the district boundaries of the Anchorage office and the  
12 Fairbanks office. Now nearly all of GMU 23 is now in  
13 the Anchorage Field Office. So this year, during 2014,  
14 we have pretty much completed a transition for  
15 management of most permitting activities and management  
16 activities in Unit 23. That is from the Fairbanks  
17 office. As most of you know, that's from the Central  
18 Yukon office.

19  
20 Alan Bittner, who I'm sitting in for,  
21 is the field manager for the Anchorage District Office  
22 and he sends his hellos. He will be continuing to be  
23 your primary contact in the Anchorage office as well as  
24 Bruce to my right and also Doug Ballou. I'll also  
25 leave my card with all of the Council members here as  
26 well and I can be your contact too.

27  
28 Today I'd just like to give you an  
29 update of the Squirrel River plan and its status, which  
30 we've assumed that responsibility as well. Then Bruce  
31 at the end will just give you an update again on the  
32 2014 game management numbers for 23.

33  
34 With the Squirrel River plan, as most  
35 of you know, the Central Yukon Office was tasked with  
36 completing that and our office has assumed that  
37 responsibility. We have dedicated one staff person  
38 full time to work on that plan and we expect to have a  
39 draft completed by this winter. Then we'll go out for  
40 public review and comment we hope by late winter or  
41 early spring. We'll do a concerted outreach working  
42 with Council members here and the local communities to  
43 ensure that we get the necessary outreach and public  
44 involvement as we work on that draft with you and we  
45 proceed to a final.

46  
47 One thing just to be very clear about  
48 is that during the time that we've been working on the  
49 Squirrel River plan we have not increased our  
50 allocation or number of permits for both guided

1 outfitters as well as transporters. We've kept a cap  
2 on that, which Bruce will talk about in a moment. The  
3 plan will address, of course, both allocation and  
4 numbers for guided permits, transporters, taking full  
5 into consideration the subsistence needs of the local  
6 communities, which is going to be critical, of course,  
7 and that's why we're looking for your comment as well  
8 as involvement.

9  
10 So, with that said, I'll turn it over  
11 to Bruce for some numbers for you for 2014. We don't  
12 have the numbers in for 2015 yet. When we do, we will  
13 provide that to the Council.

14  
15 MR. SEPPi: Hi, I'm Bruce Seppi. Mr.  
16 Chairman, members of the board. I've got total numbers  
17 of guides and outfitters and transporters. We re-upped  
18 all the ones that were interested or the ones that  
19 applied from 2014 into '15 and that ended up being  
20 eight guides and outfitters and four transporters that  
21 were permitted by BLM in 2015. Those are basically in  
22 the Squirrel River area and there's some up between  
23 Kotzebue and Kivalina and the Federal lands south of  
24 Kivalina.

25  
26 We don't have information back on that  
27 hunt, the post-use reports from that hunt this year.  
28 So I can give you an idea of what was taken by those  
29 outfitters and transporters in 2014. Of the  
30 transporters in '14 that were permitted, only two of  
31 them were active for transporters and five active for  
32 guides and outfitters.

33  
34 So for guides and outfitters there was  
35 a total of 22 clients that those guides brought into  
36 the area. Nine moose were taken, three brown bears and  
37 one wolf and no caribou. Of the transporters, there  
38 was a total of four for 2015 and they brought in five  
39 clients with a total take of 13 caribou and two moose.  
40 Like I said, we don't have information on 2015, but it  
41 will probably be equivalent to '14 since the numbers  
42 were actually lower.

43  
44 I'll open it up for questions.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before I get to you,  
47 Percy, I've just got a quick question. These  
48 transporters and outfitters, do they have any spike  
49 camps that they could bring in other hunters to  
50 Squirrel River?

1 MR. SEPPI: They do have spike camps,  
2 but it's not other hunters. It's only the hunters that  
3 they take from their main camp and maybe spike  
4 overnight and come back to that main camp. So the  
5 spike camp includes these numbers.

6  
7 Incidentally, I was up here with my  
8 boss, Doug Ballou, in October and we hired a helicopter  
9 and went to all these camps and all these spike camps  
10 to see what activity was going on and also if they're  
11 leaving anything on the landscape and the vast majority  
12 of those camps were vacant or not used for years and  
13 there were only three camps that were active this year  
14 in 2015 that guides were actively hunting.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I thank you for  
17 saying you went to the spike camps. For your  
18 information, I'm not trying to be -- but I want you to  
19 know that next time you're going to do that you should  
20 call Kiana or advise Kotzebue that you're going to be  
21 taking a helicopter at a certain time to check on these  
22 spike camps. That way they won't say, oh, there's a  
23 helicopter there bothering the caribou. You know what  
24 I'm saying.

25  
26 MR. SEPPI: Yeah.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: May be aware of it.  
29 Mainly Kiana would say VHF would be nice. If you  
30 called the IRA or the city that you're going to do it,  
31 that would make the Natives happy. At least they know  
32 you're checking on the transporters and outfitters and  
33 that will give you a plus on your side.

34  
35 MR. SEPPI: Thanks for telling us that  
36 and we will do that in the future. Incidentally, we  
37 were up there the 7th and 8th of October and it was  
38 just before the caribou came down, so we didn't see any  
39 caribou. We're very sensitive to that, both to the  
40 hunters and to the caribou. If we saw them, we would  
41 stay clear of them.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I heard from someone  
44 in Kiana that they saw a helicopter, but they didn't  
45 give me no dates. Go ahead, Percy.

46  
47 MR. BALLOT: Can you get that one  
48 report because, you know, we -- even though I'm not  
49 from the Kiana, but sitting on this board we still have  
50 to know what kind of activity is going on up there. So

1 if we could get a copy of your report.

2

3 MR. SEPPI: I can leave this with you,  
4 sure.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: My question was the north  
7 and south fork of Buckland River is BLM land. So  
8 you're saying there's no activity up there, no guides,  
9 no.....

10

11 MR. SEPPI: There's no permitted  
12 transporters or guides and outfitters. I verified that  
13 when you were talking. They're all on the Squirrel  
14 River or north of Kotzebue. Most in the Squirrel.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: So if we see planes up  
17 there, we know it's not sports activities.

18

19 MR. SEPPI: Up where? You mean in  
20 the.....

21

22 MR. BALLOT: Up there.

23

24 MR. SEPPI: Nearer to Buckland?

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, up to Buckland.

27

28 MR. SEPPI: Well, it's not BLM-  
29 permitted activity. I couldn't say who it could be,  
30 but it's not BLM-permitted activity.

31

32 MR. BALLOT: Oh, by the way, who would  
33 it be if there was anybody else? State?

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you talking about  
36 transporters and outfitters permitting?

37

38 MR. BALLOT: No, just planes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Remember earlier I  
41 stated -- and I get this from Kotzebue. Harvesters,  
42 when they were up in Noatak, they say they saw some  
43 planes and to make their talk shorter they say, hey,  
44 welcome, I'm from Noatak, where are you from. The idea  
45 is I tell them to say that to ID -- to tell them where  
46 these guys with planes were landing to, where they had  
47 at Noatak. About the three planes they talked to they  
48 were all from Bettles area. These are private planes  
49 from the Interior.

50

1 I think the majority of the problem now  
2 is happening these smaller planes, private-owned  
3 planes, are coming to Buckland and Noatak and Kiana and  
4 we're all blaming the transporters and outfitters. I'm  
5 not favoring them, but the other year too when I was at  
6 Kelly they were there from Interior. There were four  
7 planes when I was there. So maybe that's the problem  
8 we're having here. Maybe Interior is coming in.

9  
10 I'll get to you in a minute. This is  
11 my question to you. On your BLM lands at Kivalina, is  
12 any workers out of Red Dog? Because I know before  
13 instead of going home they used to float down right  
14 from Red Dog and I want to know if this is happening  
15 yet.

16  
17 MR. SEPPI: I can't answer that  
18 directly, but I was under the assumption that employees  
19 of Red Dog Mine weren't allowed to hunt unless they  
20 were residents of the area. When they're working at  
21 the mine, they weren't able to hunt. I'm not aware of  
22 that and I'd have to get back to you on that and we're  
23 sensitive to that also.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll follow up on  
26 that. Because when they're off work, when they go on  
27 their leave, what some of them were doing they were  
28 getting rafts and going down the river at Wulik River  
29 right at BLM. I was hearing about this from Kivalina,  
30 but they were getting berries and caribou and these are  
31 just employees at the Red Dog. That's why I'm asking  
32 this.

33  
34 Go ahead, Raymond.

35  
36 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Of  
37 course I'll tell you both I'm from Kiana. That's mouth  
38 of Squirrel River. Of course I see all activities in  
39 the last 20 years at the Squirrel. The transporters  
40 and guides and outfitters. There's always lots and  
41 lots and lots of hunters.

42  
43 My question is to you that these  
44 transporters and guides set up their own camps. They  
45 bring a whole bunch of equipment, like lumber and stuff  
46 like that, tent frame and stuff. I imagine they do got  
47 a permit. My question is, these outfitters when they  
48 go to the Squirrel River, they even bring a four-  
49 wheeler and they go just everywhere in headwaters of  
50 the Squirrel River. Is that legal to use water

1 vehicles by these outfitters at headwaters of the  
2 Squirrel River?

3

4 MR. SEPPI: It is under the Kobuk-  
5 Seward Land Use Plan and it's one of the few plans that  
6 allow that. Although I can tell you that our law  
7 enforcement was out there and did cite one camp that  
8 was on BLM for degradation of landscape with  
9 four-wheelers. So, to answer your question, it is yes,  
10 but if they cause damage  
11 they'll get cited for it. But in this area in the  
12 Squirrel River it is allowed under the Kobuk-Seward  
13 Land Use Plan of BLM's.

14

15 MR. STONEY: In most cases I set up  
16 that camp at the Squirrel. When hunting season is  
17 over, they leave all their camping gear there. I don't  
18 know if they picked them up or not, but I don't know.  
19 Is that legal to leave all that equipment?

20

21 MR. SPENCER: No, it is not and that's  
22 the things we're out there trying to regulate is when  
23 they leave a lot of stuff behind. That's not allowed  
24 and they're in violation of their permit when they do  
25 that.

26

27 MR. SEPPI: So we're glad you brought  
28 that up. The new plan will re-examine also travel  
29 management plan as it relates to guided outfitters and  
30 transporters and camp size, placement and other types  
31 of requirements to help reduce impacts.

32

33 MR. SPENCER: And then also, Mr. Chair,  
34 we'll definitely get back to you, as Bruce mentioned,  
35 maybe through Melinda and she can disseminate that  
36 information on Red Dog and have an answer for you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you done,  
39 Raymond?

40

41 MR. STONEY: Yeah, the thing of concern  
42 was, you know, these outfitters in the area. We're not  
43 authorized to use any vehicles in BLM land, but these  
44 people that come, I don't know if you're aware of it or  
45 not, they're out there with the four-wheelers. My  
46 point is, is we need more law enforcement. Maybe we  
47 need one or two law enforcement at the Squirrel. The  
48 only thing I see up there was the National Park  
49 Service, so we don't see much law enforcement at the  
50 Squirrel. I brought that up 15 years ago, there should

1 be more law enforcement in the Squirrel River. There's  
2 never been. That's the thing we were always concerned  
3 about.

4

5 MR. SPENCER: We appreciate your  
6 concern and certainly understand. It's not an excuse,  
7 but we've had a vacancy for a year for a law  
8 enforcement ranger. The good news is we have finally  
9 advertised it and we hope to get somebody on in the  
10 next couple of months. And the Fairbanks office, I  
11 know one is, we wish we had more, has helped us also in  
12 that area this year as well.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
15 Kramer, you had your hand up.

16

17 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. You know, the  
18 Squirrel and BLM land has always been an eyesore in our  
19 armpit for quite a few years. As I've mentioned in the  
20 past, they've always had problems with guides and  
21 transporters up in there leaving garbage and all kinds  
22 of other stuff behind.

23

24 As I've mentioned in the past, BLM  
25 should come up with a bidding process to be able to  
26 allow more law enforcement in that area, to be able to  
27 afford more law enforcement in that area, specifically  
28 that area because that's a very critical area for Kiana  
29 and Noorvik. It's a necessary thing to be able to  
30 monitor that area very, very closely because that's a  
31 very critical area for the migration passing through  
32 Kiana and it's been for centuries.

33

34 You know, you guys are looking for more  
35 law enforcement. My brother Lance, he's on the line,  
36 he's a land manager for NANA and he's also in charge of  
37 land security for NANA. There's always a possibility  
38 that BLM needs more law enforcement in those areas,  
39 then maybe BLM can also employ more local people  
40 through NANA lands security. At least that way you're  
41 keeping the money within the region and also it  
42 provides local employment. Also there's a lot of local  
43 knowledge there of people within those areas. That  
44 provides a good standpoint for local people to be able  
45 to monitor those areas, whether through a contract or  
46 something of that point.

47

48 I noticed that you guys have taken nine  
49 moose and I know last year there was a good number of  
50 moose. Has there been any counts on the moose

1 population within BLM lands and the Squirrel to make  
2 sure that they're not depleting it?

3

4                   The other thing I noticed is there's  
5 not very many bears taken. There's not very many  
6 wolves. Those should be encouraged to be taken very  
7 very frequently. You know, whether you guys hand out  
8 permits or how you guys do it, there should be more  
9 permits. I mean even given as a courtesy thing. Here,  
10 here's a bear permit, take one. If you see one, take  
11 one. To be able to allow predator control within that  
12 area. It would also help Kiana in the long run with  
13 less bears. It would also help the animals, the  
14 migration and help control the population of bears and  
15 wolves in that area.

16

17                   With the bidding process, that way you  
18 help provide funding for law enforcement, you help  
19 provide funding for hiring local people in the villages  
20 to go out there and clean up those areas. The other  
21 thing you need to come up with is severe disciplinary  
22 actions to transporters or guides for leaving garbage  
23 or disturbing the land as you guys said. You know, to  
24 where if someone gets cited, they lose privileges to be  
25 able to operate in that area for five years, whatever.  
26 That helps that area be able to be sustainable.

27

28                   MR. SEPPI: I can comment to that.

29

30                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

31

32                   MR. SEPPI: I agree with you 100  
33 percent on your comments there. The first law  
34 enforcement we did have a Central Yukon pilot/ranger  
35 down here and they detailed someone up from the Lower  
36 48 to help them, so they were here in mid-September and  
37 I'm not sure how many days, but about 10 days working  
38 out of Kotzebue and flying into the Squirrel and  
39 actively enforcing those permits. So we did have some  
40 law enforcement presence there this year, although not  
41 enough. We hope to improve that.

42

43                   About moose censuses, the Fish and Game  
44 does all the moose censuses there, but BLM contributed  
45 to flight time for that and it's a limited amount.  
46 Basically we help pay for fuel for moose censuses and  
47 caribou, but for moose censuses in particular.

48

49                   The other thing is when someone is  
50 cited by law enforcement for any kind of violation,

1 their permit is looked at more closely and if that  
2 citation is serious enough, they won't be re-permitted.  
3 We just don't hand out permits when they have  
4 violations and they could lose their privileges that  
5 way. So we are sensitive to that and we are watching  
6 that.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

9

10 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We  
11 know guides and transporters prefer the antlers as  
12 trophy. Is there a clause in your rules about wanton  
13 waste, what they do with the meat?

14

15 MR. SEPPI: Those guides and outfitters  
16 are hunting under State game regs and even if they  
17 bring the meat in and donate it to villages but it's  
18 not useable, that's considered wanton waste and that's  
19 a violation and the troopers would love to talk to them  
20 about that. I know we've had reports in the past of  
21 hunters, especially out-of-state hunters, donating meat  
22 to the communities around here, caribou and moose, and  
23 it's gone bad by the time people get it and they can't  
24 use it, that's a violation. Even though they had good  
25 intentions to donate it, it's still a violation and  
26 they would be reported to the troopers.

27

28 Incidentally, Mr. Kramer, when we did  
29 check guides and outfitters, the caribou weren't down  
30 here, so everyone that was hunting was either after  
31 moose or bears. When we were there, one bear was  
32 harvested that we knew of that was taken out of there.  
33 So people are interested in taking bears. I'm not so  
34 sure about wolves, but in predators in general they are  
35 interested and allowed to do that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Calvin.

38

39 MR. MOTO: We talk about transporters  
40 as opposed to subsistence hunters. I've always  
41 wondered why take a long time for the enforcement to  
42 find out about violations for transporters whereas if a  
43 subsistence hunter does something wrong, they're right  
44 there right now. This is something we can't understand  
45 why that is. I know that the transporters have a lot  
46 more money than we do, but it's always been my  
47 contention of why, when a transporter does something  
48 wrong it takes a while for you to act, whereas if it's  
49 a subsistence guy you're on us right now.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.  
4 Okay, I hope that was not your plane going over.  
5 Anyhow, if everybody's done, I have more like a  
6 recommendation. Before the harvest start or the  
7 hunting start for the guides and outfitters and  
8 transporters, I would say you should take an aerial  
9 survey and put a clause when you give them a permit to  
10 go BLM. Whatever they take in, they must take out. If  
11 not, give them a nice little fine. That way they won't  
12 destroy our land and they won't leave a mess out there  
13 and hurt the animals out there. In the end, sometimes  
14 we see a lot of trash out there.

