

1 EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 VOLUME I

8
9 Pikes Waterfront Hotel
10 Fairbanks, Alaska
11 October 22, 2015
12 9:00 a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 16
17 Sue Entsminger, Chair
18 Andy Bassich
19 Andrew Firmin
20 William Glanz
21 Will Koehler
22 Rhonda Pitka
23 Virgil Umphenour
24 Larry Williams
25 Donald Woodruff
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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 10/22/2015)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Good morning, everyone. And once again, the Eastern Interior Regional Council. We're going in session at 8:36 a.m., October 22nd.

Roll call.

MR. FIRMIN: Good morning, everybody. Okay.

I'll start with our roll call with Ms. Susan Enstminger.

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Andrew Firmin is present.

Larry Williams, Senior.

MR. WILLIAMS: Present.

MR. FIRMIN: Lester Erhart. He's en route.

MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council, we have just heard from Lester yesterday. He is recovering from some teeth surgery. He's hoping to be able to call in by teleconference to connect this afternoon on the proposals relevant to him.

Thank you.

MR. FIRMIN: Then I'll put him down as excused. Andrew Bassich.

MR. BASSICH: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Rhonda Pitka.

MS. PITKA: Here.

MR. FIRMIN: Will Koehler.

MR. KOEHLER: Here.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Donald Woodruff.
2
3 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil Umphenour.
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Here.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: And Bill Glanz.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Here.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You made it.
14
15 MR. GLANZ: Yes. I'm here.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Good job,
18 Bill.
19
20 MR. GLANZ: I'm here.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. All
25 right. If we could all stand. I've asked Larry to do
26 an invocation.
27
28 (Invocation)
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
31 Larry. Call the meeting to order. And welcome,
32 everyone. We'll start with introductions by the
33 Council Members.
34
35 Rhonda.
36
37 MS. PITKA: Good morning. I'm Rhonda
38 Pitka from the Village of Beaver. I'm the First Chief
39 of the Village. Thanks.
40
41 MR. KOEHLER: Will Koehler, Wrangell-
42 St. Elias Region.
43
44 MR. WILLIAMS: Larry Williams, Venetie.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm Sue
47 Enstminger from Mentasta Pass.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm Virgil Umphenour
50 from North Pole.

1 MR. FIRMIN: I'm Andrew Firmin from
2 Fort Yukon.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Don Woodruff, Eagle.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz, Central.
7
8 MR. BASSICH: Andy Bassich, Eagle.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I just
11 have to say Virgil, you need one of those headsets like
12 Don has and you'll hear better. Just joking.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, okay.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I don't know.
17 He has his own.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So if we
22 could introduce yourselves from the audience. I guess
23 we'll turn one mic on and go around the room.
24
25 You can start.
26
27 MR. MCKEE: Hi. I'm Chris McKee. I'm
28 the Wildlife Division Chief for the Office of
29 Subsistence Management.
30
31 MS. HOWARD: Good morning. I'm Amy
32 Howard. I'm Policy Coordinator for the Office of
33 Subsistence Management. Thanks everyone for being
34 here.
35
36 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, Wildlife
37 Biologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.
38
39 MS. KENNER: And Pippa Kenner,
40 Anthropologist in the Office of Subsistence Management.
41
42 MS. TRAINOR: Hi. My name is Alida
43 Trainor. I'm a Subsistence Resource Specialist at the
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game here in Fairbanks.
45
46 MR. WELLS: I'm Jeff Wells, Assistant
47 Area Biologist in Tok.
48
49 MS. GLEASON: And Christy Gleason,
50 Yukon Area Assistant Manager for fall season with the

