

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3
4 PUBLIC MEETING
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8 VOLUME II
9

10 Egan Convention Center
11 Anchorage, Alaska
12 March 11, 2016
13 8:30 a.m.
14

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16
17 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:
18

19 Sue Entsminger, Chair
20 Andy Bassich
21 Lester Erhart
22 Andrew Firmin
23 William Glanz
24 Rhonda Pitka
25 Virgil Umphenour
26 Larry Williams
27 Donald Woodruff
28
29 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Anchorage, Alaska - 3/11/2016)

4
5 (On record)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
8 all trying to get organized at the table, finding paper
9 that we seemed to have lost from yesterday. Did you
10 find it Virgil.

11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: I found it.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
15 the panic attack is over.

16
17 I would like to call the meeting to
18 order, the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.
19 We're a little late but we're getting started here.
20 Yesterday we had some people from AHTNA here and I
21 wanted to bring Karen up, she serves on the SRC with
22 me, Karen Linnell, and just have a short two minute
23 report on the CRITR project that they're working on
24 that was given to us at the SRC.

25
26 MS. LINNELL: Good morning. Thank you,
27 Sue.

28
29 My name is Karen Linnell. I'm from
30 Chistochina on the north end of the Copper River. I've
31 got one of my board members here, Shirley Snelson. I'm
32 currently the executive director for AHTNA Intertribal
33 Resource Commission and she's mentioning CRITR, that's
34 the name for our tribal conservation district, the
35 Copper River AHTNA InterTribal Resource Conservation
36 District, which is pretty long so we shortened it to
37 CRITR.

38
39 Anyway, we've been, like many folks,
40 frustrated with the system and, you know, worrying
41 about fighting over that one moose and we thought,
42 well, with our board and with our leadership's
43 direction and our community's direction from all the
44 tribes we've decided to try to do something about it.
45 And so AHTNA, as the land owner, is a member of our
46 organization, we have eight tribes, from Cantwell, and
47 then on the north side we have Mentasta and on the
48 south side we have Chitina and everybody in between
49 that's on the highway system or on the Copper River.
50 Anyway, we decided to do something about moose browse

1 and try to do some moose browse habitat and improvement
2 projects. We've got, probably -- we just finished up
3 1,500 acres. There's been some trial and error
4 figuring out the system. We've been using the roller
5 chopper, it's a big roller drum with blades attached to
6 it and you pull it behind a dozer so the dozer knocks
7 the trees over and the roller comes and chops them into
8 about good fire stove lengths. But it's got a very
9 small window of opportunity, the ground needs to be
10 frozen, there can't be too much snow, and so it's got
11 its limitations but it's been effective.

12

13 The first one we did, the parcel we
14 did, was about two and a half years ago and it was a
15 learning experience but it was good to see moose tracks
16 in there, fresh tracks in there last summer when we
17 were doing a site visit with some folks from Washington
18 D.C. And then we just, like I said, we just finished
19 up 1,500 acres and that's what we were funded for. So
20 we're looking at ways to better select the land that
21 we're going to be doing these habitat treatments to and
22 we've got some funding that we received through the
23 USDA called a conservation innovation grant.

24

25 And you can hear more about this
26 afternoon, we're giving a presentation at about 3:30,
27 3:45 today. So I think this is -- you know, we talk
28 about -- and Greg Roczicka talked about it, he said
29 like that two legged stool, and we're working to be
30 that third leg, to be a part of management and working
31 across the entire landscape, not just on AHTNA land.
32 But I think that faith, that trust in our capabilities
33 and that trust in what we're doing still needs to be
34 built and we're working together. So it's just a good
35 opportunity to find out a little bit more about us this
36 afternoon and what we're doing to try and grow moose
37 instead of fighting over that last one.

38

39 So I appreciate the time, Sue, thank
40 you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
43 Karen. Does anyone have any questions.

44

45 Bill, then Virgil.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Well, have you got it down
48 to a cost per acre that you're clearing when you do
49 this stuff, or are you just -- I mean is it real
50 expensive. I mean I'm trying to figure out how much it

1 would cost to put a plan like that all around the area.

2

3 MS. LINNELL: It is spendy. It can be
4 up to a couple hundred dollars an acre, or more. We
5 had one contractor come in and it was over 300 an acre
6 when we put it out to bid. It's something -- once we
7 fine-tune and figure out what exactly needs to be done
8 I think we can start to whittle those costs down.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I wanted
13 to tell the Council in our book, 98 through somewhere
14 here, is part of the report that they'll be giving here
15 today, so if you don't make it there there's some
16 information there. And I just got a note that it's in
17 the small room, three, here, yeah, and I cannot say
18 that language if anyone else can.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
23 Virgil, you had a question.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. This chopping
26 that you're doing, so the willows are starting to grow
27 up after that?

28

29 MS. LINNELL: Oh, yeah. We roller
30 chop, usually when the ground is frozen and by the
31 springtime, if there's enough scarification, you know,
32 you get the willow regrowth from the willows that are
33 already there, but if the ground is stirred up enough
34 you'll get spouts a lot more spread out and so that's a
35 key part of it and that was a lesson learned from the
36 very first trip through, was that we needed to do a
37 little more scarification on the ground.

38

39 The willow growth comes back pretty
40 quickly. And that's something with willow, you can
41 take a little chunk and plant it and it'll grow, but
42 it's got to be done at the right time of the year and
43 you can't just do it any time and the spring time is
44 the best time for that.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. In 2001 I
49 was at Park City Utah for the Western Association for
50 Fish and Wildlife Agency meetings when I was on the

1 Board of Fish and they took us on a tour of this desert
2 ranch run by the Mormon Church, 200,000 acres and they
3 were doing the same thing to the sagebrush except they
4 really didn't have to wait until it froze to increase
5 the nutritional value, et cetera, improve the habitat
6 and what they did is they quit raising half of the cows
7 and the sheep and they'd just take people hunting for
8 elk and they're doing that to improve the habitat for
9 the elk and deer and they make more money doing that
10 than if they were raising cows and sheep.

11

Thank you.

12

13

MS. LINNELL: Thank you.

14

15

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eat more elk.

16

17

18

19

20

21

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know.

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MR. UMPHENOUR:food for the elk
and the other wildlife is what it does. Plus the sage
grouse, it makes much better habitat for sage grouse,
which they were having a problem with.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I love
this project you guys are working on, I think it's
pretty neat.

MS. LINNELL: I think, you know, when
we're taking this -- this is using Western technology
to do what we've traditionally done through fire and
harvesting of our own wood to thin out for heat and
things that we were able to keep areas around our
communities safe and then also draw the moose in
closer, and so we're using those practices the best we
can.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
Karen. Anyone else have any questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
Thanks a lot.

MS. LINNELL: Thank you. Hope to see
you this afternoon.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Sounds
2 good.

3
4 All right. Next on the agenda is the US
5 Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge update on the proposed
6 rule on hunting.

7
8 MR. ELLIS: Thank you. Good morning,
9 Madame Chair, Council members. I appreciate the
10 opportunity this morning to update you on the proposed
11 rule. I'm going to run through it pretty quickly and
12 entertain any questions or things that you'd like to
13 tell us this morning.

14
15 So, again, I'm sure you all remember
16 we've updated the RAC two or three times over the last
17 year and a half. We've had a pretty exhaustive scoping
18 period and input process leading up to the drafting of
19 this rulemaking. And we appreciate all of the input
20 that we've received so far. But, again, I'm sure most
21 of you are familiar with it so I'm not going to go into
22 excruciating detail about it this morning, but as a
23 reminder, the rule does a couple of things.

24
25 It clarifies our existing mandates
26 related to predator population management on National
27 Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. It also updates our
28 existing closure procedures in the unlikely event that
29 we have to do an emergency, a temporary or a permanent
30 closure related to conservation concerns or wildlife
31 issues.

32
33 The coordination on this process began
34 back in 2014. We initiated consultation with the
35 Native organizations and tribes, State of Alaska, the
36 RACs, other organizations and that continued up through
37 December of 2015 and we put the draft rule out the
38 first week of January 2016. Initially the rule was put
39 out for 60 days. But we received a number of requests
40 to extend the comment period and so we did that.
41 Currently the comment period ends April 7th, so we
42 extended the comment period an additional 30 days, so
43 it's a 90 day comment period now. And that's a good
44 thing. That extension of time period incorporates
45 these RAC meetings this week, it also incorporates the
46 Board of Game meeting next week, and so those
47 organizations can provide additional formal comments
48 into the process.

49
50 So far we've received about 3,000

1 comments. Those are posted at regulations.gov and most
2 of the comments we've received have been submitted
3 electronically to that website. And, again, that
4 website, I'll read it into the record, is,
5 www.regulations.gov, and if you do a search for FWS-R7-
6 NWRS-2014-0005 it takes you to that site. You can
7 submit comments there. You can also view the comments
8 that have already been submitted. So it's an
9 interesting resource for folks to go and look at what
10 sort of comments we're receiving.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mitch, can I
13 interrupt a minute.

14
15 MR. ELLIS: Yeah.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What you
18 said, dash, dash and all that stuff, is that in
19 our.....

20
21 MR. ELLIS: It should be.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:this CFR
24 thing in the back?

25
26 MR. ELLIS: Yes. Madame Chair. That
27 information -- there was a one page handout that we
28 provided each RAC. It's to submit comments but it's
29 also on there as well. Yes.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. In
32 your book on 216, he says it's in here as well.

33
34 MR. ELLIS: Uh-huh.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah, I
37 see it 36 CFR 242, that one and then it continues on,
38 no, no, there's no dashes. I just want to make sure
39 they know where it's at as you speak, it's how you
40 comment on line.

41
42 MR. ELLIS: Yes there should be a one
43 page comment handout that we gave to each RAC and it's
44 got the website there. But also if you go to our
45 general Fish and Wildlife Service website for Alaska
46 it's got it on there as well.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda says
49 it's 215, on Page 215. No. Go ahead. We'll find it.
50

1 MR. ELLIS: Okay. It's on Page 215,
2 it's the fourth paragraph down on that page.

3
4 So, again, I'll reiterate that the rule
5 -- we haven't updated statewide regulations on Refuges
6 for a couple of decades. The need to make these
7 clarifications and update the public notification
8 procedures and that sort of thing for any, again,
9 unlikely closures, that we might have to do was the
10 driving force behind this.

11
12 During the scoping period we received a
13 number of comments and so it was actually very useful
14 for the agency to hear the feedback, not just from the
15 RACs, but from other organizations in the state. We
16 started out looking at a wide variety of options.
17 We've narrowed it down. So if you look at the methods
18 and means that are drafted to be prohibited, it started
19 out at about 17 or 18 different methods and means, it's
20 scaled back now to the five that you see. There were a
21 number of other changes that were made. Additional
22 definitions were provided. People expressed concern
23 that we were talking about things from ANILCA, such as
24 our mandate to manage for natural diversity but yet we
25 didn't define what natural diversity was, so, again,
26 just a point that it was a very useful year and half
27 plus scoping period and we did incorporate some changes
28 into the draft rule.

29
30 Now, that said, we're looking forward
31 to receiving additional comments and making any
32 necessary changes once we receive the comments and the
33 comment period closes April 7th.

34
35 So with that, I would be happy, Madame
36 Chair, Council members, to answer any questions you
37 have or listen to any of the concerns that you have.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
40 Let's wake up. Questions.

41
42 Andrew.

43
44 MR. FIRMIN: I have a quick one, was it
45 ever taken into account that I live in the Refuge and
46 I'm part of the natural diversity and is that, I guess,
47 why my opinion matters?

48
49 MR. ELLIS: Yes, sir. We looked at the
50 Congressional Record and listened to what the Former

1 Senator Stevens and others during the deliberations of
2 ANILCA and it was clear in the Congressional Record,
3 that rural Alaskans live off of and are part of the
4 system out there and that subsistence resources and the
5 use of those resources is a priority that should be
6 provided. So the environmental assessment associated
7 with this process and the rule, the draft rule itself
8 speak to that.