15

16 What I'm going to refer to it has  
17 nothing to do with Aggie, but I go hunt at Aggie once  
18 in a while. I see a lot of trash, I pick it up.  
19 These are things left by transporters and outfitters.  
20 So, as BLM, you could maybe put a clause in their  
21 permit that whatever they take in must take out. And  
22 if you clean it up, put it in the clause, you will  
23 charge them for the work you did. When you charter,  
24 don't fill up the plane. That way you charge them  
25 more. You're going back and forth more.

26

27 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chairman. That's  
28 exactly what the permits say. These guys are not able  
29 to leave anything behind. They're not able to store  
30 fuel. If they did, they'd be in violation. If BLM  
31 gets stuck with the bill of hauling that stuff out,  
32 they usually have to put money up front that's held,  
33 kind of a bond, that if they stop guiding and skip town  
34 and leave all that stuff out there, that that bond will  
35 be used to clean it up. If it's more than that, then  
36 they'll be charged for it. So that does exist already.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
39 Anyone else. Go ahead, Raymond. We're getting close  
40 to lunch.

41

42 MR. STONEY: Okay. What concerns me  
43 about BLM, it's been around for a long time and we know  
44 the conditions of what they were doing seasonally. My  
45 question is now I don't know how many permits they have  
46 presently. And what is the bag limits? How many  
47 permits do you have first at the Squirrel?

48

49 MR. SEPPI: Just as I said earlier,  
50 there are eight guides and outfitters permitted and

1 four transporters. Their bag limits are based on State  
2 regs. They're following State regulations.

3

4 MR. SPENCER: Again, not an increase.  
5 Actually a decrease from the previous year, so we're  
6 not going to do anything until that plan is completed  
7 and then decide with your help on how to proceed.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll make  
10 Enoch's last question. You guys will come back. We'll  
11 go to lunch because I see a couple students looking  
12 through the window. They're probably waiting for us.  
13 They're cooking for us. We'll wait for Enoch's  
14 question because he had his hand up already. Anybody  
15 else when we resume, maybe 1:00 o'clock. Anyhow, go  
16 ahead, Enoch, with your question.

17

18 MR. MITCHELL:

19

20 MS. BURKE: Hey, Ken, can you mute your  
21 phone, please, sir.

22

23 MR. MITCHELL: We used to have sport  
24 hunters quite a bit and then more and more. About  
25 eight years ago our IRA council said we need to deal  
26 with this very problem because we were not getting any  
27 caribou. Today it's still like that. I know your guys'  
28 scientist recorded high hunter success for outside  
29 hunters and the village of Noatak had nothing, so our  
30 local hunter success was zero that year. Nobody get  
31 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Your guys' scientist said  
32 something like 20 percent, 15 percent of that goes  
33 through NPS. That goes through the Squirrel River.  
34 Those caribou, just that 5, 10, 15, 20 percent that  
35 goes through Squirrel River goes through Noatak.  
36 That's what we hunt this year. If they don't go  
37 through there, we don't get nothing. So that's what's  
38 been happening for eight years. I've been talking  
39 about this over and over. These guys are getting tired  
40 of it. And you guys do nothing. We have Title VIII to  
41 protect us from this very thing, but nothing is being  
42 done.

43

44 You guys ever read ANILCA Title VIII?

45

46 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

47

48 MR. SPENCER: Yes, sir.

49

50 MR. MITCHELL: What you doing? It goes

1 out the other ear? Look, I've talked about it for a  
2 long time. A long time. A lot of our people didn't  
3 get caribou. A lot of freezers are empty. A lot of  
4 people's freezers are empty. We're paying a high price  
5 in the store. High prices. Over \$10 a gallon for gas.  
6 You still keep Squirrel open. We didn't get any for  
7 the past three consecutive years now, four. That  
8 hurts.

9

10 I talked about this for many years. I  
11 talked with you guys to work with us. One year they  
12 put the hunters on one side of river. We got caribou.  
13 We were happy. Five years ago. I asked them do that  
14 again. No. Now it's right back to where we were at.  
15 We're not getting caribou. Times are getting harder to  
16 eat these. Things are getting expensive. Our parts,  
17 our motors is expensive. That river is getting  
18 shallow. Everything is wearing down. I'm running out  
19 of words. I've talked and talked, but nothing's been  
20 done.

21

22 I said I request. Did you guys get  
23 that? I requested that we close Squirrel because of  
24 this very problem. A lot of our people are hurting for  
25 meat. Store bought treated meat not good anymore.  
26 Can't last. My village get monthly check. That check  
27 don't last the whole month. We depend on this caribou  
28 very much, the whole village.

29

30 Forty-four boats, only 21 get, but they  
31 never get their quota. They can get five caribou.  
32 Two, three caribou, but that still has to go to two or  
33 three families. What we put in our freezers dwindles  
34 fast. We depend on our freezers, especially today when  
35 the prices are high and the barge don't make it to  
36 Noatak. The fuel is high. Everything is high.  
37 Everything is being flown into Noatak.

38

39 So I've been talking about this. It's  
40 getting worse. We're getting more and more sport  
41 hunters. There's 80 percent of sport hunters -- pretty  
42 much close to 80 percent of all sport hunters goes into  
43 Noatak and Squirrel Rivers. That Squirrel River is  
44 like a corridor connected to Aggie and there's Kiana  
45 and the caribou come right through there. Come through  
46 the flats, then through the Noatak River. That's when  
47 we get in close to the village. We don't have to buy  
48 two, three drums of gas, which is worth 10 gallons, 15  
49 gallons gas. That really helps us.

50

1                   That's what we've been doing for  
2 decades, years, centuries.  
3 This problem is not natural. Natural probably we can  
4 do nothing about, like the weather, climate change, but  
5 this problem is manmade. It's on our land. We're  
6 hurting. Our subsistence is in jeopardy.

7  
8                   Well, I want to depend on these caribou  
9 very much. Very much. Too high a density of non-local  
10 hunters. That's the problem. That's not natural  
11 problem. That's manmade that can be fixed and that's  
12 what we're trying to fix. It seems to go right through  
13 from ear to ear. What I say here is going to go right  
14 out the door again? No. We want something done. We  
15 ask that down from the Aggie River and the Eli River to  
16 protect our subsistence, to protect our traditional  
17 culture.

18  
19                   ANILCA wasn't written for nothing. If  
20 we can't get help here, who can we go to? Who's above  
21 you guys? A gorilla? Please help us, okay. I talk  
22 about this over for years and over again. Are you guys  
23 ever (indiscernible)? Hey, find another problem  
24 upriver. Leave the Squirrel River. That's what  
25 happened when they -- they come to Noatak, come meet  
26 with us. They want to figure out why our problem.  
27 They want to help us out. So we told them our problem  
28 and the problem is Squirrel River. They said, oh, we  
29 can't help you. Why don't you find another problem  
30 upriver that we can deal with. No, upriver that's more  
31 gas. That's not helping us out.

32  
33                   We sat down and talked with them. I  
34 don't know. I don't get mad, but I have to hold it in.  
35 I speak for my people and I speak from the heart. I'm  
36 tired of freezers void of caribou meat. Our village  
37 was put there because of caribou. We're located there  
38 because of caribou. Caribou is our number one. We  
39 depend on it. I say we depend on it.

40  
41                   There's people in other villages,  
42 people got caribou. Some people don't eat much, but  
43 people in Deering depend on it. I mean sometimes  
44 that's the only thing on the table. The village  
45 depends on that caribou. My heart goes to them, you  
46 know. I don't want to see that no more.

47  
48                   The dividend burn a hole in their  
49 pocket. They have to decide if they're going to buy  
50 their kids new school clothes or buy gas because they

1 didn't get caribou because they have to go way far  
2 because it's closed to them because sport hunters two  
3 bulls a day in each of these corridors. These are the  
4 corridors. They should do something about corridors in  
5 Alaska where caribou use these. People subsist on  
6 these. People depend on these.

7

8 We are the people.

9

10 We are alive.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch. I  
15 hope that's well taken. We're going to go to lunch.  
16 Make it short and sweet, Kramer, and we'll go eat. Our  
17 food is getting cold.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. You know, I  
20 understand Enoch's concern and I think that the Caribou  
21 Working Group had a contingency plan where guides and  
22 transporters would be eliminated due to the population  
23 count. I see we don't have that paperwork here in our  
24 workbook, which I'd like to find out when and what the  
25 caribou

26 count would be to eliminate guides and transporters. I  
27 believe that would be coming up very, very soon.

28

29 If and when our caribou count ever  
30 occurs or comes to our table and it is at the point to  
31 where we eliminate transporters and guides, then they  
32 should be eliminated immediately. There should be an  
33 emergency action to eliminate them. They should be  
34 required to understand. You know, like Enoch said,  
35 it's a viable part of everyday life in the village and  
36 in every village. You know, elimination of  
37 transporters and guides when the population reach a  
38 certain threshold, you know, it should be taken  
39 seriously and not just set aside.

40

41 I'd like to see that Caribou Working  
42 Group diagram that they have to where only subsistence  
43 -- you know, the population threshold versus who would  
44 be eliminated first and that would be the guides and  
45 transporters after lunch. That way we can get a better  
46 understanding and we can try and look at possibly  
47 making a motion to try and eliminate guides and  
48 transporters for the next  
49 fall hunting season due to the population. I know that  
50 this spring they had poor photos, photo census. I

1 think taking an action now would help us out next year.  
2 So I'd like to see that after lunch.

3

4 That's all I got.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.  
7 Yeah, we'll go to lunch and we will resume this. Keep  
8 your thoughts in mind what you want to say. I do have  
9 a few and I want to follow up.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Let's go to lunch and we will resume at  
14 probably 1:15.

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (On record)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We'll call this  
21 meeting back to order at 1:20. Anybody else have  
22 questions for BLM here.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I will say I  
27 concur with Enoch. That's what we go through. For  
28 your information, you're welcome to call me any time.  
29 Melinda has my phone. When Caribou don't go through  
30 Squirrel River, it affects Noatak. It's just a  
31 migration pattern. When there's a disturbance there  
32 and they're changing it -- if they do change it, they  
33 will go through Wolf Creek. That's just across this  
34 way and Squirrel and Noatak and over the Aggie is Aggie  
35 and that's what he was saying. We used to harvest a  
36 lot right there at one time. That's where he's coming  
37 from, the past experience.

38

39 We know you're new, but for you I will  
40 say call me any time if you have questions about  
41 Squirrel or Aggie because I got a camp right at Aggie  
42 and I feel it big time.

43

44 Okay. So anyone else have questions.  
45 Go ahead, Enoch.

46

47 MR. MITCHELL: Where's Frank? Where's  
48 Alan? We had a meeting in Noatak in July 21 and Alan  
49 was there, Frank was there and there was quite a few  
50 people. Through that meeting they were going to take

1 me up in the plane and fly over the Squirrel and look  
2 it over and further up this fall to actually see the  
3 caribou movements. That didn't happen, so I was kind  
4 of wondering what happened to that.

5  
6 MR. SPENCER: Yeah, I'm not familiar  
7 with that, Mr. Mitchell. Let me check with Alan. I  
8 have your email address and I certainly will get back  
9 to you. I don't know if it has occurred or not and  
10 with what agency, but I will get back to you by early  
11 next week at the latest.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. When you go  
14 Google Earth you could see right where the Squirrel  
15 River and Aggie are right on the headwaters, just a  
16 little piece, a small mountain in between to separate  
17 them two. One drains towards the Squirrel and one  
18 drains toward Aggie. Google Earth. Ken and I were  
19 using it at one time to get what we wanted through the  
20 transporters and outfitters diverting the caribou and  
21 changing the migration.

22  
23 Anyone else have a question for these  
24 two.

25  
26 MR. BALLOT: So you were supposed to  
27 give me copies of your report?

28  
29 MR. SEPPI: I need to make a copy.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So on this  
32 here is there anything else you wanted us to do or  
33 that's it, you just want to give a report?

34  
35 MR. SPENCER: No, that's it, Mr.  
36 Chairman and Council. We'll work again closely with  
37 you as we get closer to releasing the draft Squirrel  
38 River Plan and I'll check, Mr. Mitchell, on the flyover  
39 with Alan for you, too.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So if you're in  
42 Anchorage, for your information, I will be there for  
43 the SRC Chairs at the end of November in Anchorage for  
44 a few days.

45  
46 MR. SPENCER: Okay.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

49  
50

1 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2 Mr. Mitchell is pleading and crying out for a people  
3 whose livelihood has been rooted, like pulled out.  
4 Although it's not intentional, we need to make aware to  
5 those that make decisions in the BLM that it's very  
6 critical to both Western Arctic and us and BLM to be  
7 aware that since we're talking about a people that are  
8 hurting financially and nutritional value and high  
9 cost, I think it's pretty critical enough to put a  
10 closure on that area what they've been talking about.  
11 We have discussed this for several years since I've  
12 been on.

13  
14 That is my comment. Thank you.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

17  
18 Go ahead, Percy.

19  
20 MR. BALLOT: I'm just going to mention  
21 the concern that we heard from Enoch that are we going  
22 to have a plan of action or recommendations to the  
23 concern he had?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I think we  
26 could, but there was just -- I think you were more like  
27 informational for BLM. You're the new for Squirrel  
28 River, right?

29  
30 MR. SPENCER: Yes.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There's no proposals  
33 or anything for us.

34  
35 MR. SPENCER: No. It's an open slate.  
36 We'll come up with a draft with alternatives and we'll  
37 work closely with you on what other alternatives should  
38 be considered. Anything that's on your mind that we  
39 can address in the plan and we'll look at that during  
40 the draft process.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then what we  
43 should do is just keep this in mind and keep it in the  
44 agenda next meeting we have in our winter meeting.  
45 That way we could address it and you could also do your  
46 homework on Squirrel River before the next meeting.

47  
48 MR. SPENCER: Yeah, absolutely.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,

1 Melinda, and we'll get to you.

2

3 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I was  
4 just going to say I'll make sure to summarize some  
5 notes and I'll also make staff aware when the  
6 transcripts are available if it's helpful for the newer  
7 staff member I can provide some past transcripts where  
8 the Squirrel River issue is discussed and we can keep  
9 in close communication about when the plan will come  
10 out and make sure that the Council is allowed to  
11 comment. We will be having an all-Council meeting in  
12 Anchorage in March, so all of these folks will be there  
13 in Anchorage for that meeting and I'm sure we can bring  
14 it up as a topic then, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.

17

18 Go ahead, Kramer.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I'd like to see all  
21 agencies come up with a contingency plan like the  
22 Caribou Working Group, you know, to where when it meets  
23 a certain threshold that transporters and outfitters  
24 are eliminated. We may have already met that  
25 threshold. It would be good.

26

27 The one other thing is that you can, on  
28 your applications or when you guys issue permits at the  
29 bottom it will say note, that transporters could be  
30 eliminated at any time through an emergency order due  
31 to the decline in caribou population and for the  
32 preservation of the herd. It's going to happen and it  
33 would be good to start preparing for it now because I  
34 would hate to see them decline like the sheep. That  
35 was a mistake, the sheep. Absolute mistake. It never  
36 ever should have gotten that far, that low, ever.

37

38 When it comes down to something as  
39 caribou that are so critical to our everyday life, we  
40 need to be two steps ahead of everything. We never  
41 want to be a step behind on the caribou herd. So if  
42 you guys can look at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd's  
43 contingency plan and figure out what kind of -- you  
44 know, where would you guys -- actually look at the last  
45 population count and then figure from there. Not as a  
46 money standpoint, as a conservation standpoint and  
47 subsistence standpoint. That would be very, very  
48 appreciated with all other agencies.

49

50 I know that we're kind of working off

1 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's  
2 plans and we would like to eventually either adopt  
3 theirs or come up with ours. But it would be very  
4 appreciated if you guys can come up with something like  
5 that because there's so much conflict in the Squirrel  
6 that we would hope that BLM would take action first  
7 because that's one of our most conflicted areas.

8

9 That's it for now.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

12

13 Go ahead, Enoch.

14

15 MR. MITCHELL: Mr. Chair. Do we have  
16 to make a motion on the Squirrel River closure?

17

18 MS. BURKE: Enoch, it sounds like we  
19 will make sure that staff is filled in and up to date  
20 on all the conversations that this Council has put  
21 forth regarding the Squirrel River. It sounds like the  
22 draft is not quite ready to be reviewed yet, but some  
23 of those comments and the feelings of this Council will  
24 be taken into consideration and incorporated and we'll  
25 make sure that formal comment is made from this Council  
26 when the time is right.

27

28 MR. MITCHELL: Could we make a proposal  
29 from this group concerning this?

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm trying to figure  
32 out the timing right now. When is our proposals due?

33

34 MS. BURKE: For Federal land there's --  
35 we're in the middle of the wildlife cycle now, so it's  
36 not going to be open again. October 2017 is when the  
37 wildlife proposal cycle would be open again. So I  
38 think if we take some time to think about it and see  
39 what the draft management plan looks like, I think it  
40 will help us make a more focused recommendation and  
41 there will be more information coming from both side.

42

43 So I say we keep it on the back burner,  
44 make sure we keep in contact with the BLM and I think  
45 it will be a better plan for the next open window.

46

47 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Enoch?