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
2
3 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Council
4 Members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the Subsistence
5 Division Chief for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
6
7 MR. PETER: Hello. I'm Buddy Peter.
8 I'm a Tribal Member from Venetie, Alaska.
9
10 MR. STEVENS: Good morning, everyone.
11 My name is Ben Stevens. I'm from Stevens Village. I
12 work with the Tanana Chiefs with the Hunting and
13 Fishing Task Force.
14
15 MS. FOX: Good morning. I'm Joanna
16 Fox. I'm the Deputy Refuge Manager for the Arctic
17 National Wildlife Refuge here in Fairbanks.
18
19 MR. BERENDZEN: Hello. Steve
20 Berendzen. I'm Yukon Flats Refuge Manager.
21
22 MR. BUE: Good morning. Fred Bue, Fish
23 and Wildlife Service, Yukon River Management Fisheries.
24
25 MR. HAVENER: Good morning, everyone.
26 I'm Jeremy Havener. I'm the Refuge Subsistence
27 Coordinator for Koyukuk, Nowitna, and Innoko National
28 Wildlife Refuges.
29
30 MR. HONEA: Good morning, everyone.
31 Don Honea, Junior, Ruby AC.
32
33 MS. LENART: Good morning. Beth
34 Lenart, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife
35 Biologist from Yukon Flats and Eastern North Slope.
36
37 MR. CAMERON: Good morning. My name is
38 Matt Cameron. I'm a technician on Yukon-Charley in the
39 Gates of Arctic National Park.
40
41 MR. FOX: Good morning. I'm Trevor
42 Fox. I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator for the
43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And I'm the Area Two
44 Staff Committee Member of the Agency.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So did we
47 miss anyone. The gentleman -- yeah. Go ahead.
48
49 MS. LONG: My name is Leona Long and I
50 am here with the TBF.

1 MR. HAWKALUK: Good morning. I'm
2 Nathan Hawkaluk.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And the
5 gentleman in the front we missed.
6
7 MR. WILBUR: I'm Rick Wilbur. I'm from
8 Fairbanks.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hi. Welcome,
11 everyone. So next on the Agenda is the review and
12 adoption of the Agenda.
13
14 And just in helping with the essence of
15 time, first on old business 10C, Refuge proposed rule
16 on hunting, it's going to be moved to 9:00 a.m. so we
17 can have one person -- Ellis is in D.C. And so he can
18 participate with us online. So that will be moved to
19 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.
20
21 I'm going to have to rely on you, Eva,
22 to help me remember that.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Sure.
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And then
27 there's been a request to have Proposal 39 added as the
28 cross-over proposals, because it affects the Village of
29 Tanana. And Lester wants to be on for that. So we'll
30 be adding cross-over proposal for us. 39 under --
31 right, the last proposal actually.
32
33 And then we're adding H. The sheep
34 working group letter that just got handed out this
35 morning.
36
37 And I'm going to ask, is there any
38 other changes to the Agenda.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
43 additions or changes. So entertain a motion.
44
45 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Move to adopt the
46 agenda as modified.
47
48 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any

1 discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All in favor,
6 say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any opposed.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. The
15 agenda is adopted.

16

17 Now, the minutes. Has everyone had a
18 chance to review the minutes. They're on page five of
19 your book. Any additions or corrections.

20

21 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt minutes.

22

23 MR. KOEHLER: Second.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: There's been
26 a motion and second to adopt the minutes. All in
27 favor.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any opposed.

32

33 (No opposing votes)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Length
36 of service awards. I don't think that's me.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
39 we have a couple service awards for Council Members.
40 OSM recognizes the dedication and the service to your
41 communities and to the Region in bringing forth
42 subsistence and knowledge from your subsistence hunting
43 and fishing. And very much recognize the time it takes
44 to really dedicate to this process and make sure that
45 your community and Region's voices are heard.

46

47 We have both some twenty-year service
48 awards. Folks that have been with the program since
49 the inception. And fifteen and ten and also some five-
50 year service awards. And we have two on the Council

1 for five-year service awards this year.

2

3 Both Larry Williams, Senior, from
4 Venetie. Thank you. And Bill Glanz from Central.
5 Five years. So -- and I managed to get the glass
6 frames here all in one piece.

7

8 Larry, this is for your, and thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Good job,
11 Larry.

12

13 (Applause)

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I'd like to thank
16 whoever gave me this award. I don't know who it is.
17 But that's the second time this morning I've been
18 caught by surprise. I didn't really expect anything
19 like this. But I sure appreciate it. It's been a
20 pleasure working with you guys in the past. You're
21 such an awesome group. And I appreciate all your
22 input. And I've learned quite a bit and I hope --
23 hopefully you're learning from me. So we'll keep it up
24 then.