9

10 MR. FIRMIN: What's the environmental
11 assessment because there's not one in our book and I've
12 never been given a copy or even noticed it until
13 yesterday, actually, that there is a website and the
14 website, I don't know, Lester, you got internet at home
15 and a web address?

16

17 MR. ERHART: Nope.

18

19 MR. FIRMIN: And I don't think half the
20 people in my village do or even own a computer, happy
21 to have lightbulbs in their house. I think that the
22 outreach has been significant though but I'd just like
23 to comment on that also. And I still haven't seen any
24 -- I'm on line four, five days a week and I don't see
25 an environmental assessment.

26

27 MR. ELLIS: So the environmental
28 assessment, the draft came out with the Federal
29 Register notice in January. So the first week of
30 January when the draft documents became available, the
31 draft rule itself and the accompanying environmental
32 assessment was posted and available on line. So it
33 should be -- I can doublecheck but I'm most certain
34 that it's available on the website at regulations.gov,
35 is that not -- it is. And it's also available on our
36 Fish and Wildlife Service website, the Alaska website.
37 We also offered to provide hardcopies to people if they
38 called us on the phone and asked for it, we'd be happy
39 to mail that out. It's getting late in the comment
40 period but we'd still be happy to do that.

41

42 But the nice thing about the
43 environmental assessment, it addresses the methods and
44 means portion. So it goes into a lot of detail about
45 the justification and the necessity for that.

46

47 The administrative aspect of the
48 closure procedures, the environmental assessment really
49 doesn't address the administrative procedures as much
50 as it does the biological integrity, the natural

1 diversity, the methods and means. So it's a more
2 comprehensive document, I don't remember how many pages
3 it is, but 40 or 50 pages, and it goes into a little
4 bit more detail about the Legislative history of ANILCA
5 and things like that.

6

7 MR. FIRMIN: I just find that over the
8 past year and a half we've been given this page like
9 this and yet there's a 40 or 50 page document
10 associated with it that we've never been given to and
11 handed to freely. Just finally reading the fine print
12 here I notice that it's been floating around all this
13 time and it just seems kind of odd. But I wish I would
14 have seen it a year and a half ago or whenever it came
15 out.

16

17 There's also -- I was going to ask, how
18 many of your comments that you've received are form
19 letters or have you been able to decipher that yet?

20

21 MR. ELLIS: We haven't analyzed the
22 comments yet so I couldn't say. But it'd be a safe
23 assumption with 3,000 comments that a portion of them
24 are probably form letters.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: Okay, I've got some other
27 things to say but if anybody else wants to ask
28 questions.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Continue.
31 Then Virgil.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I guess for my
34 comments more I think I've commented on
35 regulations.gov, but from flipping through there I
36 think there's a lot of them seem like form letters
37 from, I don't know, Sierra Club, or someplace like
38 that. But I've seen that a lot of them are from people
39 that are out of state also, even have probably never
40 been to Fort Yukon before, and I just think a lot of
41 the Refuges, the vastness and the size of them are
42 bigger than most eastern states and that those Refuges
43 deserve their own individualized plans. They need
44 something different. Because bear hunting where I'm
45 from is completely different from where Tanana is from,
46 and from Huslia, and they have different views and
47 feelings and opinions and maybe some areas have more
48 hunters or more guiding and others have 10 people
49 living in them, you know. I mean look at the girl from
50 Birch Creek that was speaking the other day, there's

1 what 30 people from her village, how many of them go
2 bear hunting, you know, two, one, if even that.

3

4 I just think that it just seems like
5 the people that live on the Refuge weren't really taken
6 into account when it came to natural diversity because
7 I don't know we're the ones that live there and got to
8 put up with the predators that are eating your dogs off
9 the end of your chain while you're sleeping at night
10 and shooting up the bears on the other side of the
11 house. But I think that a lot of it, it just needs to
12 be individualized because the regulations are specific
13 to biological concerns in those regions and I don't see
14 why the size of the Refuges couldn't be divided like
15 the State does with the game management units within a
16 Refuge and say this area, okay, we'll do more intensive
17 management and this area we'll leave for natural
18 diversity, there's nobody that lives within 50 miles of
19 there anyway. You know maybe there are certain areas
20 that are burned or you want to see for moose habitat
21 or, you know, they're specific moose studies within the
22 eastern half or western half of the Refuge so why don't
23 they leave the, you know, it just seems that doing a
24 blanket for the entire state of Alaska, it's ridiculous
25 to me with the diversity that we already have in the
26 state. I mean one Refuge you can shoot whales and
27 walruses and the polar bears, and the other side you
28 got ducks and sea otters are the problem, you know,
29 there's a -- I don't see them on the predator
30 management list. Everything's a predator of something.

31

32 I know I probably got a few other
33 things I could add in there but I think for the most
34 part this rule should not even be accepted and I don't
35 know how it was entertained in the first place. I
36 think that bears on one side of the state are the same
37 as bears on the other side of the state.

38

39 And thank you for coming and listening.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
42 Andrew.

43

44 Okay.

45

46 Virgil.

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: What this proposal rule
49 basically is just circumventing standard methods and
50 means passed through the regulatory public process by

1 the State. And so I have here the Master Memorandum of
2 Understanding between the Alaska Department of Fish and
3 Game and US Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of
4 Interior. It's dated 13 March 1982 signed by Keith
5 Shriner, Regional Director, Alaska, and Ronald Skoog,
6 Commissioner of Fish and Game.

7

8 On the third page of it, it says, the
9 Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Wildlife
10 Service mutually agree to coordinate.....

11

12 1. Planning for management of fish and
13 wildlife resources on Service lands so
14 that conflicts arising from different
15 legal mandates, objectives and policies
16 either do not arise or are minimized.

17

18 2. To consult with each other when
19 developing policy and Legislation which
20 affects the attainment of wildlife
21 resource management goals and
22 objectives of the other agency.

23

24 My question is, did the Fish and
25 Wildlife Service consult with the Alaska Department of
26 Fish and Game and analyze what the effects of this
27 would be?

28

29 MR. ELLIS: Councilman, yes -- yes,
30 sir.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Would you like to look
33 at this document?

34

35 MR. ELLIS: I have it in front of me.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.

38

39 MR. ELLIS: I do. So we have consulted
40 and coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and
41 Game. And I have -- I mean I can read that to you, I
42 have a list of meetings. We first met with the State
43 on December 23rd, 2014, we met again on February 6th,
44 2015, we met on December 4th, 2015 and on December
45 29th, 2015 so we had four, I guess you would
46 characterize them as more formal, sit down, discuss the
47 issues kind of meetings, more of a consultation with
48 the State. But in addition to that we've discussed
49 various issues over the phone and through other
50 planning venues so there's been continuing dialogue

1 with the State early on. Very similar and concurrent
2 with early scoping that we did with the Native
3 organizations and the tribes so it -- yes, we did.

4
5 So the Master MOU that you're quoting
6 also the two sections before it talk about what the
7 Fish and Wildlife Service agrees to do and there's a
8 portion that talks about what the State agrees to do so
9 in order to get the entire context of the cooperative
10 spirit and arrangement of the MOU you really need to
11 read the whole MOU to get the feel for it and what the
12 obligations are.

13
14 For example, in the MOU the State does
15 agree and affirm that on Service lands they will manage
16 for natural diversity.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

19
20 MR. ELLIS: Uh-huh.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: If I go to the very
23 first thing that the Fish and Wildlife Service agrees
24 on, number 1, to recognize the Department, that's the
25 Department of Fish and Game, as the agency with the
26 primary responsibility to manage fish and resident
27 wildlife within the state of Alaska. It says that.
28 But I don't really want to debate this. The State has
29 a process that everyone at this table has been involved
30 in, and some of us very, very extensively, the Board of
31 Fish and Board of Game. The Federal government has
32 started a process and that's what we are, we're the
33 RAC, and we make proposals to the Federal Subsistence
34 Board, and that's how regulations are supposed to be
35 made or promulgated on the Federal lands.

36
37 And so my question is this, why did you
38 circumvent your own system and make a rule instead of
39 running it through the public process?

40
41 MR. ELLIS: Councilman, we've found
42 great value in using the RAC as a venue for public
43 involvement. Precisely for the reason you stated, that
44 the RACs are intimately involved in putting proposals
45 forward and establishing Federal Subsistence
46 regulations. This rule doesn't change the Federal
47 Subsistence regulations. These aren't proposals that
48 are directly related to the Federal Subsistence
49 regulations, they're -- they apply to general hunting
50 regulations. And I understand that rural residents

1 hunt in both books. They -- when they're feeding their
2 families they are using every opportunity to do that
3 and I fully respect that. But, again, the regulatory
4 process that you're referring to is the Federal
5 Subsistence regulations, these proposals don't change
6 anything in the Federal Subsistence regulations, they
7 change the general hunting regulations. Also the
8 closure procedures are listed in 50 CFR 36 Refuge
9 specific, it's not in the part that speaks to the
10 Federal Subsistence regulations.

11
12 But, again, we do value the opportunity
13 and the venue that the RACs provide because it gives us
14 very detailed and honest and direct feedback from rural
15 residents so we appreciate that very much.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. That's not what
18 I asked. My question, and I'll be extremely specific,
19 is, why did the Service not submit a regulatory
20 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board through the
21 normal process so that those of us that wanted to,
22 could have sit in on the deliberations when the Board
23 meets, hear their pro and con arguments, everyone in
24 the world that wants to come and physically testify
25 could testify, each RAC would have their representative
26 there to weigh in during deliberations and they would
27 take a vote at the end and we would know exactly who
28 voted for what, why didn't they do that, because that
29 is the public process you are supposed to be going by?

30
31 MR. ELLIS: Councilman. If we were
32 proposing a change through the Federal Subsistence
33 Board we would have done precisely what you just
34 described. If we were trying to propose a regulatory
35 change through the Board of Game we would have gone
36 through the ACs. We're not doing either of those.

37
38 What we're doing is we're changing the
39 regulations in 50 CFR, the Federal general regulations.
40 And so the proper public process to do that is to do
41 what we did. We scoped. We did G-to-G with the
42 tribes. We did outreach and consultation with the
43 State. We held nine public hearings. We put a draft
44 out. It's out for 90 days. We have an exhaustive
45 public process that we went through and we're required
46 to do that and we're happy to do that. We did that.
47 We did the proper public process to change regulations
48 or propose these changes through the Federal regulation
49 process.

50

1 So there may be some confusion.
2
3 We're not changing anything.....
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need to
6 interrupt.
7
8 MR. ELLIS: Okay.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because I
11 think what Virgil's trying to come to is something
12 that's been so frustrating for all of us.
13
14 You guys have a perception problem.
15
16 This doesn't look like you're going
17 through the proper process. This looks like somebody
18 in your office got together with some other people in
19 your office and decided we don't like this, so we're
20 going to do what we can legally do. It doesn't look
21 good to the Fish and Wildlife Service or the Park
22 Service when proposed rules get thrown in the CFR.
23
24 And here, as the Chair, I told these
25 guys this yesterday, my coordinator, I suggested when I
26 saw that the deadline was before these meetings, I
27 wrote on behalf of this Council requesting an extension
28 to the comment period and I have an email from Carl,
29 from you -- or after talking to you, saying, no, we're
30 not going to do that, so then they wouldn't even let me
31 write the letter, now that is a perception problem.
32 That is just looking like someone's in the fast train
33 to get 'er done and not really have any concern for the
34 rest of the people.
35
36 And the whole issue, we're getting
37 wrapped around this when we should really comment on
38 all the stuff that's in it.
39
40 Okay.
41
42 He wants to finish and I don't mind
43 calling on someone from the audience as long as the
44 Council members are okay with it.
45
46 Virgil, go ahead and finish.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Sue kind of
49 -- we're frustrated. Because we have a public process
50 that we're used to. We have a State process, we have a

1 Federal process. We got this memorandum of
2 understanding. When I was on the Board of Fish, you
3 know, we had a committee, we had a couple Board of Fish
4 members, we had a couple Board of Game members, we met
5 and we met with the Federal Subsistence Board and we
6 met with Staff from your agency to try to come up with
7 different options and agreements and who's going to do
8 what, et cetera. I've been involved in this process a
9 long time. We are really frustrated because to me this
10 is no more than bureaucratic bullying. It's just damn,
11 pure and simple bureaucratic bullying, you can do it so
12 you're going to do it. What we say in our meetings, in
13 all these meetings, the people that are affected, that
14 really care about the conservation of the resource on
15 all these public lands, we feel that we're totally
16 being ignored. You're just going through the motions,
17 get all the tree huggers and greenies from the Lower 48
18 to pitch in, that's how we feel. We feel like we're
19 just being bullied and runover.