50

1 MR. MITCHELL: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Everybody happy now.  
4 If not, thank you. I hope our words are well taken  
5 from this board here.  
6  
7 MR. SPENCER: Thank you for your time.  
8 We look forward to working with you.  
9  
10 MR. SEPPI: Thank you.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to the  
13 agenda. Tell me where I'm at, Melinda.  
14  
15 MS. BURKE: All right. We're in  
16 Buckland, Alaska, sir.  
17  
18 (Laughter)  
19  
20 MS. BURKE: Percy's hometown. So we  
21 finished up with the BLM. We've got a couple of other  
22 groups of folks that are going to be departing today.  
23 Why don't we have Susan Georgette and the U.S. Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service staff come up. We've got Susan here  
25 and Brittany Sweeney as well.  
26  
27 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman  
28 and Council members. My name is Susan Georgette. I'm  
29 the Refuge Manager for Selawik Refuge. This is  
30 Brittany Sweeney. She's our outreach specialist and  
31 she does a lot of great work with youth and  
32 communications. So we just have a quick presentation  
33 with some pictures for you.  
34  
35 This first one is just a map of the  
36 Refuge. It's hard to know where any of these units are  
37 because there's no markers on the land. Just so you  
38 know you can see Kotzebue there. The brown are NANA  
39 land, so this is an old map, so it's not exactly right,  
40 but you can see the areas east of Inland Lake and  
41 Selawik are where most of the Federal Refuge lands are.  
42  
43 This is our staff. We have eight  
44 people. Two are based in Selawik. Nicole Hanshaw and  
45 Frank Berry, Jr., Sonny, the two on the bottom left.  
46  
47 I want to share this picture with you.  
48 This is our field cabin, which is at the mouth of  
49 Kougatok River where Kougatok meets Selawik River.  
50 It's about a two-hour boat ride from Selawik. We use

1 it for field projects, for law enforcement, for storing  
2 fuel and gear. We're hoping to use it more for youth  
3 outings. That one white weather port on the left is  
4 left open and local hunters sometimes use it on their  
5 way if it's raining or someone is broken down or  
6 whatever. So that's left open. It has a woodstove and  
7 some things in it.

8

9 This is a new feature on our website I  
10 just want to point out. There's a map that's a land  
11 status map and you can zoom in on it and you can zoom  
12 way in and see who owns what land. So if you're  
13 wondering if, you know, at first fork if it's public  
14 land or not, you can zoom in, you can see allotments,  
15 you can NANA land. So it's a great resource on our  
16 website.

17

18 We talked about this already. Brittany  
19 put this together this summer with the help of Park  
20 Service and Fish and Game. We wanted to make a one-page  
21 summary of the new caribou hunting regs. We've talked  
22 about this already, but that's been really handy.

23

24 On law enforcement we had Mike Wade.  
25 He's a Fish and Wildlife Service special agent based in  
26 Nome and he came up for I think four days the week of  
27 September 14th and he based out of our cabin. He's a  
28 pilot, so he had a plane and he flew into the upper  
29 river to check on the guide and any hunters he saw. We  
30 haven't done this in a while because we don't like to  
31 contribute to the air traffic, so I told him to stay  
32 away from anything down river, which is where most of  
33 the village hunt and just to go upriver, but you can't  
34 really check on those guides without a plane because  
35 they're all flying.

36

37 So he checked on them all for several  
38 days in mid September. It was before caribou were  
39 around. They were almost all moose hunting and he did  
40 not find any violations and he did not see any private  
41 pilots because I wondered about the private pilots. He  
42 also said that he saw considerably less hunting  
43 activity than 15 years ago. He used to patrol there  
44 more like 10 or 15 years ago. I would say that based on  
45 the permit data that the numbers have decreased since  
46 the early 2000s.

47

48 And those pictures weren't from this  
49 fall. They were just pictures we had that we put in  
50 there. We put up a climate reference station at that

1 cabin, so this is a NOAA project, National Oceanic  
2 Atmospheric Administration. They have these climate  
3 stations across the country. They have a whole bunch  
4 of them and they've been trying to put some in Alaska.

5

6

7 We had three Selawik guys who we hired  
8 to freight all this gear to the cabin because it was  
9 like 500 pounds of stuff that had to get flown out to  
10 the village and then they loaded it into boats and took  
11 it up there. They helped install it. So if you go by  
12 the cabin, that's there. We're going to see how that  
13 works. The idea is that it's a very long-term site, so  
14 it's supposed to be there for a long time to monitor  
15 all sorts of things.

16

17 This is a sheefish project. I talked  
18 about that yesterday. So there's Frank Berry, Jr. and  
19 Patrick Foster working on the sheefish project.

20

21 This is the Selawik Science Culture  
22 Camp that just finished last week. I think this is the  
23 13th year. Hannah Loon was influential in starting or  
24 restarting this camp 13 years ago. You can see Hannah  
25 is in there, kind of in the middle row. She  
26 participated all last week. Brittany participated in  
27 it all. It goes for about two weeks and all the kids  
28 grades 1-12, whoever wants to go can go.

29

30 Nets are set so kids scale and cut  
31 fish. Here are some older kids and then elders. A lot  
32 of the community participates. It's really a cool thing  
33 that's gone on this long and part of it is that there's  
34 a lot of people that participate, so it's not dependent  
35 on any one person. So if Hannah is not around this  
36 year, it still goes on, or if Brittany is not there.  
37 There's different elders that participate and cooks and  
38 boat drivers. It's a really neat thing.

39

40 Here the kids are berry picking. We  
41 had really good weather this fall for it. Here they're  
42 using little nets to catch bugs in the water and we  
43 look at them under microscopes -- not microscopes, but  
44 magnifying glasses. Here's one little girl that caught  
45 a little stickleback fish. So we had cooks and the  
46 older kids help and there's caribou soup or fish or  
47 whatever is caught that day. So it's really cool.  
48 People just live with what's available.

49

50 This was just last week. Because the

1 older kids had gone to the camp for quite a few years  
2 or since they were in first grade, we thought we'd try  
3 to do something different with them, so we got some  
4 guys together and some hunters and three or two boats.  
5 We were taking kids up to that cabin for the night, but  
6 we got all the way up there and the slough was  
7 completely frozen hard already, so we ended up spending  
8 the day out but going back. Here we stopped at some of  
9 the historic and important cultural sites, so this is a  
10 place called Nuluk and Hannah could talk more about it,  
11 but that's the original Rotman's warehouse. The Rotman  
12 family who were traders in the early 1900s used to --  
13 this was their first store. It was up the Selawik  
14 River.

15

16 Do you want to add anything to that,  
17 Hannah?

18

19 MS. LOON: Yeah. Before the schools  
20 and the churches were established in the villages, all  
21 the people were living in smaller bands and this was  
22 one of the village sites where there's a store.  
23 Families lived there because there is abundance of fish  
24 during the springtime. After springtime they will go  
25 down and move back to Selawik River delta for berries  
26 and other things. So this is one of the old  
27 settlements in Selawik River and Rotman Stores,  
28 warehouse and store, was that one.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MS. GEORGETTE: Thank you, Hannah. We  
33 cooked out on that trip too. The next day we caught a  
34 couple caribou with the kids, so that was exciting. So  
35 these kids are gutting that caribou.

36

37 We had something special this year at  
38 the culture camp. We had this metal sculptor from the  
39 Mat-Su Valley come out named Holly Gittlein and she  
40 traveled with Brittany up to the sheefish camp and  
41 spent a few days and then came to the culture camp and  
42 worked with kids. Maybe you could say a little bit  
43 about that, Brittany.

44

45 MS. SWEENEY: So one of the purposes of  
46 that program is to connect like management agencies and  
47 spread the information about these great places to more  
48 people through art or other means. So when she came  
49 up, she decided to donate an art piece to the school.  
50 That's what you can see her and the girls holding that

1 metal sculpture. On the bottom picture they're each  
2 making a thing to hang off of it. It's like a big  
3 mobile that's hanging in the school if you go in  
4 Selawik. Each of the kids found stuff at the camp,  
5 like fish bones and leaves and whatever they liked and  
6 feather and they decorated her sculpture and then they  
7 hung it in the school. So that's something she brought  
8 to share with them.

9

10 MS. GEORGETTE: And that's it. We just  
11 wanted to share a few pictures from our year.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Susan. I  
16 think it's a good thing you guys are doing with the  
17 students, taking them out to culture camps and let them  
18 learn. Not only they learn from you, you also learn  
19 from them. I'm happy that you still do it.

20

21 Anyone else here from the board have  
22 any questions for Susan. Kramer.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, how many outfitters  
25 and transporters did you guys have apply for permits?

26

27 MS. GEORGETTE: We only have one guide  
28 that's allowed on our Refuge, so there's one guide and  
29 there were five transporters. Some of those, at least  
30 in the past, haven't taken anyone. I think when Mike  
31 Wade was out there he saw hunters from two transporters  
32 out there, but I won't really know how many took people  
33 out until they report in January. Then I can bring  
34 that to the spring meeting and share with you guys. We  
35 get information on the harvest, where they went, how  
36 many people, who took them, coordinates of where they  
37 went.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

40

41 Anyone else, questions.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we will move  
46 on to the next one. Go ahead, Melinda.

47

48 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. We just want to  
49 try to get the folks who are departing earliest on the  
50 record first. If it's okay with you if we could go to

1 the Park Service.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Park Service it is.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MS. KOELSCH: Mr. Chair, members of the  
8 Council. Thanks for being so hospitable to me being  
9 from Nome. I've had a great visit with you all. So  
10 Hillary works full time for Western Arctic National  
11 Parklands in Kotzebue as the senior wildlife biologist.  
12 She will actually be talking about the hunting  
13 activities in the three parklands and a little bit in  
14 Bering Land Bridge. Then I'll give a brief update on  
15 the superintendent position and who is filling that for  
16 120 days.

17

18 MS. ROBISON: Mr. Chair and the board.  
19 This is Hillary Robison speaking. I would like to call  
20 your attention to this little piece of paper, this  
21 pamphlet, that we put in your materials. This is  
22 wildlife update brief on some of the species in the  
23 parklands. I can walk through it briefly, some of the  
24 highlights.

25

26 With the caribou herd, we have all  
27 discussed the decline that's been happening with the  
28 herd. As some of you are aware, there was a photo  
29 census that was flown by Fish and Game in July this  
30 year and the photos weren't of proper quality for them  
31 to be able to get a count on the caribou, so there will  
32 not be a count of the caribou this year. They do have  
33 funding to do a count next years, so the count will be  
34 done next year.

35

36 This year the Park Service and Fish and  
37 Game collaborated to do a collaring project at Onion  
38 Portage. Last year the caribou didn't come through, so  
39 they weren't able to get all the collars out. This  
40 year they were able to get 48 adult collars out, which  
41 were all the collars that they had brought with them.  
42 In addition to that, there had been some concern by  
43 members of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
44 Group about what was happening with calves.

45

46 In response to that, Fish and Game got  
47 funding for 30 calf collars, which are special collars  
48 that are put around the calves that have a bungee cord  
49 on them that allow the calves to grow and then the  
50 bungee cord disintegrates and falls off. So those

1 collars will give us information on what's happening  
2 with calves and what's affecting their survival. So,  
3 in total, there are about 130 animals in the herd that  
4 have collars currently.

5  
6                   Moving on to moose, I just included  
7 some information about the moose survey that was done  
8 in 23 Southwest last year in the fall and the spring.  
9 Biologists counted 617 moose. This is similar to --  
10 the moose densities range from about .22 moose to about  
11 .02 moose per square mile.

12  
13                   This year the Park Service is going to  
14 be collaborating with Fish and Game to do another  
15 survey this time in Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.  
16 The goal is to do the composition, looking at the  
17 number of males, females and calves in the fall and  
18 then in the spring do the count for that population. I  
19 go into more detail in this paper, but I don't want to  
20 belabor any topics, but if you have any questions  
21 please ask.

22  
23                   I'll move on to brown bears. We have  
24 heard from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working  
25 Group about concerns about the numbers of predators and  
26 specifically bears. Surveys have been done in various  
27 Park units. This last year in May in 2015 we did a  
28 survey in Bering Land Bridge or the whole Seward  
29 Peninsula, which included Bering Land Bridge. In  
30 total, six planes flew the survey. We sampled blocks  
31 of land and each sampling block was done twice. From  
32 that information we're going to generate a population  
33 estimate for the Seward Peninsula.

34  
35                   Our hope is to do another survey in the  
36 Lower Noatak this year depending on funding. We know  
37 that it's important for -- we were hearing from the RAC  
38 that people want to better understand what's happening  
39 with predators, so we realize that's important to you  
40 all.

41  
42                   Moving on to muskox, last spring the  
43 Park Service and Fish and Game again collaborated on  
44 doing a count of muskox in an area that's called the  
45 core area, which on your handout are these areas in  
46 green, which includes part of Cape Krusenstern National  
47 Monument. That is done every year. With some of these  
48 proposals that have come up, WP16-50 and 51, which look  
49 at expanding hunt opportunity for muskox, there is a  
50 need to get more information on the whole population.

1                   Additionally, the numbers that we found  
2 in the core area have been declining from about 2004  
3 and they seem to be somewhat stabilizing, but there's  
4 also observations from local hunters as well as  
5 biologists that the muskox seem to be expanding their  
6 range to the east. So to get a better understanding of  
7 what the whole population is doing Fish and Game and  
8 the Park Service are hoping to do a survey in expanded  
9 population, which is in the figure in your handout  
10 there, the areas in blue and pink.

11  
12                   In the areas in green, biologists  
13 counted 212 muskox, so that includes part of Cape  
14 Krusenstern National Monument, but goes beyond it. The  
15 areas in blue, there were 230 animals. The area in  
16 pink there were 300 animals. So that was a count that  
17 was done in 2011 and we're hoping to do that again this  
18 spring to get information on the population as a whole  
19 as it's been moving to the east to better inform  
20 wildlife management of these animals in the area. So  
21 we'd be interested in your comments on that.

22  
23                   For Dall sheep, that has been discussed  
24 earlier when we discussed the wildlife proposal and  
25 Kumi Rattenbury spoke to the decline they've seen in  
26 sheep. Just to clarify currently, the Baird Mountains  
27 as well as the DeLong Mountains of Northern Noatak  
28 National Preserve and the Schwatka Mountains outside of  
29 Gates of the Arctic National Park are closed to State  
30 and Federal sheep hunting. So those areas are closed  
31 within the Preserve.

32  
33                   I want to touch on the user conflict in  
34 Unit 23. This has come up in discussions with the BLM  
35 earlier. Like Enoch had mentioned, there was a meeting  
36 in Kotzebue of the Unit 23 working group held in May  
37 and at that meeting the panel discussed a need for a  
38 special meeting in the village of Noatak in July to  
39 discuss specific conflict areas and gather information  
40 to inform solutions.

41  
42                   So there was a meeting in Noatak in  
43 July with the Park Service and BLM and the village of  
44 Noatak. Based on that meeting, the Park Service is  
45 developing some possible alternatives to consider and  
46 will be going back out to stakeholder groups, including  
47 the villages and transporters, for ideas on how to move  
48 forward.

49  
50                   Right now the Park Service is in a

1 transitional time. Western Arctic National Parklands  
2 will have a new interim Superintendent, Randy Larson,  
3 and after he arrives, he arrived this week, we will be  
4 briefing him on this issue and we'll be looking forward  
5 to contacting stakeholders about a meeting this fall.

6  
7 Also on the user conflict issue the  
8 Park Service has worked with the University of Alaska  
9 Fairbanks to do two different studies on user conflict.  
10 One was a traditional knowledge study that Gabriella  
11 Hollis headed up and she worked with the Village of  
12 Noatak to collect traditional knowledge on caribou and  
13 user interactions between local and non-local hunters.

14  
15 Additionally, the Park Service  
16 conducted another study which reported the results of a  
17 survey that was done by non-local hunters to see the  
18 patterns of non-local hunters, where they're hunting,  
19 why they come to hunt, what they know about user  
20 conflict or don't know, where they're getting their  
21 information, how they're getting out to these sites.  
22 So those are some of the things that the Park has been  
23 doing.

24  
25 We've talked a little bit about fish  
26 when we talked about the proposed fish research  
27 projects yesterday. The Park Service and Fish and Game  
28 just wrapped up a three-year project looking at  
29 overwintering Dolly Varden in the Noatak River and  
30 they're looking to see where the fish overwinter and  
31 how many overwinter and the draft of that report is  
32 being written and will be out sometime this fall.

33  
34 We've heard from the panel about  
35 conflicts with wildlife and the Park is interested in  
36 coming up with solutions to these problems. In 2004, a  
37 working group was assembled to pool resources and  
38 expertise related to wildlife conflicts and  
39 representatives from the Park Service, Fish and  
40 Wildlife Service, BLM and Fish and Game and the  
41 borough, Alaska state troopers and the Native Village  
42 of Kotzebue were there.

43  
44 So the Park is working on coming up  
45 with some potential solutions. The person that's  
46 heading up that wildlife conflicts project for the Park  
47 Service is Marci Johnson, who is our other wildlife  
48 biologist. I'll have her stand up. Marci.

49  
50 On this sheet of information my contact

1 information is on there as well as Marci's, so if you  
2 are interested in hearing about conflicts with  
3 wildlife, Marci is working on getting together this  
4 working group for mitigating wildlife conflicts, so she  
5 would be the point person to contact with your concerns  
6 or resources that are available to try to come up with  
7 plans to mitigate these problems. We have bear-  
8 resistant containers that are available for people to  
9 borrow free of charge. There are also ideas on how to  
10 protect cabins and things like that. So Marci would be  
11 the point person for that.

12

13                   The Park Service also does a variety of  
14 outreach. We have websites that we post information  
15 on. Bering Land Bridge has a really great website with  
16 educational materials about that preserve. We also  
17 have a website for Cape Krusenstern National Monument,  
18 Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak National  
19 Preserve.