25

26 Thank you very much.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
29 Larry.

30

31 (Applause)

32

33 MR. GLANZ: Thank you, everybody. I
34 appreciate working with this fine group.

35

36 (Applause)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Reports.
39 Would you like to start this Council Report from your
40 region, Rhonda.

41

42 MS. PITKA: Yes.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

45

46 MS. PITKA: I actually wrote one. So I
47 wrote a report for my Beaver Village Council. And I
48 believe copies are at the front table.

49

50 We had two funerals in the Village. We

1 were permitted and successful in taking bull moose for
2 both. We'd like to thank Steve Berendzen for always
3 being sensitive to our cultural needs and responding
4 quickly to emails. Without the permitting process
5 being so fast, you know, we wouldn't have had much
6 success. Thank you.

7
8 The chinook salmon fishery is still our
9 biggest concern. We understand that the escapement
10 goals were met this year. We are happy that these
11 goals have been met and believe the role of the Yukon
12 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has played an
13 integral role in this success. The unity within the
14 Tribes to agree to a self-imposed moratorium in 2014
15 and the limit take in 2015 demonstrated the willingness
16 of subsistence users to sacrifice for the health of the
17 resource, as well as the power of the united Tribes.

18
19 Our Tribal government is a member of
20 the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Waters Fisheries
21 Commission. There's a lot of Commissions. Becoming so
22 by passing a resolution in support of the Constitution.
23 I am the designated commissioner for that Board. We
24 need more salmon for the subsistence fishery. We would
25 like to see more research into why the salmon are not
26 returning in the numbers they used to. There are big
27 questions remaining and the subsistence fishermen
28 cannot continue to bear the brunt of meeting the
29 escapement goals. We want to see active fish camps,
30 full smokehouses, and full freezers for our children
31 and grandchildren.

32
33 We would also like to know if there are
34 any upcoming restoration and enhancement projects to
35 bolster the chinook salmon fishery.

36
37 We have questions about the appointment
38 process for the Regional Advisory Councils. The
39 Villages and Tribes should get a say in who gets
40 appointed to represent them. Right now we don't get
41 consulted on who will be representing us on the
42 Council.

43
44 We'd like to see more moose harvest
45 studies. It's been several years since there was a
46 study done in the Yukon Flats. That's mostly due to
47 low snow in the fall. And the harvest study can't be
48 done in the spring. But we'd really like to see one
49 done.

50

1 It makes the management of subsistence
2 resources more difficult when data is non-existent or
3 out of date. Predator control and studies need to be
4 addressed at some point. I know we can like make
5 recommendations, but probably nothing will happen with
6 them. So we need to have an effective program for
7 predator control. Wolves and bears are moving closer
8 to our Villages. Last year there was a pack of wolves
9 in the Village. There were eight or nine. And a
10 Village resident had to kill the pack. They kept
11 returning and wouldn't leave. Our children couldn't
12 play outside until something was done.

13
14 We've noticed a huge decrease in the
15 amount of berries in our area. There were very few
16 places that still had berries that weren't dry. Are
17 there any new studies being done to decrease the amount
18 of berries.

19
20 Thank you very much.

21
22 And I left my contact information on
23 the back if you have any questions.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks,
26 Rhonda. That was a very good job. I really appreciate
27 it.

28
29 Will.

30
31 MR. KOEHLER: I think Sue can probably
32 speak to the points that I have better than I can since
33 we're from the same region. I think the only -- the
34 largest issue we have in our region is the current
35 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
36 Backcountry Stewardship Plan, which I think could be a
37 really wonderful opportunity to protect our lifestyle
38 if we participate in the making of the plan and can get
39 it set in such a way that the country that we use for
40 our subsistence is very much preserved for the future.
41 But it's concerning. Some parts of it are concerning
42 as how it might restrict our subsistence, our ability
43 to move around and practice our subsistence.