20

21 And so -- and the best example of that
22 is your definitions.

23

24 Biological integrity means the bionic
25 compositions, structure and functioning at genetic,
26 organism and community level comparable with historic
27 conditions including the natural biological processes
28 that shape genomes organisms and communities.

29

30 And then I drop down to the definition
31 of the historic conditions, means, the composition,
32 structure and functioning of ecosystems resulting from
33 natural processes that we believe based on sound
34 professional judgment were present prior to substantial
35 human related changes to the landscape.

36

37 You know I came down here Wednesday
38 afternoon, at lunch, I had lunch with Congressman Don
39 Young and we discussed this very subject and these
40 definitions and global warming and bureaucratic
41 bullying. Don Young was born in 1933. This is what he
42 said at lunch on Wednesday:

43

44 It was 110 in Northern California.
45 There was no air conditioning. His family was poor.
46 And it stayed over 110 for over a month. So he says,
47 who knows what was going on, no one said a damn thing
48 so I says, well, I know what was going on, it was the
49 dust bowl. It's what caused all the Oakies to move to
50 California. It's when the plain states, all the top

1 soil blew away, many, many homesteaders just abandoned
2 their homesteads, that's what happened. But then that
3 quit. The climate changed. It's very productive now.
4 They've learned instead of plowing in straight lines,
5 they plow in circles, so that the wind can't blow all
6 the top soil away and ruin your farmland.

7
8 But anyway the only thing you've done
9 with these definitions and I have spent lots of time on
10 what is genetic integrity, especially in fisheries,
11 what is genetic integrity. Genetic integrity of king
12 salmon in the Yukon River means that we should have --
13 in the population we should have a good representation
14 of each age class because that's passed on genetically,
15 the age classes. At what age the salmon returns,
16 whether it's three, four, five, six, seven, eight
17 years, we've practically exterminated -- we have
18 extirpated the eight year old age class, the seven year
19 old age class has went from 28 percent of the
20 commercial harvest in the early 80s down to less -- we
21 don't have a commercial harvest any more, but they do
22 age some of them in the spawning grounds down to one
23 percent. So we've practically extirpated them. To me
24 that's maintaining genetic integrity. What you people
25 have done is you have put definitions in your proposed
26 rule, going to be in regulations, that are nothing more
27 than job security for a whole gob of lawyers to argue
28 over what they mean and they can do it for years.

29
30 I think this whole process is
31 circumventing. The process was developed by the
32 Federal Legislature to protect people from things like
33 what you are doing right now. I think you are totally
34 circumventing it. And I think it's totally
35 disingenuous and you're really alienating the people of
36 the state of Alaska.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
41 call Karen up. She raised her hand and she had
42 something to add.

43
44 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 For the record I'm Karen Linnell.

46
47 I, too, have concerns regarding this
48 proposed rule and I'm speaking as an individual.
49 ANILCA formed these Refuges and when they were going
50 through the negotiations and we have our elder, Roy

1 Ewan, who went to Denver to meet with 50-something Park
2 Service folks when they were negotiating ANILCA and the
3 whole purpose for ANILCA was protection of subsistence
4 rights. They purposely left the management of Refuges
5 with the State. This type of regulation being put in
6 place without any biological background with it,
7 that's, again, why -- Mr. Firmin, you know, spoke about
8 what happens up on the Yukon doesn't happen in Kenai,
9 you know, it would be the same as what's happening in
10 North Dakota doesn't happen in Texas. That's the size
11 of information that you're trying to do, blanket across
12 everything. When the Board of Game makes decisions,
13 they do it based on that area, they look at the
14 biological concerns for that specific area. This type
15 of regulation circumvents that. This type of
16 regulation can change the entire landscape for that
17 area. The type of -- without that type of hunting -- I
18 know you're using information from 1990 in regards to
19 the bears and things like that, that -- the Board did
20 liberalize and then they later restricted when there
21 was biological concern, and now they've liberalized
22 again because of the biological concern. There's got
23 to be equity.

24
25 Speaking to Mr. Umphenour's comments on
26 the historical information, I'm sorry, but we've been
27 here for thousands of years and impact of man, the
28 Native people were here and don't you think we were
29 hunting those animals to protect our families, to
30 protect our food source. Moose, caribou, sheep, those
31 are our food sources, much like the Lower 48 and their
32 cattle, but we can't go down the street and buy more to
33 replenish our stock when the bears or the wolves come
34 and take them, that's our ranching. So by our
35 protecting and keeping -- there's never been a time
36 that we hunted out or overfished to the detriment of
37 the wildlife. There's a balance.

38
39 You're circumventing a process to keep
40 that balance by going directly to this Federal Register
41 and making a proposed rule. You're circumventing a
42 system that's been put in place and I think -- it seems
43 to manage very well.

44
45 What I see from going to the Board of
46 Game meetings and there's this head butting going on
47 and it's a pissing contest, sorry for my words, about
48 who gains control and it's got to stop. If you folks
49 want to have success and want the Board to work with
50 you, you've got to quit pulling this kind of crap, it's

1 not going to work. It just ends up, well, we don't
2 have to and it goes the other way. And I'm going to
3 say the same thing to the Board of Game, you know,
4 we've got to work together to make it so that we have a
5 balance with our nature, which is the way that the
6 Native people have been doing.

7
8 This happened before, Copper River
9 fisheries, in the 1890s, 1920, decimated and it was
10 asked by tribal leaders that got involved and wrote --
11 it ended up being to the Department of Education, to
12 stop the overfishing and they turned the fishery back
13 over to the Natives so that we can go and get that
14 stock back up. The same thing happened with the
15 Migratory Birds. It was fighting. Turned the
16 management back over where the Natives were involved
17 and now it's a plentiful stock.

18
19 So this is my pitch, to you, and it's
20 going to be to the Board of Game, we need this tribal
21 peace to make things balance and you talk about G-to-G
22 relations and things and I'm looking at Rhonda and
23 she's on the Council of Athabascan Governments and
24 she's like uh, I don't recall getting anything on this
25 government-to-government relations. And, you know, I
26 don't recall seeing anything from Cheesh'na side. And
27 when we do this wide reach sending a fax and a letter
28 and there's no dialogue that is not consultation.
29 There has to be a dialogue, much like you're doing
30 right here so that we can talk before you even get to
31 this point.

32
33 Again, I think that this process could
34 be a detriment to the wildlife throughout the state and
35 it's become, like you said in the last year and a half
36 that they started throwing these proposed rules in to
37 try and regulate game, and that's not your job. The
38 management of game is for the Board of Game and for the
39 Federal Subsistence Board, you need to work with them.
40 Have your facts in order and your support before you
41 try something like this. And with the Federal
42 Subsistence Board, if they felt that there was a
43 concern, this RAC could have brought something up.
44 We're having a problem in Kenai, you know, then he
45 could put forward a proposal for you. It can't be
46 coming from the Department or the Service.

47
48 Thank you, Ms. Entsminger.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

1 Karen. Appreciate it.

2

3 I'm going to get back to your short
4 introduction of this proposed rule.

5

6 Council members, we need to get on the
7 record things, what's in here. I just wrote down some
8 things that we'll probably ask questions. I'm seeing
9 in this, right now, just let me read it from my notes.

10

11 There's closures, emergency closures
12 extend them from 30 to 60 days; temporary extended from
13 12 months to a minimum of three years and then
14 permanent will be published in the Federal Register.

15

16 So my question first of all, we are
17 opposed to extending anything on this emergency
18 closure. And temporary, minimum of three years, does
19 that mean that it could be 10 years, what does that
20 mean Mitch?

21

22 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 The existing regulations already in place in 50 CFR 36
24 already have provisions for an emergency closure of 30
25 days. The main change we're making or proposing there
26 would be to go to 60 days for an emergency closure.
27 That will put it more in line with the emergency
28 closure process that's in place for, example, the
29 State's.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, but
32 here's the.....

33

34 MR. ELLIS: I think you're more
35 concerned about the temporary closure. The temporary
36 closure, those provisions, currently in our regulations
37 only allow for a 12 month temporary closure. We're
38 proposing that it go to up to three years, but only as
39 long as necessary, not a minimum of three years but
40 only as long as necessary but up to three years. Then
41 there would be a revisitation of -- you know, at that
42 point there would have to be additional public process
43 and justifications by the Refuge manager to extend
44 beyond three years.

45

46 So the idea that a temporary closure
47 would go, you know, beyond three years is unlikely.
48 We've actually only done one temporary closure related
49 to wildlife concerns that I know of and that was the
50 Kenai brown bear closure. It's very unlikely that we

1 would have these sorts of closures, but we do have to
2 have a mechanism in place to do that that requires
3 public input, hearings, transcripts, an opportunity for
4 people to weigh in on that and for the agency to
5 demonstrate the need. So it's not a minimum of up to
6 three years, it's up to.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I get
9 that.

10

11 MR. ELLIS:three years. Uh-huh.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Then this
14 permanent closure. It looks like you're changing from
15 going into the affected areas by just doing it all on
16 line, is how I interpret this.

17

18 MR. ELLIS: One of the purposes of
19 adjusting or changing those closure procedures was to
20 give us the opportunity in regulation force us to use
21 on line because we have a lot of constituencies out
22 there, that seems to be the way people -- at least a
23 number of them, get their information. So we kept the
24 requirement to do local notice, local hearings because
25 that's important. That was one of the things during
26 the scoping process that we heard loud and clear, is
27 that people wanted, not just continue the way we had
28 done the local hearings and postings at the Refuge and
29 the more localized outreach, but to have a recorded
30 hearing for these closures, and so you'll see that that
31 -- initially that was just going to be a public meeting
32 in the locally affected area but we heard loud and
33 clear people really would prefer to have a hearing so
34 that there's a transcript at the end that they can go
35 back to.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know
38 what's happening is there's so many government people
39 coming into communities asking for all this stuff and
40 pretty soon you wear the people out, we just talked
41 about that. This is something that's happened to some
42 people that I know in the villages around me. They
43 said Sue, we need to comment on this thing, they sent
44 it to us and this is when you were scoping, and so then
45 they send their comments in and they do their scoping,
46 and now the proposed rule comes out, and they go we
47 already commented on that, I'm not going to that
48 meeting, we already did that. And people would like to
49 have a life again. They'd like to be able to go out
50 and do their things that they used to do and our

1 government keeps coming with -- and you're just one
2 agency, it's all the agencies are doing it, they're
3 just coming in and saying, hey, we need to do this and
4 it seems like the government's on a fast-track to get
5 as much stuff done as they possibly can. It seems like
6 that to us.

7

8 I feel like I'm getting wrapped around
9 the axle, guys, I'm sorry. I need to -- any of you
10 have any more questions. That's what we're suffering
11 from right now, is we just talked about this.

12

13 Bill.

14

15 MR. GLANZ: We understand it's just for
16 the non-subsistence hunters but we really don't trust
17 the government that much, we know exactly how they work
18 and how they worm their way in and take stuff away.
19 And like you say, you're taking public comment, my
20 daughters live down in the Chicago area and they show
21 pictures of me with a couple of wolves I've killed and
22 oh, my god, you know, they'll be writing letters to
23 President Obama. I mean they're all upset. So you're
24 going to get about 10,000 positives and how many
25 hundreds from the Alaska Natives, that's just the
26 problem. And I understand the Refuges belong to
27 everybody but it's just the way it's going to work.

28

29 This memorandum of understanding. I
30 was on a department down there, we had an MOU when we
31 had a bunch of strikes going on, then the first time we
32 had to go to court with that MOU, they said MOUs are
33 worthless, MOUs are worthless, it's just a couple of
34 people coming up with an idea but if you can't sue --
35 anyway, I don't want to get all in the past life, but
36 this is horrible.