20

21                   We also have a blog that is updated and  
22 these links are on the sheet I gave you that gives an  
23 update on projects that are happening in the Park.  
24 Additionally, there is a newsletter put out by the Park  
25 Service Inventory and Monitoring Program that does  
26 research in the Parks. I brought a few copies of those  
27 here for people to look at. It talks about the variety  
28 of research they do from sheep to shallow lakes to  
29 permafrost and habitat and all sorts of other things  
30 they do. So that's another way we try to reach out.

31

32                   I'll ask Marci if she has anything to  
33 add. I think that will wrap up the wildlife summary.  
34 I'll pass it off to Jeanette and if you have any  
35 questions, you can feel free to ask those.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before I pass this  
38 on, I've got a question. You mentioned that you did an  
39 aerial survey with the State this summer?

40

41                   MS. ROBISON: Yes, for grizzly bears,  
42 for brown bears.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm talking about the  
45 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

46

47                   MS. ROBISON: Oh, Fish and Game did a  
48 survey of the -- so Fish and Game always does the  
49 aerial surveys for caribou and they flew that survey in  
50 July. To do that survey they have GPS collars on

1 animals, so they know where the animals are. They know  
2 when they're aggregating. Then they do a high  
3 elevation reconnaissance flight to see where the  
4 animals are aggregated. From there they fly the herd  
5 and take photos of the herd while they're aggregated so  
6 they can get a count. This year the weather was  
7 unfavorable and they were unable to get the quality of  
8 photos that they needed to come up with a count.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. With that  
11 said, then I'll follow up with my questions. When they  
12 did an aerial survey, but verbally what did Jim say?  
13 Did the numbers look up or down on the caribou,  
14 declining or increasing or stable from last year?

15

16 MS. ROBISON: Well, I don't want to  
17 speak for Jim and take a stab at what he might have  
18 said. I'll defer to Fish and Game on how they want to  
19 respond to that question. I don't know if Nikki Braem  
20 has an idea or if she would rather defer to Jim's  
21 direct comment.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Could you come up,  
24 Nikki. I'd like to know and they will probably like to  
25 hear it because caribou, you know, is always our issue.

26

27 MS. BRAEM: When I got to Kotzebue on  
28 Monday, I checked in with Brandon Saito because I knew  
29 you guys were going to want to know about this. Dau  
30 has been ferrying planes back and forth, so he just got  
31 back to Kotzebue yesterday. I looked over the photos  
32 because I was like, wow, when I heard the news. Yeah,  
33 they are not going to give an estimate because I don't  
34 think they feel they can. Unfortunately, both men are  
35 tied up in a wildlife conservation meeting today and  
36 haven't been able to call.

37

38 I did request, please, give me anything  
39 to give these guys because I'm the only one in the  
40 room, but I think they're caught up in that meeting.  
41 So I did not get any general -- anything that I can  
42 really hang my hat on about good, bad, what it looked  
43 like from the air. The one thing that Brandon Saito  
44 did say to me is they're pleased. The winters we've  
45 had the last two years haven't been so tough on the  
46 caribou and that's about the only thing that I can say  
47 I was told about the count.

48

49 I apologize. I sent a bunch of frantic  
50 emails because I feared you would grill me pretty hard

1 on this topic, but I can't offer anything else at this  
2 time.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I thought I'd ask  
5 that because I knew bottom of my heart that there was a  
6 slim chance that you'd be able to answer it. With that  
7 said, Enoch, you had your hand up.

8

9 MR. MITCHELL: Is this the first survey  
10 on the brown bears you guys did?

11

12 MS. ROBISON: Last May was the first  
13 survey that we successfully completed on the Seward  
14 Peninsula. We had tried to carry out the survey on the  
15 Peninsula a couple of different times and had some  
16 logistical issues with weather. The weather can be  
17 pretty tough in coming out of Nome with the fog. So  
18 this year we feel really good. We got great weather  
19 for flying. We were able to finish all the units we  
20 needed to finish.

21

22 In talking with the statistician who  
23 we're working with to analyze the data, he feels really  
24 hopeful that we'll be able to get a good population  
25 estimate for the bears on the Seward Pen. That  
26 methodology we're hoping to use in other surveys, such  
27 as in the Lower Noatak, which is where we're hoping to  
28 do a survey next.

29

30 MR. MITCHELL: Next?

31

32 MS. ROBISON: Yes, with the Lower  
33 Noatak is where we're hoping to do a survey next.

34

35 MR. MITCHELL: These surveys are going  
36 to be with the predator control or is the predator  
37 control stuff getting started?

38

39 MS. KOELSCH: The National Park Service  
40 does not use that type of means and methods for  
41 predators. So on Federal public land, on National Park  
42 Service land, we don't allow for predator control.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anything else.  
45 Anyone else.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not -- go ahead,  
50 Percy.

1 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I see  
2 you guys did a user conflict study. I was just  
3 wondering can we get a copy of those sometime. The one  
4 that had TEK for Noatak and the one that was done by  
5 non-local hunters.

6  
7 MS. ROBISON: Yes. I brought a couple  
8 of copies with me that I can show you what they look  
9 like and then I can share those with you if you have an  
10 email address or I can mail them to you either way.

11  
12 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, email is good. I  
13 think it's important because hearing what's been going  
14 on up the Squirrel and stuff, I need to educate myself  
15 a lot more on their concerns and what's out there with  
16 data regarding user conflicts in that area.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
19 Anyone else. Go ahead, Enoch.

20  
21 MR. MITCHELL: Can I get a copy of that  
22 survey?

23  
24 MS. ROBISON: Currently we're working  
25 on analyzing the data from the bear survey from this  
26 summer. When those results are available, we will make  
27 them available to the public.

28  
29 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I was going to  
30 say while the Park Service is still up so we can finish  
31 their item, I wanted to check in and see if Kumi or  
32 Marcy or Ken wanted to provide any last updates or  
33 information pieces for the Park Service.

34  
35 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I just want  
36 to say my hat's off to Park Service for doing all these  
37 surveys. You see caribou and you see moose, you see  
38 brown bear, muskox. I'm very happy to see and get to  
39 look at the work you guys do. I'm pleased to know that  
40 people are actually managing their resources on their  
41 land.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. You  
44 heard Percy. It's coming from all of us, we just use  
45 his voice.

46  
47 MS. BURKE: Ken or Marcy or Kumi, is  
48 there anything else so we can finish up the Park  
49 Service item or anything from Bert, anyone in the room.  
50

1 MR. ADKISSON: I don't have anything  
2 anymore. This is Ken. But the others might.

3  
4 MS. BURKE: Thanks, Ken.

5  
6 MS. RATTENBURY: This is Kumi. I was  
7 just going to say I don't have anything further for  
8 Western Arctic Parkland. This is Kumi, but I think  
9 Marcy Okada has stuff for Gates of the Arctic.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
12 Thank you. Report well done. Hardly any questions.  
13 We're happy to see it on paper. A lot of different  
14 surveys being done. Anything else where we have to go,  
15 Melinda, from here.

16  
17 MR. FROST: I just wanted to say I'm  
18 going to be leaving in an hour or so. I just wanted to  
19 say thanks. It's been great spending the last few days  
20 with you guys, getting to know you and hearing what  
21 your concerns are and listening to you. As you know,  
22 I'm new to the Board. I've got a huge learning curve  
23 and coming to meetings like this really helps me out  
24 and helps me understand what you guys are up against  
25 and it's just been great being here and I appreciate  
26 the candid conversations we've had and the great  
27 feelings and just being able to talk with each other  
28 and understand and hopefully we can continue to work  
29 closely together. So thanks.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It was nice talking  
32 to you. Just put it this way, Ken did pretty good to  
33 talk to you. He done a good job.

34  
35 (Laughter)

36  
37 MR. FROST: I have great staff, so they  
38 keep me in line.

39  
40 MR. BALLOT: I thank you all for coming  
41 and I hope we get to see each other again and  
42 understand we are who we are and always will be who we  
43 are and it's the only way we're going to live our life  
44 to pass what we've learned and what we do in our  
45 resources to our kids.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. So  
48 who are we going to take now, Melinda, since we've  
49 been.....

50

1 MS. BURKE: How about the State?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: How about the State  
4 of Alaska.

5

6 MS. BRAEM: All right. So I have a  
7 little update on research that Division of Subsistence  
8 has been conducting in the region. I'm not going to  
9 present much data today because most of the data has  
10 not been vetted by the communities yet and we generally  
11 don't publish results until we've had the communities  
12 go through and review our work and offer comment and  
13 revision.

14

15 I'm going to blow through the boring  
16 slides about how we work and just get to the projects  
17 because I know you guys have been sitting for a while.  
18 I'll briefly talk about what we do and then I'll just  
19 tell you about the projects. Then if you guys want to  
20 get into some of the topics we talked about earlier, we  
21 can get into those too. Some of the things you brought  
22 up, Raymond.

23

24 So we're a little tiny part of State  
25 Fish and Game. The easiest way to explain what I do is  
26 -- you know, the biologist study the caribou and the  
27 fish and all that stuff and we work with the people.  
28 We are in the business of studying and understanding  
29 subsistence. We can talk about what we do in two types  
30 of work basically.

31

32 There's the stuff where we count things  
33 and estimate things and many of you are familiar with  
34 harvest surveys, and then we do projects where we talk  
35 with people and they teach us about subsistence and  
36 talk to us about it. It's a more descriptive kind of  
37 research.

38

39 All the work we do are based on what I  
40 consider ethical ways to work with people. These  
41 include the AFN conventions on research in the north  
42 and others. These involve community collaboration and  
43 consultation, which includes approval. We don't go and  
44 do work where people don't want to work with us. We  
45 usually approach the tribal council. We hire and train  
46 local research assistants. There's two reasons why.  
47 One, there's a very pragmatic reason. When we work  
48 with local people, we get better research done. The  
49 other thing is because local hire is a benefit to the  
50 community and it provides capacity building as well.

1                   We maintain the confidentiality of the  
2 results people tell us. So if I go into a harvest  
3 survey and somebody tells me how much they catch, I  
4 never publish those results or make them available to  
5 other people. We just work for the community overall,  
6 hence we protect what people tell us.

7  
8                   We don't have any enforcement authority  
9 and I don't ask if you buy hunting or fishing license  
10 because that's not the point of the study.

11  
12                   Finally, even when the tribal  
13 government says, sure, come in and do a study, any  
14 person who doesn't want to participate they don't have  
15 to. We just thank them for their time and move on.

16  
17                   So I'll talk a little bit about what we  
18 do. We do harvest surveys, we do subsistence use  
19 survey mapping, we do TEK studies. Sometimes we do all  
20 three at once. Those are really long ones. And we work  
21 with both local and regional groups, so we've worked  
22 with Maniilaq, we've worked with Attamuk back when he  
23 was still at Maniilaq. We work with Kawerak, we work  
24 with the borough and we work with tribes. Also with  
25 universities as well sometimes.

26  
27                   This photo here is from one of the  
28 studies that I'm going to talk about in a minute. This  
29 is Odin Miller and we had a very large project, which  
30 is wrapping up, about subsistence fishing. So Odin got  
31 an opportunity to follow somebody out fishing out of  
32 Noorvik, I believe. He's a big, tall guy, so he's a  
33 good guy to put to work.

34  
35                   I won't spend a lot of time on this.  
36 You know that the work we do is often used in  
37 regulations, developing regulations and management  
38 informing them. This is also used in the events of  
39 disasters or when there are development projects that  
40 are proposed.

41  
42                   So the first project I want to talk to  
43 you about is called  
44 Key Northwest Fisheries in Northwest Alaska. This is  
45 actually a project that I developed with Attamuk back  
46 several years ago to go and do a fisheries project in  
47 eight communities in the region for three years in a  
48 row. Our final year of data collection was in Spain  
49 this year, so we're just getting that data together and  
50 soon we're going to start going back to the communities

1 with the results saying here's what we think we've  
2 found, let's talk about what we think our findings are.

3

4

5                   So a very large project. It had three  
6 components. There was a fish harvest survey, there  
7 were interviews with local people with knowledgeable  
8 folks about what's going on with subsistence fishing.  
9 The best part I think is we had money to go back and go  
10 fishing with people. So we tried to pick different  
11 communities that had different fish that they rely  
12 upon. I have some photos for that shortly.

13

14                   So we were able to go to Noatak,  
15 Buckland, Kobuk, Shungnak, Ambler, Kiana, Noorvik and  
16 Selawik for three years in a row basically. We added  
17 Buckland in a little later to replace a community that  
18 we didn't go to. I was really excited to get to  
19 Buckland, so we have some photos from Buckland.

20

21                   We've been compiling some historic  
22 photos for Buckland, so this is from the Upper -- it's  
23 going to be on the report and I love photos myself.  
24 There's Della Keats' camp out at Sisolik back in the  
25 '60s. This is also another picture from the '60s. I'm  
26 just kind of scanning through them here. There's folks  
27 with a trap up in the Upper Kobuk by Shungnak many  
28 years ago. This is Noatak. We went there quite a bit  
29 and a surveyor. I got to go fishing with them in the  
30 fall. Bernice there was cutting fish in the fall time  
31 in Noatak.

32

33                   Then we got a chance to go seining with  
34 Don Williams and Mike Adams and a couple other folks.  
35 We were looking for trout, but we mostly found  
36 whitefish there. We got to try suvak for the first  
37 time. There's Don popping the fish open and getting  
38 eggs right out of the fish. There's me trying. They  
39 were very good actually. I'm like I'll do it again.

40

41                   This is Noorvik in the winter. Andrew  
42 went pike fishing with some folks out of Noorvik. I  
43 had no idea that people caught pike like that. Holy  
44 cow. We had a really good day. Here's the pike they  
45 caught through the ice that day. Every community is  
46 different in what they need and what they rely upon is  
47 a little different.

48

49                   This here is Buckland and seining for  
50 smelt. This was just two years ago in the spring. I

1 really wanted to get the smelt fishery here. So look  
2 at all those smelt in that net right there. And then  
3 there's great pictures everywhere you look people are  
4 drying smelt everywhere. There's some dipnetting for  
5 smelt right there. Drying smelt.

6  
7 This is really the most fun part I  
8 think of doing research is hanging out with people.  
9 Here's more smelt on the gravel. That's the last  
10 slide. I could put up like 50 pictures, but I know  
11 we're pressed for time. But it's been a really great  
12 project and I wish we could keep doing it. It was  
13 funded for three years. The State isn't monitoring  
14 fisheries in this area. A lot of places they monitor  
15 them annually. We felt it was time to try to get a  
16 good idea of how fisheries were doing here in Unit 23.

17  
18 The next project was called Chukchi Sea  
19 and Norton Sound Observation Network. Also a three-  
20 year project, but it was not limited to fish. It was  
21 one of those everything surveys. A whole year's worth  
22 of subsistence in the communities.

23  
24 We went to nine communities and in your  
25 region. We went to Noorvik in 2013, Deering in 2014  
26 and we went to Point Hope and Kotzebue in 2015. We're  
27 writing that report right now and we'll be going back  
28 and taking the results to the communities. This was a  
29 very ambitious project. The idea was that we'd get a  
30 sense of what was going on in Arctic Alaska from as far  
31 south as Bering  
32 Strait all the way up to North Slope.

33  
34 The other project is annually since  
35 about 1999, I think Susan was working for us when it  
36 started, we started doing community harvest  
37 assessments for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. This  
38 one is actually funded by State money. It's a simple  
39 harvest survey just about caribou, moose, bear, a  
40 couple of the predators, and it's ongoing. It's not a  
41 short duration study like some of the other ones were.  
42 We surveyed Kotzebue in 2013 and 2014 and we also have  
43 2015 caribou harvest data as well, which will be coming  
44 out.

45  
46 We do have funding to go to four  
47 communities in the region in 2016. I suspect we're  
48 going to talk to Noatak about going back again and see  
49 how things are going there and some other communities  
50 in Units 22 and 23.

1                   The one thing I think we're going to  
2 change now, which we have not been doing, is to modify  
3 the survey that we can start getting an understanding  
4 of how much time and expense people are putting into  
5 their caribou hunting every year because I think  
6 effort, a sense of how far they have to travel, how  
7 much time they have to spend, and expenses they have to  
8 have to go caribou hunting is kind of important at this  
9 point, so we're going to start trying to collect that  
10 data now too.

11  
12                   That's again the short and sweet  
13 version of what we've been doing. I'm hoping to come  
14 to the spring meeting and maybe bring back some  
15 results, some data from these projects in particular.

16  
17                   The only other thing that I really  
18 wanted to bring up today on my end was in January of  
19 2016 there is going to be a Board of Fish meeting that  
20 covers the Arctic area and a proposal was submitted by  
21 the Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee to  
22 make rod and reel a legal subsistence gear in  
23 additional areas of Kotzebue.

24  
25                   This is not the most fun thing to work  
26 through, but let me explain it this way. In some  
27 portions of the Kotzebue district rod and reel is a  
28 legal subsistence gear. Again, this is a State thing.  
29 That means that persons who are fishing rod and reel do  
30 not have to purchase a sport fishing license. See that  
31 little blue area in the very far left of that map, sort  
32 of in Cape Prince of Wales up to Cape Espenberg, that  
33 very light blue area is the portion which under State  
34 regs rod and reel is a legal subsistence gear.

35  
36                   Now you see this dark area with lines.  
37 That's most of Unit 23. Those are Federally managed  
38 waters. On Federally managed waters rod and reel is a  
39 legal subsistence gear. The white area on that map is  
40 State managed water where rod and reel is not  
41 considered a legal subsistence gear. I can anticipate  
42 the questions because this is very confusing.