44
45 The only other very small issue I had,
46 which again Sue can speak to better, is I had a person
47 from area -- a subsistence user from our area talk
48 about a winter moose hunt. A Federal winter moose hunt
49 that is -- currently he thinks is set too early.
50 Because you can't get around because the rivers aren't

1 frozen. It's set in November. And you can't move
2 around because the rivers aren't frozen yet. And so
3 it's not really safe to get around. You can't really
4 make use of the season, so he was thinking that --
5 hoping that we might be able to at some point put in a
6 proposal to make that season go on a little bit later
7 in the winter, when the travel is a little safer.
8 That's all.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks, Will.
11 I don't know if I can speak to the moose one as much as
12 you think.

13

14 But go ahead, Larry.

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 I just have a short report here. I'm happy to report
18 that we had a successful fall moose harvest. Most
19 everybody got their moose. And we also continue to be
20 concerned for the lack of chinook coming up in the main
21 stem of the Yukon. I know the main stem, but we depend
22 quite a bit on that resource. Either from my relatives
23 down in Beaver or in Fort Yukon.

24

25 And also I was talking to some people
26 back in the Village and they wanted to know -- I didn't
27 have an answer for them right offhand, but they wanted
28 to know how the Tribal Representative would be
29 appointed. I mean not appointed. But I know the
30 Village will appoint a Tribal Representative, but how
31 -- are they going to be physically present at these
32 meetings or are they on a teleconference? I'd like to
33 get some answers for -- we'd like to get some answers
34 on that because we believe that Tribal participation in
35 these meetings are very important.

36

37 I'd like to get down to the grass --
38 grassroots so to speak from the people and have their
39 say from the people who actually use the resource.
40 That are hands-on. The trappers and the hunters and
41 the gatherers. So, you know, if somebody can give me
42 some kind of definite answer, I can report back to
43 those people who asked me. So I can give them some
44 kind of answer. But I didn't last time, so I hope
45 somebody would.

46

47 And I was happy to report that in
48 Arctic Village they had the fall migration go through.
49 And when Arctic Village get caribou, Venetie and Fort
50 Yukon. And they also get some meat, you know, and it

1 gets, the -- and it helps the whole region when the
2 caribou go through.

3

4 And we also had a good runoff of fall
5 chum, so everybody got those. And whoever had dog
6 teams, they got enough to feed their dog teams. And
7 the first part of the run was pretty good, so it's --
8 it's been a good year altogether.

9

10 Thank you very much.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks,
13 Larry. I'll give my report with the Chair's report.

14

15 Virgil.

16

17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Some of the
18 things I've been involved in since our last meeting was
19 the dahl sheep controversy. And we're going to address
20 that a little bit later on.

21

22 But I also attended the salmon -- Yukon
23 River Salmon Panel Meeting in Whitehorse in April. And
24 one of the things that I was aware of it, but not
25 really, hadn't given it much thought was the -- on the
26 Fishing Branch River, which has got head waters at the
27 Porcupine, where the majority of the fall chum salmon
28 spawn. I would say since probably in the start of in
29 the '80s that the -- it's been really hard to predict
30 how many fish are going to come back there. And
31 there's been all kinds of problems. And the escapement
32 goal has been lowered a couple of two different times.

33

34 But anyway, something I wasn't really
35 quite aware of that it and the Toklat River were
36 similar in that because these fish, for the people that
37 don't know it, they spawn in October, November. And of
38 course grizzly bears are out trying to get all they can
39 eat during that same time frame. I know that on the
40 Toklat River that the grizzly bears and the wolves both
41 are a major predator on those fish stocks. And in fact
42 the National Park Service study on the diet of the
43 radio-collared wolves when they get the mortality
44 signal indicates that over 20 percent of their annual
45 diet is salmon. And one of the wolves was up over 40
46 percent of its annual diet, which was Toklat River
47 salmon.

48

49 Anyway, they have the same issue on the
50 Porcupine River. They have a bear touring operation

1 there that the Village of Old Crow runs. So after that
2 meeting, I did a little bit of investigating. I found
3 out that the Department of Fish and Game -- State
4 Department of Fish and Game on the McNeil River
5 determined that at times the bears ate over 50 percent
6 of the salmon that got to the spawning grounds.