37

38 Where I live, I have a lot of Fairbanks
39 people come up, and they take a gross amount of bears
40 out of the Federal wildlife areas, the Parks, they're
41 going to be prohibited. Now, I understand that these
42 guys in here, we can all do all that, but if they can't
43 do that, and that if that bear that gets shot by an
44 Anchorage or Fairbanks hunter, it's just as much as a
45 bear shot by me, so BS we don't trust you guys one bit.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks Bill.

50

1 Rhonda.

2

3 MS. PITKA: I think last time I did
4 make a comment so that's why I was so quiet today is,
5 because, I was already on the record making my comments
6 about that.

7

8 So my comments had to do with natural
9 diversity and it really echoes a lot of what Karen
10 Linnell said about natural diversity. And in this
11 paper on 213 it says that the Refuges are required to
12 work to conserve species and habitats and it includes
13 the continuation of the subsistence way of life. I
14 mean these are subsistence practices that we've had
15 since time immemorial. I mean, of course, the
16 regulation says non-subsistence users, but this
17 regulation goes back to the Federal Subsistence Board
18 and they make subsistence regulations, so it's sort of
19 disingenuous to say that it won't affect subsistence
20 users because it will and it does.

21

22 And I think to have this sort of
23 blanket rule for Alaska is also completely wrong.

24

25 And I also think that, you know, the
26 Refuges in Alaska are much different. Every single one
27 of them has incredible biological diversity. I mean
28 the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, I think, is
29 the size of -- I put it in a grant application -- the
30 size of the state of Michigan, so I mean it's huge,
31 it's vast. And, you know, in the Yukon Flats region,
32 we have -- you know, we have small villages located
33 throughout there. But I mean what is the actual impact
34 of those small villages and their taking. I mean
35 there's no actual data about that. Is there a problem
36 with bears in our area, I mean the lack of bears in our
37 area, no, there isn't. I can tell you that myself.

38

39 So having this sort of rule is just
40 frustrating to us because I mean we see bears all the
41 time.

42

43 If you want to be really truthful about
44 things, the only reason that there is still wildlife in
45 the state of Alaska is because of the Native people and
46 their fight for it. I mean there are entire places in
47 the United States where there is absolutely no hunting
48 and the only places in the rest of the United States
49 where there are hunting are on tribal lands. So I feel
50 like this is why I get incredibly angry about these

1 types of proposed rules that would take away our
2 traditional means, and it feels like that's where it's
3 reaching towards. I mean maybe that isn't but that's
4 definitely the perception.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other --
9 Andrew.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: I had a couple other small
12 comments.

13
14 One of them is some of the authorities
15 given -- I notice the use of internet to be added, you
16 know, to be provided through -- notices to be provided
17 through newspaper, signs and radio and internet and I
18 think that just kind of goes back to like the EA
19 before, like I didn't receive anything in the mail
20 myself. BLM sends me a 10 pound copy of their EA. I
21 don't see why the Fish and Wildlife Service couldn't
22 send me a 40 pager in the mail or put one in the book
23 for us to read and comment on specifically.

24
25 But I just also wanted to point out
26 that the existing -- you know if predator control is
27 not allowed on Refuges in Alaska unless it's determined
28 to be necessary to meet Refuge purposes, laws, policy,
29 consistent with mandates, biological diversity and
30 environmental health, la, dee, da, dee, da. It says
31 the need for predator control must be based on sound
32 science and response to a significant conservation
33 concern. I don't know if you've read any of the basic
34 -- any of the basic studies or anything going on in the
35 Yukon Flats Refuge but I think in the past few years
36 the wolf studies, they got a large healthy population
37 of wolves. I think they eat, what did it say, three
38 moose a week for a smaller pup, there's no other game
39 for them to eat there besides moose and each other.
40 The bears -- the black bears alone in the last study
41 done in the last few years, the black bears outnumber
42 the moose four or five to one. The calf mortality and
43 predation rate on moose is 60 to 80 percent of the
44 killing the moose. And we also have the lowest moose
45 population in the state. And you can -- I think that's
46 including like the North Slope or we're even with the
47 North Slope which is unheard of I think. And we do
48 have a lot of habitat, we do have a lot of things like
49 that. And I think right there is the need for predator
50 control, that's pretty much sound science. The Fish

1 and Wildlife Service did all that science and, yet, to
2 say that there's no need for predator control is just
3 fine if it's against the mandate, or your laws, or I
4 guess that's considered to let all the predators eat
5 all the moose there. I guess that's biological
6 diversity. However, for people to survive there
7 without fish and caribou and I've been fortunate enough
8 to be able to harvest moose on a regular basis, there's
9 still people that haven't and I just think that it's
10 not considered predator control if you're encouraging
11 people to go hunt in an area because the people that
12 live there, the natural biodiversity cannot keep up
13 with the amount of predators that are being produced in
14 an area, so the natural biodiversity is in the decline
15 for the moose. It's pretty much, or are you just going
16 to watch them go extinct and then watch people starve
17 there or would you rather have a game, regulations in
18 effect through the State to say, well, look, those guys
19 need help, let's have some bear regulations over there,
20 maybe it'll encourage more people to go there and hunt.

21

22 And that's specifically like taking
23 brown bears over bait and encouraging that because
24 people are out there baiting for black bears and they
25 could shoot a brown bear too because the brown bears
26 are out there but they're not as -- I guess not as many
27 of them as there are black bears, but there hasn't been
28 any recent studies done in the last 20 or 30 years, but
29 if you go out there and walk around there's bear tracks
30 on every gravel bar and sand bar and every place you
31 decide to go there's bear tracks there. I have trail
32 cameras out and I know the Refuge is starting to put
33 them out and it'll be interesting to see what, you
34 know, to hear what they see, if they actually share it
35 with us.

36

37 But I just think that a lot of these --
38 when we kind of made a lot of the regulations in the
39 area, kind of, I guess, proliferated them for others in
40 the state to encourage some of the harvest and no
41 harvest has been -- if you look there hasn't been any
42 raise in harvest on the predators so it's not predator
43 control, it's just a means for people that live there
44 and want to go there and hunt bears to be able to get
45 more and harvest more is just fine, but it just seems
46 like if you look at your own studies, or the Fish and
47 Wildlife studies there's obviously a need for predator
48 control there, but since there won't be one and they're
49 trying to make it harder for people to harvest
50 predators with this rule it seems like, well, that was

1 our means of doing it and this just seems like another
2 way of, you know, another way that the government is
3 trying to make it harder for me to live out in the
4 woods. What am I supposed to go start turning into a
5 farmer and start raising cattle. I mean there's not a
6 whole lot of resources there for people to live on and
7 I see plenty of studies done by Fish and Wildlife
8 Service that point to the outrageous amount of
9 predators and I see it for myself on the ground and I
10 just see this as detrimental to me trying to make a
11 difference out of it other than quit going to these
12 meetings and go hunting more. Maybe if I spent eight
13 weeks out of my year hunting predators I'd make a
14 bigger dent than sitting here eight weeks out of the
15 year at meetings like this trying to make the rules
16 better for people that I live and hunt with so they can
17 have a more better time going and harvesting this large
18 number of predators on the Refuge.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well said
23 Andrew. I think everybody would totally ditto on that.
24 Eight weeks at meetings is -- you're better off going
25 home when it looks like it's being shoved -- I'm giving
26 you all opportunity, I have a few points I want to
27 bring out.

28

29 Did you have one.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yes.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, what I don't
36 understand. And I know the Fish and Wildlife Service
37 has been doing this for eons. I know people that used
38 to be actual government trappers and hunters, some of
39 them are really colorful individuals, circling in your
40 SuperCub at 5,000 feet, just circling and watching for
41 the wolves and then killing the wolves.

42

43 And then when I was a kid, and I'll be
44 74 in two months but I can remember -- I grew up in
45 Arizona so that's all BLM land, anyway, so myself and
46 another kid, we were about 12 or 13 we were out hiking
47 in the mountains, I did that and lots of rock
48 collecting. Had the dog alone. They had these cyanide
49 things out there to kill coyotes, they do in the dogs
50 pretty good too. But I was talking to this one old

1 guy, Sue knows him, Sam Snyder, he's passed away, but
2 he was a government worker, Fish and Wildlife Service
3 trapper and hunter and he said, you know we have so
4 damn many bears now, when we did all those cyanide
5 things, back in the late '50s, he said, it didn't just
6 kill the wolves, it killed the foxes, it killed the
7 bears, and then when all that quit then the bear
8 population really exploded. But that's why we have so
9 damn many bears around.

10

11 But I'm just kind of leading up to my
12 question, remember Hagermiester Island, five or 6,000
13 reindeer out there, invasive species, so Fish and
14 Wildlife Service wouldn't let the people go get them,
15 instead they flew helicopters and shot them all. I
16 remember that. That was back in the mid-70s. Lots of
17 controversy over that.

18

19 And I know that here just recently,
20 within the last five or six years on the East Coast, I
21 don't know which Refuge it is, but their goal was to
22 kill over 5,000, I believe seagulls, because of the
23 endangered species, some kind of bird that the seagulls
24 were eating the eggs and the chicks. Then right on the
25 Yukon Delta Refuge the black brant have an issue and I
26 know that Fish and Wildlife Service has got predator --
27 a real predator control program to kill foxes because
28 they like to eat duck eggs and chicks and of course any
29 sea bird eggs or chicks.

30

31 So anyway a predator control program in
32 this state is something that has to go through an
33 extremely complicated public process before it's ever
34 authorized by the Board of Game. But the Fish and
35 Wildlife Service is willing to do and they do
36 participate in predator control, such as like on the
37 Yukon Delta, even in Alaska, where they have a predator
38 control program except they don't go through the
39 extensive public process like the State does to do a
40 real predator control program, so that kind of brings
41 me to a question.

42

43 What's really annoying is that hunters
44 pay for this with the purchase of their duck stamps.
45 I've been told -- I don't know whether they do for sure
46 or not, but I think so, my grandson did win the duck
47 stamp drawing contest for the State last year for his
48 age group -- but anyway -- so my question is simple:

49

50 What's the difference between -- well

1 there is a big difference -- what you want to
2 circumvent is standard methods and means that went
3 through the normal regulatory process. So what's the
4 difference in us doing that and you killing foxes down
5 on Yukon Delta to enhance the black brant population.

6
7 MR. ELLIS: That's a great question.
8 So the regulations that are being proposed lay out the
9 process and I think it was Councilman Firmin that was
10 reading it, but it has to be for Refuge purposes,
11 there's a whole, kind of a list of requirements, so
12 there is a process. If we're going to do predator
13 control on a National Wildlife Refuge, our regulations
14 would lay that out pretty clearly.

15
16 The truth is through policy those
17 requirements already exist.

18
19 But the difference, I think, with the
20 fox control is clearly -- it's an endangered species
21 recovery effort, it's restoring natural diversity, the
22 loss of stellers eiders from that area, we're trying to
23 bring those back, black brant populations were
24 depleted. Part of the problem with black brant, if I
25 remember correctly was overharvest in areas of the
26 Lower 48, et cetera, so we were trying to correct a
27 management problem that we created partially. And I
28 think, really for the benefit of just black brant, but
29 the people who harvest black brant on the Delta. So
30 I'm not intimately familiar with all of the public
31 process that went into the development of that predator
32 control program but I believe it's legitimate, I think
33 it was necessary and it complied with all of the
34 Federal and State regulations.

35
36 So that was a good example.

37
38 We, don't, as an agency, think predator
39 control is a bad thing, it's a useful tool. It's a
40 legitimate wildlife management tool that we use, as an
41 agency, frequently. The removal of seagulls, and I
42 think it was in the eastern part of the United States,
43 I think that had a lot to do with public safety issues
44 near an airport as well. So there is a time and a
45 place for predator control. And what we're trying to
46 do with the proposed rule is to clarify under what
47 conditions and what that process would be to have
48 predator control on a National Wildlife Refuge.
49 We have predator control on many Refuges, not just for
50 waterfowl, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge has a predator

1 control program that's targeting mountain lions for the
2 benefit of big horn sheep and there's very specific
3 reasons that they're doing that and that's being done
4 in a wilderness area.