43  
44                   At any rate, the Kotzebue Sound Fish  
45 and Game Advisory Committee has submitted a proposal  
46 saying let's make these light blue areas also a place  
47 where rod and reel is legal subsistence gear.

48  
49                   So where we are on this right now in  
50 this process, the Department receives the proposals and

1 then Department staff come up with comments, which are  
2 then published and provided to the Board and to the  
3 public. They're being written right now. I'm involved  
4 in writing them as well as other members of the  
5 Department. They're not going to be available to the  
6 Board or to the public until December 21st, 2015. So  
7 that's when you'll see what the Department has to say  
8 about these proposals.

9

10                   Anyone can provide comments on them.  
11 If after my presentation you want to know where to get  
12 a comment form or who to send it to, I'm happy to help  
13 you guys out in that way. But I did want to make you  
14 aware that this one was upcoming. The meeting is in  
15 Fairbanks in January 2016.

16

17                   Here is my contact information. You  
18 can reach me by email or phone. We have all our  
19 reports and data online at the addresses you see there.  
20 So if you have internet access you can look some of our  
21 work up or our reports. And that's it. I tried to  
22 keep it short and sweet. Any questions.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll get to you,  
25 Enoch. This time I'm going to ask to start myself.  
26 The reason why at Kotzebue we wanted rod and reel to be  
27 legal is when we're out hunting, harvesting for like  
28 seals, belugas and stuff, they want it legal for us to  
29 harvest fish with rod and reel. We argued with them  
30 that we can't afford to put a net because the fish are  
31 traveling in big numbers. We set a net, we'll get 100  
32 fish and we end up spoiling them. We only use rod and  
33 reel just for the meal for the day. That's why we  
34 wanted rod and reel to be legal. I think it should be  
35 legal all over just for that. It's very important and  
36 I would like to see that it get to all over the state  
37 of Alaska. That way we won't waste.

38

39                   Enoch, go ahead.

40

41                   MR. MITCHELL: When we talk about the  
42 proposal to make rod and reel legal subsistence gear,  
43 we in Noatak, the caribou cross early in the morning  
44 and late in the evening, but during the day we wait and  
45 while we are waiting we've got fishing rods and we  
46 always went for trout. So we subsist, we get our fish  
47 a little bit at a time right there, not sacs. After  
48 caribou hunting, we'll go seining for trout, whitefish  
49 and we'll put them away. The ones we get with rod and  
50 reel are fresh and we cook them right away while we're

1 waiting for caribou. We use rod and reel for  
2 subsistence.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

5

6 Go ahead, Raymond.

7

8 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9 Well, I've got probably another hot question to you  
10 concerning fishing with rod and reel. As we all know  
11 this year, this happened again. Like for NANA, they  
12 charter a really fancy aircraft with that big staff and  
13 brings up to Kiana and they take them out fishing with  
14 rod and reels. Now these people from NANA, they go and  
15 what they do is catch and release. Why are you  
16 authorizing that when you won't let us use rod and reel  
17 for subsistence? Why is NANA doing it? That should be  
18 something stopped like that, catch and release of  
19 sheefish.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

22

23 Go ahead, Kramer.

24

25 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. With it being said  
26 that, you know, you guys talking about the caribou  
27 census photos not being good enough to do counts and  
28 the last count was in 2013 and it was at 235,000 head,  
29 you know, that gap alone leaves us all with a big  
30 question mark until it's actually done. Are we going  
31 to have a repeat of the sheep thing? We don't know.

32

33 That's why I think making a plan of  
34 action today will help us tomorrow because if we could  
35 at least make a decision today due to the fact that  
36 it's been almost three years now that we haven't had a  
37 census since the last one at 235,000 head. I just  
38 don't ever want to see a repeat of the sheep incident  
39 again. That sheep thing really hurt a lot of us pretty  
40 bad who harvest sheep. That's why I could see the  
41 possibilities of us looking at the possibilities of  
42 eliminating transporters until further notice until a  
43 good, accurate count is complete.

44

45 I just don't want the crash to hit us  
46 hard because if it hits the region hard, it's going to  
47 hit everybody hard. You know, without an accurate  
48 count, we never know. We could have dropped 50,000  
49 animals and nobody knows. That's why when our Chairman  
50 comes back we should probably possibly make a motion

1 for an emergency order to shut down all transporters  
2 within Game Management Unit 23 until further notice  
3 until we can get an accurate count on the caribou herd  
4 or as to what their status is.

5  
6 You know, as to your studies, I really  
7 appreciate a lot of these organizations doing studies  
8 and involving kids, involving our youth. I really  
9 appreciate that and I hope it continues to be an  
10 ongoing thing and I hope that funding is always  
11 provided for it.

12  
13 That's all I have for right now.

14  
15 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Thank you,  
16 Nikki. It was a good report, but I think we already  
17 ran out of a smelt. Did you get to have some while you  
18 were here?

19  
20 MS. BRAEM: No, I didn't know. I  
21 didn't see them. Oh, no.

22  
23 MR. BALLOT: Because we ate them all  
24 up. The study was good and the partnership with the  
25 Native village was good. I think it was good to see  
26 some of the pictures. Just can't wait for next spring.  
27 So we'll get -- a final report will be later this month  
28 or later this fall of the three-year project?

29  
30 MS. BRAEM: I've been told we're going  
31 to have our third year's data. It was being analyzed.  
32 We're a little behind. We're going to have a review  
33 meeting in November. We do review internally in my  
34 office and then we go out to the communities. So  
35 between now -- we'll do that November. We're going to  
36 start in November and we'll probably be working through  
37 early winter going back, bringing the data back to all  
38 the communities. So we'll be contacting all the  
39 Councils and arranging when we can come out to a  
40 meeting and start doing this.

41  
42 MR. BALLOT: So it just goes to show  
43 you like I say, when we run out of a species, we hunt  
44 them and we use them up, now we are waiting for caribou  
45 and by the time we're done with caribou hopefully  
46 something else will pop up like the smelt, come and go.

47  
48 MS. BRAEM: I have a question for the  
49 group. I did attempt to look up some of the questions  
50 people had that they wanted the State to answer. I'm

1 not sure how much more we have on the agenda and what  
2 you want to get into and what we have time for. Raymond  
3 had inquired about taking of game for religious  
4 ceremonies and I looked that one up. There is a  
5 provision for the taking of game for a certain -- I  
6 could pull it up, but it's typically for funerary  
7 traditions, ceremony and funeral type of celebrations,  
8 like a potlatch.

9

10                   There are some requirements the  
11 Department has attached to that, which I could go  
12 through. But I looked on the list of things. Actually  
13 it's up here and if I could see better, I would  
14 actually just pull up the PDF for you guys that I  
15 saved. Let's close this out. I could use a little  
16 technical assistance actually in this regard.  
17 Basically, let me go ahead and just shut this down and  
18 I'll pull up the funerary tradition thing. It will  
19 take me a second. I can't see because I'm 45 and I  
20 have bad eyes now.

21

22                   (Pause)

23

24                   MS. BRAEM: Okay. So under Alaska  
25 Administrative Code, that big, thick, awful book with  
26 tiny, tiny print where all our regs reside, 5 AAC  
27 92.019, the hunting and taking of big game, customarily  
28 and traditionally taken or used for subsistence as  
29 defined in State law -- oh, I can't see anything. I'm  
30 sorry, guys. Floyd, please make it bigger for me.  
31 Just make it bigger. You can tell the difference  
32 between a Mac and a PC person.

33

34                   Thank you very much.

35

36                   All right. So basically the taking of  
37 big game customarily and traditionally taken or used  
38 for subsistence outside the seasons or bag limits  
39 established for use as food in customary and  
40 traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary  
41 religious ceremonies within 12 months preceding the  
42 ceremony is authorized. And here's the catch because  
43 there's always a catch, you know.

44

45                   If consistent with sustained yield  
46 principles. The Department under this is obligated to  
47 publish a list of big game populations and areas, if  
48 there are any, for which the taking of a big game  
49 animal would be inconsistent with sustained yield  
50 principles.

1                   A written permit from the department is  
2 not required for taking big game, but before big game  
3 is taken under this section a tribal chief, village  
4 council president, or the chief's or president's  
5 designee, for the village in which the religious  
6 ceremony will be held, must notify the nearest office  
7 of the department that a hunt for a big game animal  
8 will take place, they must include the number of  
9 animals expected to be taken, the location where it's  
10 going to happen, they have to have records of the  
11 successful hunters, the persons who are deceased for  
12 the ceremony.

13  
14                   There's a whole list of things,  
15 stipulations of what you must do prior to taking big  
16 game out of season for a funeral or a religious  
17 ceremony. So I'm going to print this up and send you  
18 home -- I don't want to read this whole thing to you  
19 while you guys are sitting here at this meeting, but  
20 I'd be happy to print this up for you and give you the  
21 list of things which you can do this for. I did not  
22 see, in answer to your question, muskox in 23 in the  
23 list.

24  
25                   That's all I have to say about it I  
26 guess for now unless there are any further questions.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any questions for  
29 Nikki.

30  
31                   MR. MOTO: No.

32  
33                   (Laughter)

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Not? Yay.

36  
37                   (Laughter)

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Now who's  
40 last?

41  
42                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. I wanted to  
43 just go back and make sure that we hadn't skipped over  
44 -- is Marcy Okada or Kumi on the line? I just wanted  
45 to make sure that you ladies didn't have any lingering  
46 updates or anything for the Council.

47  
48                   MS. OKADA: Hi, Melinda. This is Marcy  
49 Okada. I do have a Gates of the Arctic update.  
50

1 MS. BURKE: Okay, go for it, Marcy.  
2 They have got the handout. I handed it out when I  
3 passed out Hillary's handout, so go ahead.

4  
5 MS. OKADA: Okay. My name is Marcy  
6 Okada. I'm a subsistence coordinator for Gates of the  
7 Arctic. As you can see there's a map on your handout.  
8 The western portion of Gates Unit 23, so that's why I'm  
9 calling in to the meeting today. So I'll just quickly  
10 go over the update with you.

11  
12 As far as moose surveys go with the  
13 Park and Preserve, moose surveys are done in the  
14 eastern portion of Gates of the Arctic. There's just a  
15 little bit of information for the moose surveys that  
16 we've done in the eastern portion.

17  
18 Folks had already covered information  
19 as far as the Western Arctic Caribou Herd goes. So  
20 there's just a little bit of information just  
21 mentioning that regulations are most likely to change  
22 because of the decline in the herd.

23  
24 Moving on to bears, we also have been  
25 collecting data on grizzly bears. This is a project  
26 that's related to the proposed corridor to the Ambler  
27 mining district. Despite the fact that this project  
28 for the road corridor going into the Ambler mining  
29 district is currently not an option, funding for this  
30 project has already been procured, so this project is  
31 continuing up until next year, which is the last year  
32 for field work. Basically the project entails GPS  
33 collaring grizzly bears and collecting information on  
34 their denning sites and what they've been eating.

35  
36 So for moose, caribou and bears, a  
37 large mammal biologist for base projects is Kyle Joly.  
38 I don't know if any of you folks already know him. He  
39 attended the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group  
40 meeting.

41  
42 Moving on to Dall sheep. Kumi had  
43 already called in and mentioned a little bit more  
44 information on the Dall sheep surveys that were  
45 conducted this past summer. This is just a quick  
46 synopsis of what she'd seen. She'd already shared most  
47 of that information.

48  
49 One thing to mention is that for  
50 (indiscernible), which is in northeast corner of Gates

1 of the Arctic and for sheep habitat areas around the  
2 community of Anaktuvuk Pass, surveys will be conducted  
3 yearly. Kumi had mentioned a survey for Dall sheep was  
4 conducted this past July. Finalization of that data  
5 will be coming out shortly.

6

7 With regard to fires that occurred  
8 within Gates of the Arctic, there was only one fire  
9 that was reported on July 15th and it was a lightning-  
10 started fire called a Lockwood Fire. It was located  
11 south of the Kobuk River and north of the Noatak Hills  
12 area and it burned about 700.2 acres. No cultural  
13 areas or natural areas were threatened by the fire. It  
14 went up fast and then it was put out naturally by rain  
15 on August 9th.

16

17 The last thing for Gates of the Arctic  
18 National Park SRC held a teleconference meeting this  
19 past April. We mainly discussed surveys, cultural  
20 research projects and the Federal subsistence wildlife  
21 proposals. Unfortunately the subsistence resource  
22 commission wasn't able to vote on these proposals, but  
23 we will be having meeting this November and that's when  
24 the commission members will be voting on the proposals  
25 that you just discussed today and yesterday.

26

27 Currently Louie Commack from Ambler is  
28 the chair of the SRC. We have a secretary that's  
29 appointed from Shungnak and that would be Sally Custer.  
30 She'll be attending for the first time at our November  
31 meeting.

32

33 And that's it for the update.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Attamuk here. I've  
36 just got a question on your fire management. A few  
37 years ago when I worked for Maniilaq I'd bring in some  
38 people and their request -- I know this never happened  
39 in our area for a long time, but there was no fire in  
40 our area and that's what I'm saying, but the people  
41 that worried about caribou they did not want fire in  
42 Northwest Alaska due to it would take the moss forever  
43 to grow. I just wanted to pass that on to you. When I  
44 bring in two people from every village for Maniilaq  
45 service area.

46

47 Any questions for her. Go ahead,

48 Percy.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I heard about a

1 month ago that Anaktuvuk Pass had no caribou and  
2 they've been waiting and waiting. Was there any  
3 hunting in that area of Anaktuvuk Pass during this  
4 migration time?

5  
6 MS. OKADA: Kumi and I were just up at  
7 Anaktuvuk Pass last month, September, and the hunters  
8 said the caribou hadn't gone past yet. What had  
9 happened is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd stayed way  
10 west. I remember in the past the outer range usually  
11 trickled through Anaktuvuk Pass. They also rely on the  
12 Teshekpuk Herd and that had yet to come through. I  
13 haven't heard anything yet in October as far as whether  
14 any of the hunters have been able to get some. But  
15 they rely on two herds and that's what I've heard.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone  
18 else.

19  
20 Go ahead, Enoch.

21  
22 MR. MITCHELL: Hi, Marcy. I didn't  
23 know there was one fire by the Kobuk area. I know  
24 there was a small fire by Noatak Flats about six miles.  
25 Is that too small to be fought or just didn't report  
26 it?

27  
28 MS. OKADA: The fire information that I  
29 just showed came from the Eastern Area Fire Management  
30 Office. They cover fires that occur within Gates of  
31 the Arctic, but no farther west. I'm not sure whether  
32 there was a fire reported in your area.

33  
34 MR. MITCHELL: Okay.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go  
37 ahead, Calvin.

38  
39 MR. MOTO: We have fire in the tundra.  
40 It's a lot different than where you gave trees because  
41 when the tundra is dry you could have a fire here. Five  
42 minutes later it's almost five miles down the way.  
43 This is what our concern is when we have caribou  
44 around. Where are they going to go, you know. What  
45 are they going to do. How many will we lose and stuff  
46 like that.

47  
48 I work a couple of times when we had a  
49 fire from Kougarok went all the way to Imuruk Lake and  
50 came back seven miles above Deering. That was the

1 longest fire I've walked in. The grounds are where  
2 caribou graze. One of the beneficiaries of that is it  
3 got rid of a lot of all those shrubs and it made better  
4 feed for them, but this is a concern, fire on the  
5 tundra. I just thought I'd bring that up.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

8

9 Go ahead, Percy.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
12 mainly concerned about the folks from Anaktuvuk Pass  
13 because it's really their livelihood. They have hardly  
14 anything else. Us on the coast we have other animals  
15 and other villages have other stuff, but they're right  
16 there in the mountains and they don't have anything.  
17 I've been hearing this and I've been kind of concerned.

18

19

20 I want to spread the word out that I  
21 was going to try to work with Maniilaq to try to see  
22 whether our region can help in some way send some  
23 caribou up that way through our villages and try to  
24 find a way that we could donate. So I wanted to pass  
25 the message to your villages to see if there's some way  
26 we could help them. Because if they're not going to be  
27 getting any caribou, like you say, they should have  
28 passed by already, that they will need some help.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You heard him. Pass  
31 that on, please.

32

33 MS. OKADA: Thank you. I could try to  
34 send you some information as far as a contact for the  
35 tribal council or the city council. I know that North  
36 Slope Borough has attended the city council meeting  
37 last month and the community did share some of their  
38 concerns with them. The Borough has also been sending  
39 shipments of food and every household within the  
40 community. I think the city council had also helped to  
41 charter a plane to take at least five hunters out north  
42 of Gates of the Arctic to try to look for caribou, but  
43 I'm not sure how successful that hunt was. The North  
44 Slope RAC meeting will be in Anaktuvuk Pass the first  
45 week of November, so there will probably be good  
46 community turnout for that meeting.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: Okay, thank you. Anyway,  
49 my phone number is 903-0321 and that's Percy Ballot.  
50 Any information I can get would be appreciated. I know

1 we can't feed the whole town, but we could send them  
2 something for Christmas or a potluck or whatever for  
3 some to have a bite. In Buckland, we received muktuk  
4 before from people from up north when we had no beluga  
5 and stuff like that. It's good to reach out to other  
6 places when they need some help.

7

8 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Percy. I'm sure  
9 the community will appreciate that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anything  
12 else.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda, anything we  
17 need to go through.

18

19 MS. BURKE: Marcy, are you done?

20

21 MS. OKADA: Yes.

22

23 MS. BURKE: Okay, great. Then what  
24 I'll do too before the meeting wraps up today I'll  
25 start an email chain between Marcy, myself, Percy and  
26 Eva Patton, who is the North Slope council coordinator  
27 and we'll see what kind of information we can chair  
28 amongst each other.

29

30 All right, folks. We're getting  
31 towards the last few items. I have one very quick topic  
32 to cover. In the last year or so we've made it a  
33 common practice to discuss any important speak actions  
34 that take place in your region throughout the year,  
35 just kind of review those. There were two key special  
36 actions that took place. Let's see, the first one, the  
37 news release was sent out on June 24th and we've been  
38 working really closely on outreach with the  
39 coordinators and our new Native liaison Orville Lind to  
40 try to get information out to the communities and  
41 tribes as soon as we possibly can.

42

43 This Special Action 3/4/5/6 was  
44 submitted by the North Slope Council and there was  
45 changes to caribou harvest regulations on Federal  
46 public lands that were very similar to changes made in  
47 the State regulations. We try to get this information  
48 out as soon as we could after the decisions were made.  
49 We called the tribes and we faxed over the news  
50 release.

1                   The other one had to do with sheep in  
2 portions of 23 and 26A. It was Wildlife Special Action  
3 WSA15-07, which closed hunting in Unit 23 except on a  
4 portion of Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
5 Preserve and in 26A, the portion west of Howard Pass  
6 and Etivluk River. There was a temporary closure from  
7 July 1st, 2015 through June 30th, 2016.

8  
9                   So those were the two key ones that  
10 came out from this region this last year. It's pretty  
11 new, but we've just been making it a procedure to add  
12 in a short discussion on the special actions that took  
13 place within the region. We've got Orville now there  
14 in the office and if there's any improvements or  
15 anything that you can see where we can get information  
16 to the communities as quickly as we can after decisions  
17 were made. We've been trying our best to make sure  
18 that all bases are covered, so we appreciate Orville's  
19 hard work and his addition to our staff.

20  
21                   Mr. Chair.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Is this  
24 going to include the amendment we made earlier that we  
25 don't want them to ticket female from July 1st.  
26 Remember we made changes on the dates. Is that going  
27 to include this one here?

28  
29                   MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. That was a  
30 special action that was brought forth by the North  
31 Slope RAC and the actions that this Council took today  
32 will be considered by the Board in January, so they're  
33 independent of each other.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

36  
37                   MS. BURKE: You're welcome. Let's see,  
38 we also have -- since we've got Mr. Lind here with us,  
39 Orville will be giving the OSM update. If the Council  
40 will turn to Page 287, we've got the OSM fall 2015  
41 report. We've got some staffing updates.

42  
43                   MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
44 and Council members. Orville Lind, Office of  
45 Subsistence Management Native Liaison. I wanted to  
46 start off with the staffing update. We have just hired  
47 Ameer Howard and she joined OSM as the new subsistence  
48 policy coordinator in July of 2015. Prior to OSM she  
49 worked as an Environmental Protection Specialist for  
50 the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service in

1 Boulder City, Nevada. Previously, she worked for the  
2 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
3 Commercial Fisheries, as a Fish and Game Program  
4 Technician in Sitka.

5  
6           Amee also spent time working as the  
7 Coastal Monitoring Coordinator for the Sitka Tribe of  
8 Alaska. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Natural  
9 Sciences, with minors in Environmental Studies and  
10 Geology, from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.  
11 Ameer possesses a well-rounded background gained from  
12 previous work experience and is a valuable addition to  
13 the OSM team.

14  
15           I want to say a little bit about OSM  
16 team in the last few years. We've filled some vacancies  
17 and I've got to say just working since last December up  
18 until now we have a great team. We work as a team and  
19 I think it's starting to show with you receiving all  
20 the materials and working together. I really see that  
21 as building our relationships with the tribes and the  
22 RAC Councils all through the state.

23  
24           I'm going to introduce another new  
25 staff member, but I'm going to let her tell you who she  
26 is and what she does.

27  
28           MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
29 and members of the Council. Once again I am Robbin  
30 LaVine. I'm an anthropologist at OSM and I am new  
31 staff to OSM, but I am not new to Federal mandate.  
32 I've been working on subsistence research in Alaska for  
33 the last 15 years or so.

34  
35           My first job in subsistence was as a  
36 tech for Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and from there  
37 I worked for the Bristol Bay Native Association. I  
38 learned about the subsistence way of life as a rural  
39 resident in Dillingham for three years. Actually it  
40 was there that my son was born. So I'm married, I have  
41 two children, my daughter Anika is 11, my son Kiernan  
42 is nine. He was a BBNA baby and it was quite a treat.  
43 I could bring him to work every day and someone would  
44 pick him up in the morning and someone else would bring  
45 him back for lunch.

46  
47           I worked for the Alaska Department of  
48 Fish and Game once I moved back to Anchorage and I  
49 worked for the Division of Subsistence there and  
50 continued my research on the subsistence way of life in

1 Southcentral Alaska in Prince William Sound. I had the  
2 opportunity to travel north a couple times along the  
3 Yukon River. I went to Emmonak, Marshall and Eagle, so  
4 I got some beginning of an understanding of the impact  
5 of the decline of chinook salmon along that river from  
6 the mouth to where it crosses the border into Canada.

7

8 I also had the opportunity to visit  
9 Alatna and Allakaket and it is quite an honor to be  
10 here. So thank you all for continuing my education and  
11 it's been such a delight.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome. Go ahead,  
14 Orville.

15

16 MR. LIND: Thank you, Robbin. We are  
17 still underway to hire more positions. One is a  
18 council coordinator, anthropologist, anthropologist  
19 (Pathways), fisheries biometrician, fisheries  
20 biologist, fisheries (Pathways), a grant management  
21 specialist, IT specialist and an administrative  
22 assistant.

23

24 So, with that, Mr. Chairman, Council  
25 members, I will leave the rest of the report for your  
26 reading pleasure. I just wanted to say that it's my  
27 first time in Buckland. I certainly have enjoyed  
28 meeting each and every one of you and talking with you  
29 to get to know you. As a tribal liaison for the Office  
30 of Subsistence Management, I'm going to make it my goal  
31 to meet and greet and get to know all 10 Regional  
32 Councils while I'm in this position.

33

34 Quyana, thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Calvin.

37

38 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. What I was  
39 thinking today, I was kind of disappointed. We have  
40 all this staff here and I was thinking in order for our  
41 young people to be interested in some of these  
42 positions we should have the staff that are not giving  
43 testimony, go to the classroom, inform the students of  
44 what they need to do, what they need to study for to  
45 become part of this team. I thought maybe that's what  
46 we should have been doing through all the villages we  
47 travel to. A lot of the high schoolers starting high  
48 school they don't know what they want to do yet and  
49 this would be an attempt to instill in them maybe a  
50 thought of going into these positions.

1 I just thought I'd bring that up.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, if I may.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. BURKE: Yes. Actually, Calvin,  
10 thank you for the great segue. Before we finish up the  
11 OSM report, before the Council members arrived on  
12 Monday some of our staff did arrive early and they've  
13 had a lot of interaction with the classrooms. If Karen  
14 and Robbin would be willing to share just a little  
15 synopsis, there is a teacher here who puts on a career  
16 class and has them thinking about what they want to do  
17 in the future. So we've had anthropologists, fisheries  
18 biologists, Orville spent some time in that class as  
19 well, so I think it would be a great segue to hear a  
20 little bit from those folks who did go into the  
21 classrooms this week what activities they did.

22

23 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
24 members. I went into the classroom with Robbin and  
25 Orville and Lisa, our wildlife biologist, and we talked  
26 a little bit about what we are, what we do, and I  
27 showed a few slides about some of the students we  
28 actually do employ.

29

30 We work very closely with the ANSEP  
31 program, which is Alaska Native Science and Engineering  
32 Program, and we take kids that have just graduated from  
33 college and university students that are Alaska Natives  
34 in that program and we have internships with Fish and  
35 Wildlife Service.

36

37 ANSEP has started -- they call it a  
38 middle school economy where they're taking 5th, 6th and  
39 7th graders and they've actually started working with  
40 the Northwest Arctic School District and they have a  
41 two-week slot where they take students from all over.  
42 I was talking to the principal and some of the teachers  
43 about getting some of the students involved in that  
44 because then they continue through that program through  
45 high school. They take math and science courses at the  
46 university and then they come and do internships with  
47 us and then go through university.

48

49 So there's a lot of opportunities both  
50 in the classroom and outside the classroom for students

1 to become involved. Actually tomorrow I'm going back  
2 into the classroom to work with some of the students on  
3 some applied math actually in fisheries. So we are  
4 trying to get more involved.

5  
6 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought that  
7 up, several years ago a couple of students just  
8 starting high school said how do we get to go to work  
9 for Fish and Game or other job because they were  
10 interested in going into fish and game jobs, biologist  
11 or whatever. I told them I'll check into it. I tried  
12 to find out and I tried to get people interested in  
13 going to the village of Deering because these two  
14 students were really interested. We lost them now, but  
15 we've got other students that are probably interested  
16 in something like this.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

19  
20 Go ahead.

21  
22 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair. This  
23 is Robbin LaVine for the record. When I was at the  
24 Bristol Bay Native Association, I was in a Partners  
25 position, a Partners anthropologist. This is another  
26 program that is available through Fish and Wildlife  
27 Service and works closely with the Fisheries Research  
28 Monitoring Program. What these Partners positions are  
29 -- I saw my position as kind of running a three-prong  
30 program.

31  
32 The first was to conduct research on  
33 the subsistence way of life or subsistence fisheries in  
34 the region. Also to involve, make sure there was a  
35 local presence and local people participated and that a  
36 lot of the research originated from the communities in  
37 the issues they felt was most important.

38  
39 There was also kind of education and  
40 outreach in providing a bridge of understanding between  
41 all the various different partners, the land  
42 management, resource management agencies out there,  
43 whether Federal, State or other, and to kind of work  
44 closely so that my stakeholders, the Bristol Bay Native  
45 Association community members, were involved in the  
46 public processes like this.

47  
48 But the third prong and my most  
49 favorite was an absolutely fantastic internship  
50 program. What we did is we worked with all of the

1 various different agencies, Fish and Game, the Park  
2 Service, USGS, independent research organizations that  
3 came to the Bristol Bay watershed to conduct research  
4 on fisheries or the subsistence way of life and we  
5 would find opportunities for young people to be  
6 involved and students to cultivate their interest and  
7 their skills in all of these various different research  
8 projects.

9  
10 In the three years that I was there, I  
11 believe I placed about 18 -- there was one year I had  
12 about 18 interns spread out through projects over the  
13 course of the year. Some of these young people came  
14 back every year. As they came back, they developed  
15 their expertise. Guess what? When I left, when I  
16 moved back to Anchorage, I basically worked myself out  
17 of a job because initially the young person who started  
18 out as a Partners intern she got her bachelor's degree  
19 in fisheries and she's completing her masters in rural  
20 studies and she took my job. So that was wonderful. I  
21 considered it a great success.

22  
23 Another one of our interns, Valley  
24 Peterson, was a fisheries biologist on the North Slope.  
25 There are so many young people that came through that  
26 program that are actually working in primarily  
27 fisheries because it was a fisheries project, but it  
28 was so rewarding to see them move through, to actually  
29 see their interest kind of get honed on all these  
30 various different projects.

31  
32 So I see these kind of opportunities  
33 that if we continue to work together, if we continue to  
34 support these programs, and I know, Hannah, I think you  
35 were applying for a Partners grant for your region, I  
36 have personally seen it work and I personally know  
37 these young people. We haven't lost them, but the  
38 challenge is that they do go where the work is.  
39 Courtenay is still in Dillingham where she was born and  
40 raised and she's serving her community and the  
41 residents of Bristol Bay.

42  
43 I know actually Valley Peterson lives  
44 two blocks away from me and our kids play at the same  
45 park and actually now go to the same school, but she's  
46 no longer in our community of South Naknek. So those  
47 are kind of the challenges, is how do we create and  
48 sustain capacity and opportunity here at home.

49  
50 MR. MOTO: The sad part of it, these

1 students were honor students in school. That's why I  
2 bring this up because we have some honor students in  
3 our school system, you know, and they're always  
4 interested in trying to find something.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

7

8 Anything else, Melinda.

9

10 MS. BURKE: Yeah, there's just one more  
11 thing I wanted to cover on the OSM report because you  
12 worked really hard on some recommended changes to the  
13 appointment process. For some of the new staff in the  
14 room and I'm sure the Council remembers very well there  
15 was a time when our appointments and decisions about  
16 Council seats were coming very late from Washington,  
17 D.C. and it was very disruptive for our Council  
18 process. Several of the Councils have been very  
19 outspoken about the lateness of the appointments that  
20 we had for some time.

21

22 There was some very specific changes  
23 that were requested on behalf of the Councils. Some of  
24 these changes included shifting from three to four-year  
25 appointments so that you folks would have to apply less  
26 times for your seats. Also an appointment for an  
27 alternate so that if there was a case where someone was  
28 called away to work, we can have an alternate who also  
29 receives meeting materials and is kept up to date on  
30 what is happening. Also for a carryover term so that  
31 if there is a delay from D.C. a sitting member whose  
32 appointment might be up on December 3rd could still  
33 serve until we receive a decision from D.C.

34

35 Our division just wants to let the  
36 Council know that all of these requests have received  
37 strong support from the Office of Subsistence  
38 Management. There have been letters from the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board in support of all your recommended  
40 changes and they have been submitted to the Secretaries  
41 of Interior and Agriculture. We just haven't received  
42 final response back from them yet. So those changes  
43 are being discussed.

44

45 We just wanted to let the Councils know  
46 that all of those recommendations were carried through.  
47 We're just waiting on a final decision from D.C. So we  
48 won't be able to implement those changes in this next  
49 cycle, but we're hoping we'll get some resolution  
50 really soon. We just wanted to let the Councils know

1 what the update was on that process.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

4

5 Kramer.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: When did you want to make  
8 the proposal for Fish and Game to shut down the  
9 transporters?

10

11 MS. BURKE: Yes, we still have the  
12 annual report items that we need to go over again  
13 before we adjourn.

14

15 One thing we can take care of really  
16 quick before we get into that we have received final  
17 word from contracting regarding the all-Council meeting  
18 that will take place this winter. So in March, rather  
19 than having all of the different Councils take their  
20 individual meetings to their regions, we're going to be  
21 having a joint Council meeting in Anchorage with all 10  
22 Councils that will be coming to join in. There will be  
23 a joint session on day one where all 100-plus Council  
24 members will be in the room together.

25

26 If you turn to Page 290, 291 to 293 in  
27 your meeting books, you will see a very draft agenda.  
28 You'll see some of the topics that will be covered in  
29 the joint sessions, some of the reports coming up.  
30 People have been asking how in the world are all of the  
31 Councils going to take care of their individual  
32 business if we're having a joint session. You'll see  
33 on Page 293 that on Monday, March 7th, there will be a  
34 joint session of all of the Councils. Things that  
35 affect everyone will be discussed that day.

36

37 So I just wanted to let the Council  
38 members know you will not need to select any meeting  
39 dates for the spring since we're going to be doing the  
40 all-Council meeting, but we do want to go ahead and  
41 select dates for fall 2016 meeting. If you have any  
42 questions regarding the all-Council meeting, please let  
43 me know and I'll pass it on through the program. We're  
44 going to be really hitting the planning very hard as  
45 soon as this meeting is over and all the way through to  
46 the spring.

47

48 On Page 296 you see the fall 2016  
49 Council meeting calendar. The dates already taken up  
50 by Kodiak/Aleutian RAC is the 28th and 29th. There is

1 still room in that week if you want to meet then. The  
2 other date you might want to block out is October 20th  
3 through 22nd, which is going to be AFN in Fairbanks.  
4 We need to decide today where the fall 2016 meeting  
5 will be held and what dates you folks would like it to  
6 be held.

7

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Me and Kramer got  
10 sort of spoiled here, our plan. We were planning to  
11 have a meeting with North Slope, Kotzebue and Nome  
12 together. Now we're going to have a joint meeting, so  
13 we don't have to come up with a date. That solves our  
14 problem.

15

16 MS. BURKE: So it sounds like the week  
17 of October 17th is just bad for this region. Not that  
18 you can't meet this week, but October 10th is a  
19 holiday, so if we were going to meet we'd want to shift  
20 the dates to later in the week. So for now we need a  
21 community and a date.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is it going to be a  
24 two-day meeting again?

25

26 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. This  
27 Council generally holds two-day meetings. We've had  
28 good luck getting our business done in two full days if  
29 we stay on track.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe we'll  
32 put this on the floor then to the Council members.  
33 What would they like. Do you want to go there early  
34 and attend the Elders, maybe 19, 20 we could have our  
35 Council. I'm just throwing these out as a thought. Or  
36 do you want to have it before, like the 12th and 13th  
37 or 13th, 14th?

38

39 MR. BALLOT: I'm going to be good, Mr.  
40 Chairman, and I'm going to just do what you guys want.  
41 You guys came to my village, I'm happy. I'll just do  
42 what you guys say.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

45

46 MS. LOON: I like student  
47 participation, I like community participation. If we  
48 go to Fairbanks, we are not getting nothing. You're  
49 not going to hear Inupiat concerns. You're running  
50 away from the concerns. I recommend we go to Selawik

1 in October.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So the rest of the  
4 Council, how do you feel about it? I haven't decided  
5 yet. I'm open to this. Go ahead, Kramer.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: I was going to say October  
8 5 and 6 in Selawik.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What does the staff  
11 think about having another one in the village?