5
6 So I think -- you know there is
7 confusion and hopefully this proposed rule will clarify
8 when it's appropriate to do predator control in a
9 Refuge and when it's not. But I am hearing a lot of
10 concern and, you know, I think during this draft
11 process there's been opportunity for us to make it even
12 clearer.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
17 short version.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: That kind of in a way
20 confuses me even more.

21
22 Because when I read this thing here,
23 predator control's not allowed in Refuges, generally
24 not allowed in Refuges in Alaska. What you spoke to,
25 and what Mr. Firmin spoke to, and I know a lot about
26 Mr. Firmin's area, I've hunted up there myself, is that
27 his area has maybe one/tenth of a moose per square mile
28 but they have a heck of a lot of bears, and the people
29 would rather eat moose than bear, and bear is not that
30 easy to get. And so what you're doing is for the
31 people that are not-Federally-qualified users, you're
32 changing the methods and means, or disallowing methods
33 and means that make it easier to harvest these animals,
34 but it's not predator control, it's just standard
35 methods and means. And you keep trying to confuse --
36 and this is what really aggravates me is confusing
37 methods and means that are passed through the normal
38 public process for changing methods and means and
39 predator control, which is totally different, which has
40 a totally different means of promulgation, however, it
41 starts out the same with a proposal from the public or
42 a group of people, but then it has to go through a much
43 more extensive process and have all kinds of scientific
44 data backing it up, pro and con, but anyway we're about
45 to make moose an endangered species where he lives.
46 And so taking the methods and means to harvest the
47 animals that are killing -- I know in the Koyukuk
48 Refuge a good study was done on the predation by bears
49 of moose calves in the first month of life and it was
50 done in '92/93. One of my guides that works for me now

1 was a young kid, he was the kid that jumped out of the
2 helicopter and ran over and tackled the moose calves
3 right after they were born, and the Refuge Service and
4 the Department of Fish and Game both participated in
5 this study. The bears kill 50 to 70 percent of the
6 moose calves there before they are a month old.

7

8 Okay.

9

10 Now, where he lives it's the lowest
11 density of good moose habitat -- good moose habitat
12 with the lowest density of moose in the state, that's
13 where he lives, but they got lots of bears, and so to
14 take away the methods and means for people to harvest
15 some of the bears and it might, might not help the
16 survival of the moose calves because they won't be able
17 to kill enough of them, but it might help some, is just
18 unconscionable to do that to those people.

19

20 And that's why I just cannot believe
21 that the Refuge Service is doing this.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
26 questions.

27

28 Andrew.

29

30 MR. FIRMIN: I have a good idea. I'll
31 just be a farmer and you can fly me up all those feral
32 cattle down in the Aleutian Chain and we'll just herd
33 them around and we won't need to go moose hunting
34 anymore, right.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's quite
39 the idea.

40

41 MR. FIRMIN: Well, the Fish and
42 Wildlife is still trying to figure out what to do with
43 them, just kill them all or what, because they're
44 endangering precious bird habitat but we can eat them.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.

47

48 I do have an important question. In
49 watching the process with the Park Service and the Fish
50 and Wildlife Service regarding this and interpreting it

1 as we see it, wrongly, as predator control, against the
2 State basically, it appears to me that this -- I asked
3 Mitch when I spoke to him, he said it started here, in
4 Alaska, it didn't come from DC, to do this, and I can
5 have a quick nod of the head, because that's what you
6 told me, it started here with people in Alaska.....

7

8 MR. ELLIS: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so it
11 appears that there's people in the government -- in the
12 Federal government and the State that are ticked at
13 each other right now and this is their way to fix it
14 instead of working together, it seems to me.

15

16 And the Park Service ended up -- we had
17 -- bear baiting was in there for black bear, and then
18 whenever it came into -- after they did their EA and
19 they finally published the proposed rule regarding
20 predators. They eliminated black bear baiting,
21 completely eliminated it. So -- and then the other
22 thing they did, so there's two things that concern me
23 -- is this definition of bait in a new proposed rule;
24 is the Service down the same avenue?

25

26 MR. ELLIS: Madame Chair. The --
27 that's a good question. And I'm somewhat familiar with
28 what the Park Service did. We have had black bear
29 baiting on Refuges for some time.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right.

32

33 MR. ELLIS: It's not in the proposed
34 rule to eliminate.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it wasn't
37 in the Park Service.....

38

39 MR. ELLIS:black bear baiting.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:proposed
42 rule and then it came out.

43

44 MR. ELLIS: So it's difficult for me to
45 make any guarantees at a meeting like this because I'm
46 not exclusively in charge of decisions. With the input
47 we receive during the 90 day comment period there will
48 be an analysis, we'll have a lot of our folks come
49 together and look at how to make the changes. I don't
50 do that exclusively. I can tell you it is very

1 unlikely.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where are
4 those decisions made, is it in DC or here?

5

6 MR. ELLIS: No, here in Alaska. So
7 we'll look at all of the comments and, you know, I
8 appreciate Councilman Glanz your comments about there's
9 a lot of form letters, there's a lot of comments from
10 all over the country, it's not a vote. I mean when we
11 take the comments, what we're looking for are themes,
12 people making requests that.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mitch, we've
15 been told this.

16

17 MR. ELLIS:it's not -- it's not
18 quantity.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We've been
21 told this over and over.....

22

23 MR. ELLIS: But -- but.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and over
26 again.

27

28 MR. ELLIS:it's true. Now if we
29 get 100.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And yet it
32 still fails.....

33

34 MR. ELLIS:if we get 100,000
35 comments from folks that want to eliminate black bear
36 baiting from Refuges, just because they don't like
37 it.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They live in
40 DC.

41

42 MR. ELLIS:they don't like it,
43 but they don't provide any biological reason, or any
44 other reason for it other than they just don't like it,
45 that doesn't carry a lot of weight.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's hard for
48 us to.....

49

50 MR. ELLIS: There has to be a flaw in

1 the analysis.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:believe
4 that.

5

6 MR. ELLIS:there has to be some
7 point made that is substantive. So we look at all of
8 that and then together we make the changes to the
9 document and then the final rule.....

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So who are
12 we?

13

14 MR. ELLIS:comes out. It'll be
15 the Refuge managers, it'll be leadership in our
16 regional office and we'll make -- the regional director
17 ultimately makes the final call on what the final rule
18 will look like and then it has to be reviewed by DC,
19 but they're not as involved in the deliberations but
20 they do have to concur with the final rule.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I believe
23 the same was told to us for the Park Service and yet
24 they got rid of black bear baiting.

25

26 So it wasn't going to -- I mean just
27 adding something in -- it wasn't even on the radar that
28 that was going to happen and then it happened and so
29 that makes you guys -- that's a very strong -- that's
30 why we get so frustrated, we go to all these meetings,
31 we might as well stay home, Andrew, we're not really
32 accomplishing anything.

33

34 But I guess I need to -- I know we've
35 been provided a lot of stuff here in the last week.
36 This is Friday and I thought you were going to be at
37 our meeting yesterday so we tried to hurry the meeting
38 and found out that you were coming in in the morning.
39 But there's missing links, I guess, for the
40 coordinators work, these EAs probably need to be sent
41 out to us as part of the process when there's a
42 proposed rule so people can see them and we don't get
43 blindsided because we get -- and I'm sorry guys, it's
44 going to add to the stack of paper this high when you
45 see these EAs or EIS but it's out there and we probably
46 should see it.

47

48 And then is there any other questions,
49 I mean there's so many things in this proposed rule
50 that affect us and I guess we're going to have to

1 figure out how we're going to deal with that.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
7 else. Question's of Mitch. Because then we'll have to
8 get in and do our action later.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's all I
13 have on the Fish and Wildlife Service in the book,
14 this, I've got it all highlighted. Virgil, you have
15 one question, is that going to be the long version or
16 the short version.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Short.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. My question is,
23 okay, now the comment period has been extended, do you
24 have any idea of the timeline of when we will see what
25 the final rule is or what ends up happening, whether
26 you totally abandon this rule or change it around or
27 whatever, the timeline when it actually would go into
28 effect.

29

30 MR. ELLIS: Yes, sir. All I can tell
31 you is that we would like to have the final rule out
32 this summer at some point and then once it's published
33 in the Federal Register and we distribute it, I believe
34 there's a 30 day period before it goes.....

35

36 (Teleconference interruption)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She took care
39 of that.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. ELLIS: But there are a lot of --
44 understand, there are a lot of things that could happen
45 along the line.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So if goes kind
48 of the way they're hoping it goes, then it would become
49 final sometime this summer and it would actually be
50 effective for this fall's hunting season then.

1 MR. ELLIS: Yes, sir, that's correct.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And I want
4 to say one thing though. You know I know a lot of
5 people that work for the Fish and Wildlife Service and
6 BLM and all these various agencies and a lot of really
7 good people work in these agencies and what we're
8 saying here is not directed at individuals personally,
9 it's the bureaucratic framework and how things go
10 sometimes that just really is annoying.

11

12 But I just wanted to make that known.
13 No one's -- we might beat up on you a little
14 excessively at times, it's not that we have anything
15 against you personally as a person.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: We're not trying to shoot
20 the messenger is what he's saying.

21

22 MR. ELLIS: That's fine, I appreciate
23 it. As long as you're beating up on me figuratively
24 and not literally.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's times
27 we want to do that and we know we shouldn't.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just out of
32 frustration and I'm just joking.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But he
37 doesn't think I'm joking. But thanks, Virgil, it's
38 true.

39

40 But we hope that you take us seriously,
41 what we're saying here, and be passionate for our
42 feelings.

43

44 Is there any chance that there'll be an
45 extension to this proposed rule?

46

47 MR. ELLIS: Beyond the 90 days, we
48 haven't had a request since we extended the comment
49 period.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we could
2 request it.....
3
4 MR. ELLIS: Absolutely.....
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and you
7 would probably say no.
8
9 MR. ELLIS:you could request it.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
12 other questions.
13
14 All right, thank you, Mitch.
15
16 MR. ELLIS: Thank the Council again for
17 the opportunity. Thank you.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
20 something Andrew.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
25 going to take a short break.
26
27 (Off record)
28
29 (On record)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I got to
32 bring this meeting back to order.
33
34 (Pause)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And for the
37 record, I guess I should have noted that we are missing
38 Andy and Donald from yesterday.
39
40 Andy's at another session, the
41 outreach. And, Donald, I found out is sick. Rhonda
42 said he was not feeling good by the end of the day and
43 she's not feeling that awesome.
44
45 MS. PITKA: Wash your hands, lots.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there
48 might be something going around here. Yeah, wash your
49 hands, wash your hands.
50

1 Okay. That little part I got done.

2

3 And I just had the coordinator hand
4 out, this is the minutes -- there's two letters here I
5 guess -- well, the first is the minutes from the
6 Koyukuk River Advisory Committee, and then the second
7 page is their letter on the proposed rule, comments. I
8 wanted you guys to have it so you had it. And did you
9 see it, did anyone see it earlier, I thought I emailed
10 it to all of you.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Someone -- Neesa
13 the Board support person for all of the Interior
14 Advisory Committees, she emailed Jack's letter to all
15 the ACs in the Interior.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. You did send
20 an email to me also about this letter.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you did
23 read it.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I got that letter.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
28 I thought it was awesome, they did a good job.

29

30 So before -- I just wanted to ask you
31 guys real quick, the Nowitna manager is here and he's
32 going to take off, so if anyone had any questions about
33 that Refuge before we get into the rest of the subject,
34 I guess -- your Refuge is near Tanana, yeah, if there's
35 no questions.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's the
38 Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
41 the Innoko, yeah, there's three of them.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear
46 any. We want you to do a good job when it comes to
47 meeting over the proposed rule. That's all we got.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I had a quick question. I
4 heard that a lot of people did good on their moose
5 hunts down there in the Tanana area and I was just
6 curious if you guys did any surveys or any overflights
7 after that big burn there, did you see a lot of
8 migration of animals to different parts of the Refuge
9 or different areas or did the fire burn so bad that
10 it's kind of scorched earth looking in there or did it
11 just blaze through the loose stuff.

12

13 MR. MOOS: For the record, Kenton Moos,
14 I'm the Refuge manager for Koyukuk/Nowitna and Innoko
15 and Jerney Havenor is our subsistence coordinator as
16 well for the Refuges.

17

18 Mr. Firmin, through the Chair, we did
19 experience a very hot fire year. We had nearly a
20 million acres burn on the three Refuge with Nowitna
21 probably getting the most impact, about 400,000 on the
22 Nowitna alone. And, yes, we did see -- we're a little
23 bit hypothesizing but it was a very successful moose
24 hunt this year, especially on the Nowitna River. There
25 were fires on both sides. So obviously those fires are
26 going to displace moose somewhat. And so we're pretty
27 sure obviously along the river corridor wasn't as badly
28 burned but that's where people also hunt.

29

30 But there's a couple things with that.

31

32 One is some of these areas have not
33 been burned for years, I mean not on our fire records,
34 so we feel that this will be a positive in the long-
35 term for habitat, moose habitat.

36

37 Secondly, it wasn't a scorched earth
38 burn, I mean there are areas definitely that were
39 scorched but some of the larger ones, like the Big
40 Creek Fire, which was probably the biggest fire that we
41 had on the Refuge, it had a good mosaic, so that's a
42 very good thing for us.

43

44 So we're very optimistic that the fires
45 will be beneficial in the long-term, the short-term, we
46 are a little bit concerned on the moose population in
47 the Nowitna. The number of adult moose are down
48 slightly so we're watching that closely, along with the
49 State of Alaska. But right now things are going good
50 and we're optimistic for the future.

1 MR. FIRMIN: All right, thank you.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
4 questions.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
9 okay, thanks. You get to sit through all our meetings
10 and then not much happening.
11
12 (Laughter)
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15 Council, let's go on to our comments on the proposed
16 rule. I'll give you a suggestion.
17
18 There is a lot stated on the record,
19 and I could ask the coordinator to pull all the
20 comments that we stated on the record and make it into
21 a letter, a draft letter, and then a group of us, say a
22 working group, unless we all want to look at it so we
23 don't miss anything, maybe that would be best, send it
24 out to everybody so we don't miss anything and we'll be
25 sure to go through the Chair, and Katya. And then the
26 other thing was the extension of the comment period, so
27 it would take two motions.
28
29 How do you want to proceed.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Make a motion to write a
32 letter to extend the comment period on the proposal.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do I
35 hear a second.
36
37 MS. PITKA: I'll second.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we need
40 any other discussion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
49 has been called for. All in favor say aye.
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passes
4 unanimously.
5
6 Okay.
7
8 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair. Would it be
9 possible for us to endorse this letter or recopy it or
10 whatever.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Absolutely.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I'd like to make a
15 motion that we do that on this letter, that the Koyukuk
16 sent in.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
23 Any other discussion.
24
25 MR. FIRMIN: I think this is a real
26 well thought out letter and it's worded really nicely
27 and professionally and I don't know if we could endorse
28 it or if we shouldn't change it and put our name on it
29 but we should endorse it wholly and hopefully Katya
30 will make our own letters in a similar version with our
31 comments.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, let's
34 -- we'll endorse this and send it along and then we'll
35 have our own. So this motion is endorsing it, is that
36 good.
37
38 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Yes, ma'am.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
41 Virgil.
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I go along with
44 that. We should endorse this and then have our own
45 letter as well. And so we're going to make a motion to
46 have our own letter after this so I'll call the
47 question.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
50 just so you know, this would also -- I envision this

1 going directly to the Fish and Wildlife Service, just
2 another thing from us.

3

4 MR. GLANZ: Correct.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
7 right. Question's been called for. All in favor say
8 aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
13 opposed.

14

15 (No opposing votes)

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion passes
18 unanimously. Okay.

19

20 One more motion.

21

22 Andrew.

23

24 MR. FIRMIN: I'd like to make a motion
25 to draft a letter to Fish and Wildlife Service on their
26 proposed rule regarding all our comments from this
27 meeting and past meetings so we can grab the gist of it
28 and then we'd forward that on after we've reviewed it.

29

30 MR. GLANZ: I second that.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
33 other discussion.

34

35 Virgil.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. And it was
38 referenced in the motion the past meeting as well. I
39 have -- I printed off the computer, from the
40 transcript, and so when the letter.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now this was
43 from the last meeting?

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: From the last meeting,
46 right. And it's about -- let's see it goes from Page
47 208 of the transcript to Page 236, but it takes to sit
48 down and read it and kind of absorb it, you know, it
49 takes 30 to 45 minutes, but we're putting a pretty good
50 task on our coordinator doing this and so she's going

1 to have to allocate time to do that and then to review
2 this, and I don't know how long it's going to take
3 before we have that ready, but it's going to be two or
4 three weeks more than likely and so.....

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All the more
7 reason for an extension so that would be our argument
8 for an extension.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. That's our
11 argument for an extension but if the extension doesn't
12 go through when does the current extension end?

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's April 7,
15 correct, April 7th.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. April 7th, so
18 it's possible to have the transcript from this meeting
19 and still be able to do that but that's really going to
20 be putting a monkey on our coordinator's back, so,
21 anyway, because what we need to do is after she gets it
22 drafted up it needs to be disseminated to us to see if
23 things got left out that we think should be emphasized
24 and so that's my thoughts on it.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: So that leads me to the
29 next question, when will the decision be made on
30 whether to extend the comment period?

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that
33 sounds like it's not my title to answer, so is there an
34 answer to that Mitch?

35
36 MR. ELLIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 That's a difficult question to answer because it
38 depends on how soon we receive the letter. So if
39 you're requesting an extension, I would do that as soon
40 as you can. Whether or not that is granted would have
41 to go through the Regional Director, again, in
42 concurrence with our headquarter's office in DC., so as
43 soon as you can get that request in, the better. I
44 don't know what the odds of that are being approved.
45 This is the first additional extension request that I'm
46 hearing.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Katya
49 wants to help us out here.

50

1 MS. WESSELS: I'm just going to draft
2 that letter for an extension next week so we can submit
3 it next week.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's
6 Friday now so we're looking at Monday.
7
8 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, and then we'll go
9 from there.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
12 all they need is a concurrence from me by email to put
13 my signature on it and then it goes so it can happen
14 pretty quickly.
15
16 Okay.
17
18 And I hope we're doing the right thing
19 there, are we going to get more greenies writing in.
20 Sorry, I had to say that.
21
22 Virgil, did you get your answer that
23 you needed there.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, that's kind of
26 what I figured so maybe what probably should happen, if
27 she has this transcript from the last one and I don't
28 know how many notes she's got from this meeting from
29 what we just -- our discussion we just did, but I know
30 what I'd do if I was her, I'd start working on it and
31 then after we get the -- and get it disseminated to us
32 and then after the transcript from this meeting comes
33 out, if there's something that looks it got left out
34 then she could put that in maybe and that way she won't
35 be behind the eightball on getting it out prior to the
36 deadline, is what I would do. But that's not us to
37 tell her exactly how to do her job.
38
39 MS. WESSELS: How soon are we going to
40 get the transcripts from the meeting?
41
42 REPORTER: A couple of weeks, at least.
43
44 MS. WESSELS: Two or three weeks?
45
46 REPORTER: At least, yes.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, she has
49 to type them all up, that doesn't happen overnight.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Nope, it's a lot.
2
3 REPORTER: Yep.
4
5 MS. WESSELS: Is it possible to get the
6 audio record?
7
8 REPORTER: Yes, we can discuss that off
9 the record.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
12
13 MS. WESSELS: Yeah?
14
15 REPORTER: Yes.
16
17 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That part we
20 can deal with yeah. But what you're trying to say,
21 Virgil, now, is you want the transcripts of this
22 meeting added to our comments?
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, that's not exactly
25 what I was saying.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I meant is for the
30 person who has to write the letter, if they have the
31 transcript they can read through it, you know, make
32 their notes and et cetera, attach stuff to get their
33 thoughts together on how to compose the letter and make
34 an outline to actually compose it to try to get all our
35 points that we want in there is what I.....
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
38 we just want to make sure it gets in there and it will,
39 it sounds like you're micro-managing now.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, no -- yeah, maybe
44 I am micro-managing, I'm just saying if I was the one
45 doing it, that's what I would want to do.
46
47 (Laughter)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: That way I would make
2 sure I didn't leave nothing out.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sure that
5 she can handle this, okay.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. We
10 just want to make sure that Katya has a chance to
11 listen to that and get all our points in there. That's
12 very important that they don't get left out. And I'm
13 pretty sure -- I'm told that she comes with great
14 credentials and she can do this so we're okay.
15
16 All right. So the motion on the floor
17 is to send our comments, get the letter -- the draft
18 will come out to all of us, we all look at it to see if
19 we've left anything out and we'll finish it up and get
20 it sent out, okay, and hope we have plenty of time and
21 all of that stuff.
22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Question.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
26 has been called for. Everyone in favor say aye.
27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
31 opposed.
32
33 (No opposing votes)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor,
36 motion passes unanimously.
37
38 Okay. Where are we guys.
39
40 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
41 members. Don't forget we have to revisit our fisheries
42 regulatory.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where is this
45 on the agenda?
46
47 MS. HYER: It is not. When you worked
48 with me yesterday I was going to draft language, I just
49 want you to review it.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, right,
2 okay.
3
4 MS. HYER: Gerald, would you like to
5 join me.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's why we
8 have you guys.
9
10 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
11 members. Good morning. For the record I'm Karen Hyer.
12 And Gerald and I worked on language for the proposed
13 regulation change and I just want to make sure that
14 we're on the same page before I submit it because it's
15 going to be submitted from the RAC. So we'll go over
16 the language but before we go over the language our
17 process is new and everything has to be submitted on
18 line and I don't know if you remember, but we used to
19 fill out that paper form and so I just want to make
20 sure the intent is clear, because this is what I'm
21 going to write in addition to this regulatory language.
22
23 The intent of the RAC is:
24
25 To make available, in the Upper River,
26 5D, the fish, the salmon, mainly
27 chinook salmon, that are in the river
28 before the first pulse, to allow more
29 opportunity for subsistence and then
30 after the escapement is met to allow
31 opportunity for subsistence with the
32 intent of just allowing more
33 opportunity, recognizing there's a
34 conservation concern. And there's
35 still a desire to protect the fish but
36 they feel there's a little bit of
37 opportunity there for more harvest.
38
39 Do I have that correct?
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.
42
43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Now, this is
44 going to go to the Federal Subsistence Board, correct?
45
46 MS. HYER: It goes through our
47 regulatory process, yes. And first it goes to our
48 analyst and they analyze it and then an analysis is
49 written and then it comes back to you for comment, but
50 it eventually ends up changing the Federal Subsistence

1 Management regulations and that is done through the
2 Federal Board.

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, correct, that's
5 what I thought.

6

7 Well, that bottom part where you say,
8 Subdistrict 5D, you may take salmon for subsistence
9 once the mid-range of the intermediate escapement goal
10 -- or intermanagement escapement goal, and the total
11 allowable catch goal are achieved.

12

13 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Umphenour. I
14 think we just had a correction here, what should it be?
15 This is why I have Gerald right here.

16

17 MR. MASCHMANN: Interim.

18

19 MS. HYER: Interim?

20

21 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah.

22

23 MS. HYER: Interim management.a

24

25 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah.

26

27 MS. HYER: Okay. So the idea is that
28 the interim escapement management goal is our goal; am
29 I correct with that, Gerald, on the US side -- I'm
30 going to let Gerald explain this.

31

32 MR. MASCHMANN: No, the interim
33 management escapement goal is the goal that is by
34 Treaty negotiated every year by the US and Canadian
35 Yukon River Panel. So it could change every year, that
36 goal.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. That's why I --
39 that was confusing to me because I'm part of that
40 Panel. The interim management -- interim escapement
41 goal agreed upon by both countries, which they have to
42 do every year, okay.