12

13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, I am at your  
14 service. I think this Council will be meeting at a  
15 very urban area with the meeting in Anchorage in March.  
16 I think this Council has proved we can do it the last  
17 two. This meeting and the meeting in Kiana I think  
18 have gone off really well. We've had great hosts and  
19 great luck with logistics and a lot of hard work and  
20 planning. So if you folks would like to do Selawik, I  
21 think Hannah would be a great hostess and I think her  
22 community would rally behind her and provide a great  
23 location for the meeting. So this is the Council's  
24 decision, but I would be in support of it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, it's open to  
27 the table. What do you think, Raymond and Enoch? I'm  
28 trying to get the feel of everyone here.

29

30 MR. STONEY: My question is, you know,  
31 that since we've travelled to two villages now, Kiana  
32 and Buckland, how does the staff feel about travel to  
33 the rural villages?

34

35 (Applause)

36

37 MS. BURKE: I heard good things, I  
38 heard clapping. I think we've eaten very well in both  
39 places. I mean just like we saw this week, I mean  
40 we've had a student who has been here both days. We  
41 had students who were here the first day, we have a  
42 written comment, we've had our staff be able to  
43 participate directly with the school. So I don't see  
44 any unhappy people in the crowd today. I don't know  
45 about anybody else. I'm still hearing good things  
46 about the Kiana meeting. We're still trying to figure  
47 out a way to steal your tribal cook. So I don't see  
48 any unhappy faces here in the room and I've never heard  
49 any complaints from anyone.

50

1 MR. STONEY: I still think it's  
2 difficult for some of the staff a long ways from home,  
3 but one thing we have to consider and think about the  
4 North Slope because we're on the same caribou  
5 management system. We met 15 years ago, Arctic Slope  
6 and Northwest, so in the future we should plan to meet  
7 with the North Slope people and the conditions of the  
8 caribou and what they're doing. That should be a plan.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, she just  
11 mentioned all the Councils in the whole state are going  
12 to meet in Anchorage for a week.  
13

14 MS. BURKE: If there was interest for a  
15 particular small breakout session that this Council  
16 would like to have with some of the North Slope Council  
17 members, we can certainly arrange that. We should take  
18 full advantage of all the Councils and all the staff  
19 from all the agencies being in Anchorage that week. So  
20 if there's some discussions, Raymond and Council, that  
21 you would like to have with the North Slope Council in  
22 particular, I'd be happy to arrange a window of time  
23 where we could make that happen.  
24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.  
26

27 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think it would  
28 also be good to meet with Nome and Koyuk and Unalakleet  
29 and North Slope regarding caribou issues. That way we  
30 can all be on the same page.  
31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's going to  
33 happen in March the way I heard it.  
34

35 MS. BURKE: So was that a motion I  
36 heard earlier there, Kramer in the room, for October 5  
37 and 6 in Selawik? I wasn't sure if that was a motion  
38 or not.  
39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll agree to Selawik  
41 October 5 and 6.  
42

43 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion to have  
44 our October 2016 meeting in Selawik October 5 and 6.  
45

46 MR. BALLOT: Second.  
47

48 MS. LOON: Question.  
49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I guess it's

1 Selawik it sounds like. All in favor say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: The fish you've got to eat  
6 over there is stink fish. Make sure we have that. It  
7 melts in your mouth.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Make we go to culture  
10 camp, hey, Susan.

11

12 MS. BURKE: Okay, Mr. Chair. We still  
13 have one lingering important topic to cover. We've got  
14 the 2015 annual report. I took some notes and I wanted  
15 to make sure that I'm very clear on what the Council  
16 would like to do. We addressed quite a bit of items on  
17 the last annual report. Everything from beavers to  
18 transporter issues.

19

20 It might help us to kind of reference  
21 what we'd like to do here if you want to turn to Page  
22 278 really quick to see what some of the important  
23 issues are here in this region. We covered beavers and  
24 had a thorough response from the board regarding that  
25 issues. Transporters were there. The impact of  
26 exploratory mining activities on caribou that Mr. Moto  
27 brought up. As well as some observations of some  
28 rather frantic hunting that was taking place last year  
29 that we heard from various Council members as well as  
30 emphasizing to the Federal Subsistence Board how  
31 important it is to have their presence at our meetings.  
32 As we can see, we had Mr. Bert Frost here with us for  
33 the entirety of our meeting. So we covered quite a bit  
34 on last year's meeting.

35

36 I'm looking over what we discussed  
37 earlier and it looks like from Council member Kramer in  
38 the room we might have had a suggestion on how -- maybe  
39 to submit some letters and a proposal to the Board of  
40 Game to handle some of the concerns regarding some of  
41 the flying issues in some of the areas where we might  
42 want some protection for the resource and their  
43 migration patterns to make hunting easier on the  
44 subsistence users.

45

46 I didn't have any other items listed  
47 down, so if the Council would like to keep this  
48 transporter and caribou migration issue here and have  
49 that as your main concern or if we would like to look  
50 at another way to explore the topic if there's topics

1 to be added, I'm here at your service, Mr. Chair and  
2 Council.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

5

6 Anyone.

7

8 Kramer.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think we need to  
11 try and make a proposal to Fish and Game Advisory  
12 Council because I know I should be going to a meeting  
13 sometime soon on that for a proposal for the  
14 elimination of transporters from GMU 23 due to  
15 unsuccessful census on caribou for an emergency  
16 shutdown until further notice until an actual census  
17 can be completed to prevent any further crashes of that  
18 resource we depend upon because we don't know what the  
19 next several years is going to bring for us. I sure do  
20 not want a repeat of this sheep issue to happen every  
21 again. I think we need to take action now or we will  
22 pay for it later. It could be next year when we pay  
23 for it. It's either we start taking action now or  
24 we're going to pay for it.

25

26 So I'd like to see a proposal come  
27 forth that we propose to the Board of Game to eliminate  
28 the operation of transporters within Game Management  
29 Unit 23 due to the lack of caribou census ever since  
30 2013 and the last caribou census was at 235,000 head in  
31 2013. So that's been almost three years. With this  
32 year being that the photos were not good, it's going to  
33 have to be until next year. The longer we wait, the  
34 more painful it's going to be. I just don't want  
35 another repeat of what happened to the Dall sheep.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I hear you loudly and  
38 I think you're so right. So I think we need to start  
39 worrying about it. Go ahead, Susan. You had your hand  
40 up. I will support what you're saying because I don't  
41 want to see any crash further than what's happening now  
42 and all of a sudden they say you Natives will have to  
43 take a reduction too. Go ahead, Susan.

44

45 MS. GEORGETTE: I was just going to  
46 suggest -- I understand what you're saying too, Mike.  
47 Trevor in OSM might have something to add, but I think  
48 in addition to the Board of Game I think you could  
49 submit a proposal that closes Federal lands to  
50 non-subsistence users, which is what happened in the

1 Baird Mountains for sheep quite a few years ago when  
2 there weren't enough sheep for everybody, so the  
3 Federal Board closed the Baird Mountains to non-  
4 subsistence users. So the only people that could hunt  
5 there were GMU 23 residents.

6

7 I think you could submit that for  
8 caribou hunting because of the decline and we want to  
9 stay ahead of it, that it might be time to close  
10 Federal lands to non-subsistence users. That would  
11 mean that all the non-locals who fly in wouldn't be  
12 allowed to hunt on the Federal lands at least.

13

14 Trevor, you might have more to add on  
15 that, but I think that's within the RAC's -- it  
16 wouldn't eliminate moose hunters, but it would  
17 eliminate caribou hunters. So it wouldn't solve all  
18 the aircraft/transporter problems, but it could help  
19 some and it might be time to do it because, like you  
20 say, we don't have a number and if it's still going  
21 down we do want to stay ahead of this.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, come to think  
24 of it, I think Susan might be right. Take a step one  
25 and start with the Federal lands and hopefully by next  
26 year we will -- if they keep declining, maybe we would  
27 ask the State to take step two, let's put it that way,  
28 compared to us what we're doing. That way otherwise  
29 the State might just give us a flat no, but we have  
30 control over most of Federal lands and maybe we should  
31 start with the Federal lands. What do you think about  
32 it? That way we wouldn't just get a flat no. At least  
33 in the Federal lands like in the Squirrel River, Noatak  
34 and the Monument and Bering Land Bridge. I mean that's  
35 a big step.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I agree with what he  
38 said. That would be a great start. Who is just going  
39 to come up to go get a moose or a bear, you know. I  
40 wouldn't want to pay a bunch of money just to fly all  
41 the way up here just to get a moose or a bear, but  
42 there is probably some that do. But the clients that  
43 transporter would have would be a lot less, so you're  
44 really knocking it down. So I think that would be a  
45 great idea with what he said.

46

47 MS. GEORGETTE: You could try every  
48 avenue open to you, but the Board of Game has a lot of  
49 pressure on it to allow sport hunters, as you know.

50

1 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 guess just a couple things. If that's the way the  
3 Council wishes to go, it would be submitting a special  
4 action to close Federal lands to non-subsistence users.  
5 You wouldn't be able to specify those hunting with  
6 transporters or anything like that. It would just be a  
7 closure to all non-Federal users on Federal public  
8 land.

9  
10 To do that, you would have to have some  
11 justification that would say that it's necessary for  
12 the conservation of healthy populations and this would  
13 be for caribou or to continue subsistence uses. That's  
14 part of the requirements for closing Federal public  
15 land.

16  
17 Susan alluded to this as well too, but  
18 if the Board did go that way, it wouldn't mean people  
19 wouldn't be out there hunting moose or other species.  
20 It wouldn't get rid of all flying in the area too.  
21 There could still be flying for other uses. It  
22 wouldn't really affect aircraft use except for those  
23 hunting caribou.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I'd like  
26 to hear from the rest of the board. I think that's the  
27 step we have to take. That's a good idea. We'll just  
28 step back and just do it to the Federal lands. The  
29 State might give us, like a said, a flat no.

30  
31 Go ahead, Percy.

32  
33 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm just wondering  
34 that they're operating under what's allowable, when and  
35 what to hunt and when to manage. How would that work  
36 with what they're going through now? The census that's  
37 going to come out is going to be in March or this  
38 spring?

39  
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Nikki.

41  
42 MS. BRAEM: My understanding is they're  
43 going to try again summer 2016. When they group up  
44 real tight on the calving grounds, they'll fly again.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nikki, are they going  
47 to start trying to see what they could see fall time on  
48 caribou? Is Jim Dau going to do that, see how much  
49 caribou at least in Selawik area and Noorvik and other  
50 places like they did before with moose?

1 MS. BRAEM: I haven't had a chance to  
2 talk to him. I mean I can ask him and perhaps forward  
3 something to you through Melinda.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Kramer.

6  
7 MR. KRAMER: I think in the meantime we  
8 should all work together and come up with a Federal  
9 subsistence contingency plan on our caribou herd.  
10 Either that or we go with the Western Arctic Caribou  
11 Herd Working Group's contingency plan. I kind of leave  
12 it up to the board, but we need to have something on  
13 paper that says this is the reason why we're doing it.  
14 The main reason why we're doing it on Federal lands is  
15 lack of census. Do we want a repeat of what happened  
16 to the sheep? No, I don't ever want to see something  
17 like that happen again. I guarantee there will be such  
18 an uproar in our region. Every organization will feel  
19 the pain.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

22  
23 Go ahead, Hannah.

24  
25 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
26 don't think we should rely heavily on aerial. We  
27 should look into other alternative ways of at least  
28 count caribou through the major migratory areas using  
29 local Inupiat eyes, hunters, on the Kobuk, Noatak and  
30 Selawik Rivers and Buckland area. I think we need to  
31 let the Council think about instead of relying on the  
32 weather in July where they do an aerial.

33  
34 That's just a suggestion.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.

37  
38 Go ahead, Enoch.

39  
40 MR. MITCHELL: I will be willing to  
41 support to close to Federal land due to no census and  
42 also we're having trouble getting caribou. It's  
43 hurting our village, so got to protect our subsistence  
44 uses.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

47  
48 MS. LOON: Yeah, in that what Mike just  
49 said we need to put something little in that where some  
50 villages get skunked for how many consecutive years and

1 it's hurting their people.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think  
4 Melinda has taken it all up. We need to say it right  
5 so we won't get knocked down on this one here. I  
6 understand what you're saying Mike and I concur with it  
7 and I will support what you're saying because we don't  
8 know what's out there on the census. I mean we need to  
9 stay ahead of the game like you say and that way we  
10 won't have the decline like we did with sheep and we  
11 won't get hurt.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: So are we making a special  
14 action?

15

16 MS. BURKE: That's what I was just  
17 wondering. I think that suggestion from Trevor was a  
18 really good one. I've heard some good justification on  
19 this Council's wishes to conserve the population,  
20 there's uncertainty on a count right now on the herd  
21 and this Council is wanting the continuation of  
22 subsistence uses. So if there's a motion put on the  
23 floor and a special action is what you would wish me to  
24 get together, I can do that. I think we have some good  
25 justification here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So you're  
28 going to put it in proposal form. Okay.

29

30 MR. KRAMER: I make a motion for a  
31 special action request for the closure on Federal lands  
32 to non-subsistence users due to the lack of caribou  
33 census and due to the lack of harvest in certain  
34 communities. So at least that way we're trying to  
35 protect what we have.

36

37 MR. MITCHELL: Second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: There's a second.

40

41 MS. LOON: Question.

42

43 MR. MOTO: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
46 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposed.

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you so much.  
4  
5 MS. BURKE: Okay, great. I think  
6 that's a really good thing to move that from just  
7 simply having the issue reverberate on the annual  
8 report to going ahead and putting it in special action  
9 form. I don't want to put pressure on the Council to  
10 have the 2015 annual report list complete today. It's  
11 always good to have things down early, but there's  
12 still a few months left in 2015, so we can continue to  
13 think of our draft list and have a final decision made  
14 on that at our winter meeting in Anchorage.  
15  
16 MS. SWEENEY: I'm sorry, this is  
17 Brittany.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.  
20  
21 MS. SWEENEY: I just had a question.  
22 Did you want that special action request for all of GMU  
23 23? I didn't hear a geographic area, so I was just  
24 curious.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Federal lands.  
27  
28 MS. SWEENEY: All Federal lands in GMU  
29 23?  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We're talking about  
32 Federal lands.  
33  
34 MS. SWEENEY: I understand that,  
35 but.....  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That way if we say  
38 Unit 23 it will include the State.  
39  
40 MS. SWEENEY: I understood that you  
41 meant all Federal lands. I just didn't understand the  
42 geographic scope of which you were referring. So thank  
43 you for your answer.  
44  
45 MS. BURKE: Thank you very much, staff.  
46 It's better to be thorough. I did type earlier here in  
47 my notes where Mike had said GMU 23, but you're right,  
48 Trevor, if we need some more complete information,  
49 dates.  
50

1 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just  
2 to clarify and have an accurate special action request,  
3 are there any specific dates for the closure or would  
4 it just be through the end of the regulatory year?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I would say  
7 regulatory year, right, Kramer?

8  
9 MR. FOX: The regulatory year ends on  
10 June 30th. So we're in the current season now. The  
11 season goes through June 30th.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So it won't happen  
14 until after June next year, so I think we need to  
15 address this starting probably December or so.

16  
17 MR. FOX: So a special action is  
18 something that takes place in season. We're in the  
19 current year now. This special action request, as I  
20 understand it, would be something that would be  
21 analyzed and the Board would take an action now. If  
22 it's approved, then it would go through the end of the  
23 regulatory year, so it could start now through June  
24 30th. Alternatively, the Board could recommend a  
25 special action for next regulatory year, but the way I  
26 understand it it's for right now.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So if we start  
29 on it now, it will kick in on the regulatory year of  
30 June is what you're saying.

31  
32 MR. FOX: If they work on it now -- I  
33 mean a lot of these things we get them in and we have a  
34 couple weeks to do them. The way I understand it is  
35 that this is for this current regulatory year, which  
36 we're in now. So if the intent of the Council is to  
37 close the season as soon as possible or starting  
38 December or anything like that, it would start at that  
39 point. If it's a temporary special action, it could go  
40 through June 30th to finish out this regulatory year.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Let's put it this  
43 way, transporters and outfitters don't start until  
44 sometime around August anyhow, right, or am I wrong?

45  
46 MR. MITCHELL: You're right.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So we won't have to  
49 worry about it and we could take regulatory year taking  
50 effect in June. Because there's no transport or

1 outfitters right now out there. They're done for the  
2 season, right? I hope I'm making some sense here. I  
3 can't even understand myself. I'm tired.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. FOX: No, you're making sense. It  
8 just depends on if -- if it's not something that's  
9 occurring now, then this special action would probably  
10 make more sense to go into effect next regulatory year,  
11 which would start July 1st and it can go as long as the  
12 Council wishes in their request up to the end of the  
13 regulatory year.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

16

17 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, we'll go ahead and  
18 go with the regulatory year. That way next fall it  
19 will be in effect. Hopefully.....

20

21 MR. MITCHELL: It will be for a year  
22 and then next year we'll look at it?

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I can't hear you,  
25 Enoch.

26

27 MR. KRAMER: He was saying that it  
28 would be for a year and then we'll review it or.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: We'll see what it looks  
33 like. Until we can get an actual census as to how the  
34 herd is doing. Before a year is up we'll review and  
35 look at possibly continuing.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. FOX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So as  
40 I understand it, there's a special action, but you'll  
41 review it potentially at your next meeting before it's  
42 officially submitted? Is that what I'm understanding?

43

44 MR. MITCHELL: It will be in effect,  
45 but then after one year we'll review and see how well  
46 it do. If we get the census and the villages are  
47 getting their quota, then we can close it or if it's  
48 still the same, we can keep closing.

49

50 MR. FOX: I understand now. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Susan.  
2  
3 MS. GEORGETTE: As I understand it,  
4 they want it to take effect next July and go for the  
5 year, is that right? The question I guess for Trevor  
6 is when -- if they want it to take effect next July for  
7 the year, when do they submit the special action  
8 request? Can you submit it now and say you want it for  
9 next July or do you wait until March or April?  
10  
11 MR. FOX: It could be submitted now.  
12 Based on the concerns about the lack of information,  
13 that's not likely to change. It could be submitted  
14 now. I think that's acceptable.  
15  
16 MS. GEORGETTE: For starting in July.  
17  
18 MR. FOX: Yes.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyhow,  
21 even if State of Alaska take aerial survey this coming  
22 summer 2016, they won't take effect until March 2017.  
23 So we're trying to cover ourselves so our caribou won't  
24 crash is what we're trying to say. We want to stay  
25 ahead of the game before it's too late. If they do  
26 crash, maybe the State will adopt what we're doing.  
27  
28 Go ahead.  
29  
30 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, that way if it's  
31 submitted now, then transporters will already get the  
32 news because we don't want to shock them at a moment's  
33 notice and saying your hunters can't hunt caribou  
34 anymore. This way we're giving them a long time for  
35 heads up that we are closing it to non-subsistence  
36 users. At least that way they have fair warning. I  
37 know some of them have gotten schedules for up to two  
38 years with caribou hunters. This way they have time to  
39 contact their future clients and say, well, they just  
40 shut down the caribou season.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
43 Melinda, did you get all that? You're all right.  
44 That's what I like about you.  
45  
46 MS. BURKE: I have a lot of really  
47 great staff working here in the room too. It's a team  
48 effort these Council meetings.  
49  
50 Mr. Chair, I believe in my book and in

1 my scribbles here I believe we've covered all the  
2 items. I think we should check in with the phone  
3 though to see if there's any lingering agency, public,  
4 tribal folks on the line who still have something that  
5 they want to have covered at this meeting or wanted to  
6 say something.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

MS. BURKE: Is anyone still there?

11

12

MR. ADKISSON: Melinda, this is Ken. I  
13 don't know, but I think it was Mr. Kramer that was  
14 asking something about the State criteria for taking  
15 certain kind of regulatory actions. I went and looked  
16 in the State reg book and I do have a little bit of  
17 information on that. Basically one of the things that  
18 drives the State system is what's called an amount  
19 needed for subsistence and that's a figure that's  
20 determined by the State Board of Game. In 2014, the  
21 Board of Game revised the caribou amount needed for  
22 subsistence combining the Teshekpuk Herd with the  
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and they came up with a  
24 figure of 8,000 to 12,000 caribou. So that's the range  
25 of what's called the amount needed for subsistence.

26

27

Now how that works is that if the  
28 allowable harvest is over that 12,000, generally the  
29 State will run a general hunt and that can be including  
30 non-resident hunts. If the allowable harvest drops  
31 within that range, generally what that does is go to a  
32 Tier I subsistence hunt. At that point, non-residents  
33 generally go away and drop out of it, but anyone who is  
34 an Alaskan resident from the State's point of view is  
35 qualified for subsistence. So anybody in the state can  
36 apply for one of those Tier I permits.

37

38

If the figure goes below the range, the  
39 8,000, generally what's supposed to happen then is the  
40 Tier II hunt. You can see kind of how Tier II works to  
41 a certain extent. We were talking about it earlier  
42 today with muskoxen.

43

44

When I looked at some of the data, the  
45 State's comments on the proposal that was adopted for  
46 2015 at their Board meeting related to caribou, the  
47 State at that time was estimating an allowable harvest  
48 of, I think, around 13,000 caribou. You can see from  
49 what they told the Board in relation to what was  
50 adopted in March of 2015 that the allowable harvest at

1 that point was sort of approaching the upper end of the  
2 ANS.

3

4 That's all I've got.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Ken. You  
7 always use the word Tier II hunt. You know by now that  
8 I don't like the Tier II hunt and I will not go there  
9 to the Tier II hunt because the State rigged up that  
10 one to where they could only choose certain hunters to  
11 go out there. If I'm going to go in the Federal lands  
12 and if I want my harvesters to harvest, I won't go Tier  
13 II hunt. I'll say how much do you need in the village.  
14 That's what you hunt for the village. That's where I  
15 like to go. I don't want to go through the State.  
16 We're covered by Federal lands. The State should abide  
17 by us because we are on the Federal lands. Not a word  
18 from the State of Alaska.

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: I think Tier II is sort  
21 of a real mixed bag from my actual experience of  
22 dealing with it. You know, I think in some areas it  
23 works pretty well and pretty much if you've got a high  
24 enough allowable harvest, you can pretty much work in  
25 the Federally-eligible users. I think where it gets  
26 touchier is where you get down to a very low harvest  
27 and then begin maybe to see some of those stacks of  
28 recurring high score kind of things that you're  
29 describing. But, you know, in other respects it works  
30 pretty good down here around Nome, but it doesn't work  
31 so well maybe up in the Buckland/Deering area from  
32 experience.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, more like  
35 muskoxen you're talking about. I'm trying to put it  
36 Northwest Alaska, my villages. If Kobuk need only 22 to  
37 make it through the year, that's what I'm going to say  
38 Kobuk should get 20. Selawik is a little bit larger,  
39 they take more. Kotzebue is larger. Each village by  
40 the size they are just to survive for the winter. I  
41 will not go Tier II.

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: One other option that's  
44 out there always is community harvest limits, but  
45 that's really hard to work through, but that's an  
46 option.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nothing is hard, Ken,  
49 until we work on it. We could make it. I will make it  
50 if I have to.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Well, community  
2 harvesting is an option.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anything else,  
5 Melinda.  
6  
7 MS. BURKE: No. I just wanted also to  
8 relay I think to Drew Crawford. There were a couple of  
9 questions that were asked by the Council earlier in  
10 regard to ceremonial harvest and I'll make sure to get  
11 that information to Mr. Stoney and to the Council. So,  
12 thanks, Drew, for the quick follow up. I wanted to  
13 make sure that we didn't miss anybody on the phone.  
14  
15 So if there's nobody left on the phone,  
16 I think, Mr. Chair, we just have closing comments.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Enoch.  
19  
20 MR. MITCHELL: I was wondering about  
21 the proposal 1.1, rod and reel legal subsistence. What  
22 is being done about that? I'm kind of wondering if  
23 Carmen Daggett did submit a letter for me from the AC  
24 group in Noatak.  
25  
26 MS. BURKE: Through the Chair, Mr.  
27 Mitchell. I didn't see a letter submitted to this  
28 Council, but if there are comments that this Council  
29 wishes to make to the Board of Game, I'm very happy to  
30 take those down to make sure those comments are  
31 submitted.  
32  
33 MR. MITCHELL: I'm going to support  
34 this rod and reel. A letter of support or something  
35 would be good. I thought I'd get something from here,  
36 some kind of support letter.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you talking  
39 support for the rod and reel?  
40  
41 MR. MITCHELL: Yes.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Is the Federal here?  
44 Before we adjourn I guess we could address that real  
45 quick, right?  
46  
47 MS. BURKE: Absolutely.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we could  
50 support it. We'll give you a quick letter of support.

1 The idea, like I explained earlier, the reason why we  
2 wanted rod and reel to take under subsistence so we  
3 won't overtake resources when we put net when we're out  
4 there, when we're not home, and make it legal. That  
5 way we won't be illegal with a rod and reel in the  
6 whole Northwest Alaska. We'll give you support and  
7 when it's done, with your approval, I will sign it.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
10 approve a letter of support be drafted from this RAC.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That was it?

13

14 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any second.

17

18 MR. KRAMER: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's been seconded.

21

22 MS. LOON: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question has been  
25 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.  
30 Closing comments.

31

32 MS. BURKE: One more thing. Enoch, did  
33 that letter already get written from Carmen? I  
34 definitely want to make sure I get a copy. I can shoot  
35 her an email really quick.

36

37 MR. MITCHELL: She said she might. I  
38 don't think she did. It was kind of short notice.  
39 Maybe she can get it.

40

41 MS. BURKE: I'll send her an email and  
42 we'll make sure we get those letters.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

47

48 MR. MOTO: Closing comments.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Closing comments.  
2 Make it sweet. We'll start closing comments with our  
3 elder. Calvin, go ahead, you're the elder.

4  
5 MR. MOTO: I'm glad for being here. I  
6 want to thank staff for giving us all the data and  
7 information we need to make our decisions. I want to  
8 commend the Council for making all these decisions and  
9 I want to commend the staff for being patient with us  
10 because of the thousands of questions that come to you  
11 and you're able to come up with some kind of an answer.  
12 So I look forward to meeting with you again and I wish  
13 you all well and good health and goodbye.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, anyone.  
16 Raymond.

17  
18 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
19 It's been a great honor to meet again. Thank the staff  
20 being here from all across the state and I'm happy to  
21 see you guys again. My comment, Mr. Chairman, is the  
22 history of Teshekpuk Herd we've been hearing has been  
23 declining rapidly and now we're not going to get the  
24 numbers this year. It might take a year or two years  
25 from now. In a case like this, Mr. Chairman, we are  
26 heading for a very difficult situation like they did to  
27 us 1970. They closed the caribou in Anchorage for Game  
28 Unit 23 and we wound up in jail not knowing that the  
29 caribou was closed.

30  
31 That's where we're heading right now.

32  
33 Just in case the herd go down so  
34 rapidly, fast, within six months, a year, that's what  
35 we're going to wake up with, look, you can't hunt for  
36 subsistence, they're closed because the caribou is to  
37 70,000, that emergency order will give us like they did  
38 in 1970. Like I said yesterday, I would like to at  
39 least give us an idea of the size of these herds so  
40 we'll know not going back to jail like we did in 1970.  
41 You're going to have to put in an emergency order if  
42 the caribou are declining more than expected because we  
43 won't know for another year and a half or two years the  
44 size of this herd.

45  
46 Again, I want to thank all the staff  
47 that come to Buckland. It's been a great honor and  
48 great pleasure and good hospitality in Buckland. I  
49 loved that music thing last night that was happening.  
50 It was a good thing to listen.

1 Thank you very much.  
2  
3 Good luck for this coming season again.  
4  
5 May God bless you.  
6  
7 That's all I got, Mr. Chairman.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.  
10  
11 Anyone else.  
12  
13 Enoch, go ahead.  
14  
15 MR. MITCHELL: I want to thank the  
16 staff, everybody that came here and listened to us.  
17 I'd like to thank the cooks, all the good food they  
18 had. I'd like to thank Melinda, good job, good  
19 contact. I'd like to thank the students that come  
20 here. Also Floyd Hadley that was here. I wanted to  
21 encourage him to keep doing that. He's got some good  
22 questions. And thank the Buckland people for their  
23 good hospitality and good food. Thanks, Percy. You  
24 did a good job. Thank everybody, the board, Fish and  
25 Game and everybody that was here that listened to us  
26 and take our concerns.  
27  
28 I'm still learning and want to keep  
29 speaking for my people. I like these meetings and I  
30 hope you all have a good, safe trip home.  
31  
32 Thank you.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Enoch.  
35  
36 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair. I forgot one  
37 thing. I want to thank Percy for putting up with me  
38 these nights and I want to thank him for watching over  
39 me and taking care of me. I really appreciate it.  
40 I've known Percy since he was a little pup.  
41  
42 (Laughter)  
43  
44 MR. MOTO: So it's kind of like we're  
45 good friends. Bye.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Calvin, thank  
48 you. Mike, go ahead.  
49  
50 MR. KRAMER: I'd like to thank all the

1 staff and all your guys' support and help and guiding  
2 us in the right direction to make everything so much  
3 easier on our people. Not only for our people, for the  
4 subsistence resources that we depend upon. Your  
5 studies are so viable to our future and I enjoy seeing  
6 them occur every year and that's what I wait for.  
7 Every time I know a meeting is coming it's like I can't  
8 wait to hear how it's going and what they've  
9 accomplished.

10

11                   And how many kids have attended. I'm  
12 glad all of you guys have students attend all your guys  
13 -- you know, all the studies that you guys do and  
14 participate. I think that should continue throughout  
15 the region. You know, each year you guys pick a couple  
16 students from different villages. That way you're  
17 broadening the spectrum throughout the region and not  
18 just specific villages.

19

20                   The staff has always been so helpful.  
21 Melinda, she's pretty much our mother and takes care of  
22 us. She does what she needs to do to make sure we get  
23 here on time and make sure we've got a roof over our  
24 head and fed and looks out for us in a lot of ways.  
25 It's been a pleasure to be on this board. I'm glad  
26 that Barbara Atorak or Barbara Armstrong back in the  
27 day gave me the opportunity. She drug me to the Fish  
28 and Wildlife Office in Kotzebue and made me fill out an  
29 application. This was back quite a few years ago and  
30 then Melinda took over her place.

31

32                   It's always a pleasure to be able to  
33 represent our people and I feel that it's always a  
34 pleasure because I am still the youngest person here  
35 and hopefully one day I'm not, but until that day I  
36 still am.

37

38                   It's always a pleasure working with you  
39 guys.

40

41                   Thank you.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Kramer.

44

45                   Go ahead, Percy.

46

47                   MR. BALLOT: Mike, it's not that much  
48 of a big thing getting old.

49

50                   MR. KRAMER: I'm still a young pup.

1 MR. BALLOT: So take your time. I  
2 thank you all for coming. I appreciate this opportunity  
3 to work with our community, be a host here and let the  
4 people hear firsthand what we're doing and  
5 understanding what we're doing for our resources and  
6 for the people. Not only for Buckland, but for the  
7 region. And hearing the report from the different  
8 agencies. I think that's really important for all of  
9 us to know. The people like Lolly, I'm real glad he's  
10 been coming here every day and I know he'd rather be  
11 out there hunting. I'm hoping he's going to be sitting  
12 in this seat some day and doing things. When I get  
13 like Calvin and just want to stay home and say do this,  
14 do that, I'll be able to call him up.

15  
16 I hope you guys enjoyed the food. My  
17 kids cooked, the other kids cooked and if I cooked, if  
18 we got wooly-bully, we'd put a spell on you and stay  
19 here forever and ever. I'm real glad we're going to go  
20 to Selawik next year. I think I'll invite my mom when  
21 I'm going over there so she can be with them because  
22 she really always thinks about Selawik. I'm really  
23 glad Hannah invite us up over there. I'll be ready to  
24 be there next year and eating dried pike and, mmm, all  
25 that good stuff. The caribou will be sooner over there  
26 than over here again.

27  
28 I've got a gift for you and our  
29 Chairman. It's at home. I was going to bring it down  
30 there. I'll just change it to beluga. Nothing fancy,  
31 but you'll like it. Put it on your desk, remind you  
32 you've been in Buckland area. When our kids go play  
33 basketball, which they will do, they'll go to state  
34 again, come help us cheer them on because we'll be  
35 there.

36  
37 Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

40  
41 Go ahead, Hannah.

42  
43 MS. LOON: Yeah, I've really enjoyed --  
44 I've always enjoyed coming to Buckland because I think  
45 they're the friendliest people in the region. If they  
46 see you walking, even though it's a few 100 feet away,  
47 they'll ride you and you better get on that Honda.

48  
49 Anyway, thank you, staff, all of you,  
50 Park Service, State, BLM, all of you. It's been a

1 learning experience. We learned a lot from you. OSM  
2 staff, thank you very much. And the Council, thank you  
3 very much. Good questions. I'm still learning.

4  
5 I look forward to seeing you in  
6 Selawik.

7  
8 Thank you again from the bottom of my  
9 heart.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.  
12 Taikuu to all of you. I thank you all, for the staff  
13 coming in and putting up with us and making us  
14 understand -- the issues and problems that we have, you  
15 make us understand and that way we could work on it and  
16 that will be there for us next year.

17  
18 I thank you all.

19  
20 Melinda, thank you for helping me a lot  
21 to make me look good. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't  
22 be where I'm at. She's a big help. She's my right-  
23 hand lady. I tell you it's a big help.

24  
25 And I would like to thank Buckland for  
26 hosting this meeting. Not only Percy, the people like  
27 Hannah said. I'm only a couple hundred feet and yet I  
28 was offered a ride, which is very true. The kid was  
29 only about 11 years old. I looked at him and I said  
30 sure. He said I know where you stay.

31  
32 (Laughter)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't know who he  
35 was. I was just going to give him where I was going to  
36 stay and he said Linus (ph) and there I go. I was  
37 outside there by the time I said that. He offered me a  
38 ride and that's really nice running into young students  
39 like that.

40  
41 And the cooks were fantastic and it was  
42 good. I thank everyone for putting up with us. I  
43 don't have any hardship. When my meeting is over with,  
44 I don't hold it against you. I'm doing my job, you're  
45 doing your job and we all do it on behalf of our  
46 resources out there.

47  
48 And I always tease our recorder that  
49 she probably know more than everybody by now what we're  
50 talking about. I think maybe next time I'll ask her to

1 put in my layman terms I could understand. She's  
2 putting up with us because we see her year after year.  
3 Thank you, Melinda and thank you, staff.

4

5                                 With that, I move to adjourn the  
6 meeting until next time in March.

7

8                                 MS. LOON: Second it.

9

10                                (Off record)

11

12                                (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 )ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 146 through 285 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 7th day of October 2015 at Buckland, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 23rd day of October 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18