43

44 And then you have the total allowable
45 catch goal. Do you think there should be something in
46 there that this interim management escapement goal is
47 projected to be achieved?

48

49 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
50 members.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: The fisheries are
2 normally managed whenever the manager projects they're
3 going to meet their goals to allow for a harvest.
4
5 Okay.
6
7 MS. HYER: Let me just say something to
8 that.
9
10 Madame Chair. Council members.
11
12 We can include that, that's why I'm
13 having you review that and we had some discussion about
14 that. So if you'd like it to read:
15
16 In Subdistrict 5 you may take salmon
17 for subsistence and -- and this wording
18 may change a little bit when they put
19 it in the regulations, may take
20 subsistence once -- that's a once --
21 once the mid-range of the escapement
22 goals are projected.
23
24 Does that satisfy.
25
26 Okay, do you want to add something.
27
28 And, again, I just want to point out
29 the first one, too:
30
31 In Subdistrict 5 you may take salmon
32 for subsistence until the arrival of
33 the first pulse of chinook salmon.
34
35 I want comments on both issues.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't think this
38 total allowable catch goal are achieved, I don't think
39 that needs to be in there, myself.
40
41 Now, what's happening -- because that
42 would mean the people in Canada have caught all their
43 fish, is what it would mean, I think.
44
45 And a number of the Bands, they call
46 them Bands in Canada, until like the Tlingit, for
47 instance, at Teslin, they have quit fishing for king
48 salmon. They haven't fished for king salmon for at
49 least seven or eight years, period, to try to rebuild
50 the run. And some of the other Bands in Canada have

1 done the same thing. And so I think we need to leave
2 out this total allowable catch goal, or achieve -- the
3 total allowable catch goals were negotiated in the
4 Treaty with Canada and -- well, I got the data actually
5 in my briefcase of what they've caught, you know, since
6 1980 until present and their average harvest has been
7 around 12,000 or so over there. And like last year
8 they harvested 100 fish. So I think you totally need
9 to leave that part out because that's going to be --
10 that -- it's going to appear that we're trying to
11 interfere with the Treaty process, I think.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

14

15 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. Virgil.
16 I guess thinking as a manager that we have -- well, we
17 have what we sometimes describe as Canadian
18 obligations, and so at the border we need to put enough
19 fish to meet the escapement goal into Canada, which is
20 42.5 to 55,000, but we also have to provide enough fish
21 the Canadians share, so what we are trying to get
22 across the border is that escapement plus their share
23 and their share is a calculation based upon how many
24 fish are harvested in Alaska. So as a manager, we
25 wouldn't want to just open fishing because we met the
26 escapement, we still have other obligations we need to
27 make sure that we're meeting. So whether the Canadians
28 use their -- what we've sent up, is up to them, but as
29 managers we're still endeavoring to put enough so that
30 they have their share, including escapement.

31

32 So I think that's where we were going,
33 was to make sure that we're still meeting our
34 obligations to get enough fish to Canada.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, I fully
37 understand that and that word, endeavor, is the key
38 word, we argued one hell of a long time about in the
39 Treaty process. No, I understand it now. I think it'll
40 be okay that way with the changes. But looking at it
41 right now with the typo and then now we got are
42 projected in there, I think it's a lot better.

43

44 I think it's satisfactory.

45

46 Madame Chair.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

49

50 MR. FIRMIN: I was just thinking maybe

1 after the total allowable catch goals are achieved,
2 just get rid of, achieved, and put goals are projected
3 to be met or something. So it looks like there's more
4 fish coming so, you know, that's kind of the issue, if
5 there's still fish coming up the river and escapement's
6 made well go ahead and start fishing guys because
7 there's -- we're not going to catch every fish in the
8 river because you opened one little section of river,
9 there's only so many fishermen in the area.

10

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11

12

Karen.

13

14

15

16

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49

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

MR. FIRMIN: I'm sure it'll come out
different again like she said, once the other folks get
a hold of it. I was just thinking like include,
tricklers, so people know what's in there and include
the escapement goal numbers and maybe include what
their, you know, in parenthesis, what some of those
total allowable catch goals are and what's projected
and -- it'll look way different when we see it again.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

Karen.

1 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Council
2 members. So when I submit this, there's going to be --
3 I'm going to submit a little bit of a description along
4 with the wording and you're correct that when our
5 regulatory expert wordsmith's it it looks different.
6 But I want to make sure I have content, so I heard
7 tricklers, I heard escapement goals, what else did you
8 just list on your list, because I want to include that
9 just in the description.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: I think you got it all
12 there. It was just like the escapement goals, with
13 those numbers included, you know the 42.5 to 55,000 or
14 whatever, I'm sure it'll change every year though, or
15 potentially could change, but maybe for the current
16 year or something you could just include in there -- so
17 people that are reading it, you know, got more than one
18 sentence, they could put it together in the description
19 with the intent and stuff like that.

20
21 MS. HYER: Right. I want the intent to
22 be clear also along with the wording.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN: And part of the intent is
25 there's no other fish in the river for people to rely
26 on other than king salmon in that portion of the river,
27 which is why, even though it's a conservation concern,
28 we don't have other large runs of fish to rely on other
29 than that. Maybe that could also be included.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we don't
32 need to vote on this because this is just language,
33 right. Uh-huh.

34
35 MS. HYER: Madame Chair. Just for
36 clarity I'd make a motion that this is what you want me
37 to submit, just for clarity, then it will be from the
38 Regional Advisory Council.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
41 guess we voted to do the concept before, uh?

42
43 MS. HYER: Yes.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And now we're
46 looking at the words and we need to vote on the
47 wordsmithing.

48
49 MS. HYER: Oh, excuse me, was there a
50 motion yesterday, if there was a motion yesterday then

1 I think we're covered.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: We had two separate
4 motions already, I believe.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought we
7 did.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: One for each proposal.
10
11 MS. HYER: Okay. Then.....
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: This is.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought we
16 did.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN:just draft language
19 for it.
20
21 MS. HYER: Yes, I stand corrected,
22 we're good.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
25 right. So we don't need a motion is what I'm hearing.
26 This is just draft language is all, the wording.
27
28 Anything else.
29
30 MS. HYER: Thank you for your time.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
33 yeah, you bet.
34
35 Let the record reflect Andy is back.
36 You missed a lot of motions. Oh, and, Andy, you might
37 want to say on the record what you said about -- we
38 already voted on our comments for the proposed rule and
39 you can now say on the record what you told me because
40 I failed to do that earlier, that you would vote with
41 us.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, for the record,
44 Andy Bassich.
45
46 I had talked to the Chair, Sue
47 Entsminger, earlier and told her that I was in
48 concurrence with the ideas and the comments of the
49 Eastern RAC in regards to the proposed rule and that I
50 was in full support of the RAC and their position on

1 it. We've discussed this often times and so I had a
2 pretty good idea of what was going to be said and our
3 position and I just wanted to get on the record that
4 I'm in full support of that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's
7 another vote. Okay, thanks, Andy.

8
9 All right.

10
11 We are now to the future meeting dates,
12 confirm the date and location of the fall meeting. And
13 it looks like we've got some information from Katya on
14 other RACs.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: I'm Katya Wessels. The
17 dates that are currently available for the next RAC
18 meeting since other RACs already selected their dates
19 is the week of February 5th through 11th, and that's
20 2017. So the window opens on February 6th.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What page is
23 that on, Katya -- oh, I see it now.

24
25 MS. WESSELS: It's 236.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 236, right in
28 front of your Eastern Interior RAC tab. Do you know
29 what would be better, give us.....

30
31 MS. WESSELS: The.....

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, each
34 one of these.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Each dates that are
37 available?

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah -- no,
40 just give us the -- the North Slope RAC is meeting.....

41
42 MS. WESSELS: North Slope RAC meets
43 February 8th through 9th.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

46
47 MS. WESSELS: YK-Delta meets February
48 15th through 16th -- actually 17th, they meet for three
49 days.

50

1 Southcentral meets February 14th and
2 15th.
3
4 Western Interior meets February 21st to
5 22nd.
6
7 Kodiak/Aleutians meets February 22nd
8 and February 23rd.
9
10 Bristol Bay meets February 28th and
11 March 1st.
12
13 And Northwest Arctic meets March 1st
14 and March 2nd.
15
16 Seward Peninsula meets March 6th and
17 March 7th.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And looking
20 at -- after putting that all in there it looks like the
21 last two weeks of March is also open besides the first
22 week, in that window. And I remember running into
23 issues in the past when we were saying, hey, we need
24 more time, and I think we got it once.
25
26 So, Council members, dates.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: The second week of March
29 looks good, it's about the same time we are now, if
30 anybody else.....
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
33 it's good for me too.
34
35 MR. BASSICH: It's like the time of the
36 year to do so many things, I'd rather go in early
37 February.
38
39 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, that also works for
40 me. I think that's our only other real option.
41
42 MS. PITKA: Early February works for me
43 better also.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: Early February.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So do
50 you want to go for 7 and 8, all right let's put it in

1 there.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: We want it during Fur
4 Rondy/Iditarod weekend.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. ERHART: I won't be there.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
13 So all in agreement we'll pencil in Eastern Interior
14 RAC for February 7th and 8th.
15
16 Yes, North Slope would have been
17 conflicting with Eva, but no longer, we have -- if I
18 understand it correctly, we have you only.
19
20 MS. WESSELS: Yes. That is correct. I
21 don't have any other RACs so there is no conflict.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.
24 Good. Okay. All in agreement.
25
26 (Council nods affirmatively)
27
28 MS. PITKA: Where are we going to have
29 it?
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where.
32
33 MR. GLANZ: What dates are we talking,
34 the 6th and the 7th.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: February 7
37 and 8. So we're meeting in Fort Yukon in -- when is
38 that?
39
40 MR. FIRMIN: That's this fall, October.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: October 25
43 and 26. So any suggestions.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: Well, we're probably going
46 to end up back in Fairbanks unless we can go up the
47 highway.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have the
50 funding for going -- this is my understanding, to go to

1 other villages.
2
3 MS. PITKA: We should go somewhere on
4 the highway then.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: I thought it was one
7 village per year or something, wasn't that how it was
8 worded.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That must
11 have went out this side.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: So every other meeting
14 would be in a village.
15
16 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: That was the way I read
19 it, I think.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
22 Fairbanks is good because. People suggest to go to
23 Tok, but it just doesn't seem productive. I don't know
24 why but they're running out of meetings, I guess, plus
25 the only Federal land is the Refuge right there and
26 then there's the Yukon-Charley north of us, and the
27 Wrangell Park south of us. And people are working and
28 they don't come to the meetings, it's just frustrating.
29
30 Okay.
31
32 So Fairbanks, all in agreement.
33
34 (Council nods affirmatively)
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Eastern Interior RAC Fairbanks, 7th and 8th. Okay.
38
39 Okay.
40
41 We have another thing on the agenda
42 before we move on. Somebody on our RAC missed
43 something on Monday. Katya.
44
45 MS. WESSELS: And our esteemed Virgil
46 Umphenour, you know, missed the general assembly when
47 everybody were presented with awards so I'm happy to
48 present you your 15 year service award.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: You old fart.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MS. WESSELS: Thank you so much for
4 your service.
5
6 (Applause)
7
8 MS. WESSELS: We can actually take a
9 picture now.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My camera is
12 in my room.
13
14 MS. WESSELS: You can go and hold on in
15 this picture, would you like me to?
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure. Or we
18 could do it right after we break.
19
20 MS. WESSELS: Okay.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
23 just trying to think, did anyone else get any on our
24 RAC, awards, at that -- yeah. Because he whispered to
25 me, I didn't get my five year, we went through this
26 yesterday, we found out they didn't give them back
27 then, because I didn't get a five year either. I have
28 a 10 year at home, though. So you'll be a 10 year
29 there, Andrew.
30
31 Okay. Everything's good on the fall
32 meeting, right, we confirmed that, and now we've got
33 the winter one.
34
35 So closing remarks. Would you like to
36 give any closing remarks, Bill.
37
38 MR. GLANZ: I'll be after the next one
39 so.....
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, you'll
42 be -- okay, Andy, are you prepared.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess I'd just
45 like to share I thought this meeting went really fast
46 considering the short timeframe it went really well,
47 and we got a lot done. I was really happy to see that.
48
49 I've also enjoyed going to some of
50 these different seminars, or outbreak rooms. The

1 reason I was gone this morning was I was one of the
2 panelists on the hunter outreach and education and I'll
3 try and have a pretty good report for you at the next
4 meeting on where that stands. I think a lot of good
5 discussion came from that and I think they're going to
6 be able to move on that and a lot of that is because of
7 the work that this RAC did discussing that in the past.

8

9 And, of course, it's always great to
10 see everybody and even though Will's not here, I really
11 miss seeing Will here, but I think I'll try and email
12 him today and congratulate him.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I saw a
15 picture of the baby.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess the final
18 thing I'd just like to say is I just wanted to
19 recognize Virgil. You know we give him a 15 year --
20 and Sue, give them a 15 year award but there's a lot
21 more that goes to that than just 15 years of sitting on
22 the Council, there's years and years, decades of
23 experience, and I just want to thank Virgil and Sue for
24 being the mentors that they've been, for doing this.
25 You know, I've learned a lot from Virgil about the
26 fisheries and Sue is passionate about the game issues
27 and I really appreciate the knowledge and experience
28 you guys have brought and I've been able to benefit
29 from. And you're great examples of hopefully we can
30 bring some youth up that will stick with this program
31 as long as people like you, you know, dedicating your
32 time. So I really appreciate that. I know how much
33 commitment goes into that when you're passionate about
34 it.

35

36 I really appreciate that.

37

38 Thanks.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
41 Andy.

42

43 Lester, any closing comments.

44

45 MR. ERHART: Yeah, I think it's been
46 good. I don't think much of Anchorage, though, but
47 that's my own opinion.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. ERHART: I think the meeting went
2 good, thank you.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

5
6 Andrew.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: I agree with Andy on your
9 guys' knowledge and what you all have to offer to the
10 RAC and it's been extremely helpful and a bit of
11 mentors to me also in the last 10 years. It's hard to
12 believe it's been that long, or nine years.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No kidding.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: But also -- I think -- it
17 was surprising that we got as much done as we did in
18 two half days. I did enjoy some of the -- even though
19 the meeting was kind of long, this turns into an eight
20 day trip for me, and I think that I am sitting in
21 support of having these on a regular basis, to have
22 more, you know, even somewhat trainings or refreshers,
23 or if not maybe they could be incorporated into, you
24 know, our two day meeting, make it a three day meeting
25 and have a couple of speakers come for one day or a
26 half a day or something like that, just to brush up on
27 some of the, you know, the Robert's Rules of Order or
28 the different changes in ANILCA or something. For some
29 of us it seems like we look at it, you know, on a
30 regular basis but then there's other parts that we
31 overlook or forget and I kind of enjoyed some of the
32 breakout sessions and I wished I could have got to a
33 couple of more that I didn't make it to. I think there
34 was a good selection and I'd like to see more of it in
35 the future.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we didn't have as
40 much time to address our issues as we normally do but
41 we didn't have, really, a lot of other issues, you
42 know, like proposals to go over and things like that at
43 this meeting, which was good.

44
45 But one thing I enjoyed about this,
46 everyone getting together, there's a lot of people that
47 I've seen here and ran into and shot the breeze with
48 that I haven't seen in a long time, you know, from
49 throughout the state and so I think that aspect is
50 really good, so that people can share knowledge that

1 they've -- and new things that have happened in recent
2 times. I think that's real good. So it would be good
3 if every third year or so they could -- all the RACs
4 could get together like that. I think that would be
5 real good.

6

7 That's all I have.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rhonda.

12

13 MS. PITKA: I also don't think very
14 much of Anchorage.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. PITKA: Thanks. It's been a really
19 amazing week of learning and connecting with everybody.
20 And I think the workshops have been really beneficial.
21 You know, some of them, at the time seemed a little bit
22 boring but -- or maybe just the wrong time slot,
23 perhaps Robert's Rules of Order shouldn't happen right
24 after lunch, that time slot.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

27

28 MS. PITKA: But it was a really, really
29 good beneficial training, the Robert's Rules of Order
30 one, especially. You know, we sort of get banged on
31 the head when we don't know our way around a meeting so
32 I think it was a really good experience. And I like
33 Andrew's idea about workshops occasionally at meetings
34 so we could brush up on certain skills.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Larry.

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: I just want to echo
39 Lester and Rhonda, I don't think that much of
40 Anchorage. But, anyway, I've had a great experience
41 here. I especially enjoyed meeting other Native folks
42 from the different RACs here and getting to know them
43 and just speaking informally. And, you know, also I
44 got a lot out of Robert's Rules of Order, you know, I
45 mean -- back home in the meetings we hardly ever use
46 that, you know, just -- I don't know we don't use it
47 but I've noticed people really are inherently polite to
48 outsiders and to each other so, you know, we don't try
49 to holler and outshout each other.....

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS:so I don't see -- I
4 don't see any real need for Robert's Rules of Order but
5 it was good to know, you know.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: You know like I said
10 we're inherently polite to elders and to -- and we like
11 to take care of our own people so, you know, like I
12 said we just don't try to dominate a meeting so -- but
13 it was good to know, so thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you
16 wanted to say something Bill.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I do. Actually being in
19 Anchorage reminds me why I don't live in Chicago
20 anymore.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
25 That's right, you managed to want to get last. Okay.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. And I kind of
28 enjoyed at least get a chance -- like the Yukon Flats
29 superintendent, you get to -- when you call them on the
30 phone they know who you are and they know where you
31 stand and all your issues.

32

33 And I have to say the same thing for
34 Virgil, he -- Virgil and actually Sue are the ones that
35 keep us bounded together on a lot of these issues, and
36 all the other ones -- I mean nobody gets upset, and
37 Larry knows my opinion and I know his and we never get
38 mad about it, you know, but, anyway, thanks for a nice
39 meeting guys. Appreciate it. And nice meeting you
40 Katya, and thank you for taking over. We did like Eva,
41 she was a great person to help us, too, thank you very
42 much.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

45

46 And thank you guys for the compliments
47 for Virgil and I, we really appreciate it. I think
48 when I -- I've been going to potlatches in the Mentasta
49 area almost 40 years and, you know, I was the 20 year
50 old then and now when I got to them, you eat first

1 you're the elder, it's like oh, my gosh, please.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No way. I am
6 not -- I'm not really that old that I'm an elder but
7 they all laugh and it's pretty fun.

8

9 But this RAC, I really appreciate all
10 of you. I really appreciate the fact that we come from
11 two different regions and we can communicate together
12 and I think we bring a lot to the table here as a RAC.
13 I deeply appreciate all of you very much.

14

15 As far as the All RAC meeting, I think
16 the best part for me was seeing all these people that,
17 you know, we don't get to meet them. And meeting --
18 you know, but to try to get something from us -- maybe
19 a little frustrating for me was the -- how we could
20 work to have something coming from the All RACs, maybe
21 it doesn't mean anything, but I guess it does mean
22 something to us, you know, that if we were able to have
23 some action item that we agree on, but still keep our
24 individuality and be able to do our comments.

25

26 And then I will say that in the past,
27 when we -- we used to have some training during our
28 meetings and it was during the time that we needed to
29 take action and it took like a half a day of our
30 meeting for learning something that some knew and some
31 didn't, it would be better, maybe, in an evening, I
32 think, because there's -- I would like never to lose
33 our time to take action, that's really important to me
34 is to take action.

35

36 And I will say this, too, that even on
37 the SRC, you know, the Park Service all comes out,
38 you're just the volunteers and you look out in the
39 crowd there and there's 20 people that -- and same
40 here, they all were -- most of them, you don't see the
41 public out much, you just see the people from the
42 government here, our -- it gets so formal in a way that
43 people are afraid to say things, and we requested at
44 the SRC that we have a time just to sit here like this,
45 microphones off, everybody's gone, we accomplish and
46 we're able to do so much just to interact with each
47 other. And I could probably say it probably -- it'd be
48 fun if we tried that ourselves, you know, not to have
49 anyone telling us how to talk and, you know, pushing
50 buttons and raising hands, just be able to share some

1 things that you might not want to put on the record and
2 you just want to share with that person, we might want
3 to do that some evening or some morning before a
4 meeting so -- it helps us to identify even better.

5
6 Anyway, I appreciate all of you very
7 much and I welcome Katya and all the Staff. Any way
8 you can help us out while we're struggling, we're all
9 open for it.

10
11 MS. WESSELS: May I say something?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: I heard in several
16 comments here that you guys like some of the sessions,
17 training sessions that were put on, and because we
18 already have them developed, if you would like to see
19 something specific for your Council or in your
20 communities, I think I would be happy to bring them
21 there. Just let us know what you would like to see and
22 how we can work it in and I think we can make it
23 happen.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, great.
26 So they're PowerPoints is what you're saying.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Well, some of them
29 PowerPoints, some are just, you know, we sat down and
30 talked and discussed different things, in some sessions
31 there were no PowerPoints.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: But we can bring the
36 person back and explain things, you know, Robert's
37 Rules of Order, you know, customary and traditional,
38 these kind of things if somebody wants to learn more
39 about it.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Good.

42
43 Andy.

44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I really like that
46 idea and, you know, we've talked a lot about how can we
47 bring younger people into this and I really think
48 trying to get some explanation or some kind of an
49 introduction of what the RAC is and what its role is in
50 the state and the successes that it's has into the

1 school system as a presentation, would really be
2 beneficial. It's like anything in life, if it's there
3 and it's in your life you're thinking about it, if it's
4 not you don't think about it. And to get young people
5 involved takes time, and you have to build that
6 interest and build that involvement. So that might be
7 something that OSM could try and do, try it out in a
8 few schools and see what the reaction is. Because we
9 got to get some young guys here, we don't want to keep
10 giving out 15 year awards all the time.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see a young
13 one right there, standing over there.

14
15 Yeah.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: What we used to do is, we
18 used to go into the school systems just on a voluntary
19 basis and talk to children about law enforcement, maybe
20 you want to be a firefighter.....

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. GLANZ:and trying to get them
25 inspired to go do public service instead of going into
26 the steel mills or something. And you can't believe
27 years later somebody will say, I remember you, you came
28 to the school talking, wow, you're a patrolman, very
29 good, thanks for coming aboard. I mean stuff like that
30 happens. I mean you don't need to be paid for it, just
31 go -- I used to go do it.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

34
35 MR. GLANZ: My children would go to
36 school and tell their teachers, my dad flies
37 helicopters and he's such and such and they'd call me,
38 do you want to come to the school, your daughter's
39 making stories about you're a helicopter pilot and you
40 wear a badge, oh, yeah, I'll be happy to come to the
41 school because your child's imagination, no she's not,
42 and I come in there with a uniform with a helicopter
43 medal on my chest, oh, wow, anyway. You can influence
44 a lot of children doing that, believe me.

45
46 And we even had -- at one of our
47 precincts was a scoutmaster we tried to -- in the city
48 and it worked well, but then it got to the point when
49 we had younger guy's kids and that coming in, a lot of
50 these children are so desperate for a fatherly figure

1 in their life, that's the main problem with some of
2 these villages, some of these towns, everywhere I grew
3 up, they got mothers, they just don't have the fathers
4 and they were using us to try to get the kids to go and
5 it's like Andy talking, you go to those schools, they
6 will remember everything you talked to them about, it's
7 very, very wonderful to see those kids.

8

9 Anyway, I had a great meeting, you
10 guys.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Not to
13 bore you but I've been taking kids for two generations
14 out into the mountains and it's more rewarding to me
15 than it may be to them sometimes but, yeah, uh-huh.

16

17 Yeah, okay, well, I need a motion.

18

19 MS. PITKA: I'd like to make a motion
20 to adjourn.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: And I'll second it.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
25 second. All in favor, aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
30 adjourned, thank you.

31

32 (Off record)

33

34 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