7
8 And so the Canadians are wanting us to
9 stop fishing Porcupine River stocks in the salmon
10 treaty. And that did happen this year. And the
11 Porcupine River got closed for subsistence take of
12 salmon. And they want us to restrict on the Yukon more
13 to put more salmon on the Porcupine River. But if all
14 we're doing is feeding bears so they can get -- and I
15 did a lot of research -- \$15,800 for a seven-day bear
16 viewing trip on the Porcupine River spawning grounds,
17 then they need to do some predator management there.
18 Because no matter how many we're going to put on there,
19 all we're doing is feeding the bears. And they're
20 advertising on their website. They say they've got
21 over 40 bears that spend 60 days a year on the spawning
22 grounds eating salmon.

23
24 And so in my experience -- because I am
25 a professional grizzly bear hunter guide -- bears
26 actually make caches as well. So it's not just how
27 much they eat, but how much they also cache as well.
28 So anyway, that's an issue that not many people are
29 really aware of, but I wanted to bring it up.

30
31 The other issue is the quality of
32 escapement of the chinook salmon. Even though we did
33 surpass the agreed upon border passage into Canada, the
34 quality of escapement is still a major concern of mine
35 because if all you have is a bunch of small, male fish
36 getting into the spawning grounds, it's
37 counterproductive. Because studies done by the
38 University of Washington indicate that over 75 percent
39 of the offspring for -- when you have the eggs of a
40 large female fertilized by one of these small males,
41 it's only four years old. Three, four or five years
42 old, then they're going to be small males coming back.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
47 Virgil.

48
49 Andrew.
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I think for the
2 Yukon area, Yukon Flats area, we did have a few people
3 that had a fairly successful moose season. We didn't
4 have a lot of user conflicts. But as Rhonda mentioned,
5 I think we had something like ten funerals in the month
6 of September, which was pretty rough. But we did work
7 with Mr. Berendzen in getting maybe half of those for
8 potlucks moose. And we did have a -- actually, it
9 seems like we had a lot of moose harvest close to the
10 Village this year. But not a lot of it was -- we had
11 some other people that were -- haven't harvested moose
12 in a long time that we were successful this year. But
13 I know a lot of people in the Fort Yukon that didn't.

14
15 We had a fairly successful -- I guess
16 when we ran our test wheel this summer we did fairly
17 decent with that. And that was our second or third
18 year running a test wheel with Fish and Game and Fish
19 and Wildlife Service. I know some of the -- a lot of
20 the fisheries are not satisfied, but they were thankful
21 for the few short openings we had at the end of the
22 run, later in the end of July and August. And that was
23 something that we agreed on in the -- throughout the
24 river.

25
26 But at the YRDFA pre-season
27 preparedness meeting, we also did have a lot of high
28 water events throughout the summer and kind of made a
29 lot of -- a few -- some of our subsistence activities
30 were made a little difficult. Kind of changed it up
31 over there. Just changing times, I guess.

32
33 And I thank Virgil for bringing up the
34 closure of the Porcupine. I know a lot of people who
35 are -- some people were aware of it that wanted to be
36 involved. And the fall season Managers did come up and
37 speak with us on some of the closures and where the
38 start and stop time is. But I think the part that
39 maybe we forgot to take into account or that needs to
40 be addressed is the handful of people that actually
41 live on the Porcupine or that are falling out there
42 that subsist and live there year round should have been
43 -- they need to get a permit or something because I
44 don't think -- like Joe Mataesi, for instance, and his
45 50 or 100 chum salmon is going to make a difference on
46 escapement in the Fishing Branch, but he was pretty
47 sore about not being able to fish period when he's in
48 the middle of nowhere. And I know his closest neighbor
49 is probably 80 miles away.

50

1 But I don't think we took some of those
2 people into account and I was hoping they could get a
3 -- some type of permit system going or some type of
4 pass for the people that wanted it or there needs to be
5 a certain allowance given -- taken into account for
6 those people. Because a lot of folks that are in Fort
7 Yukon don't -- there isn't enough significant harvest
8 on the Fort Yukon side to even close the river. I mean
9 there's no -- so I know we talked about this with
10 Managers, but it was something that when we discussed
11 it, they didn't quite get to the reality of it until it
12 was closed. And then they -- well, they realized oh,
13 hell. We just closed one of our major tributaries to
14 the community off.

15
16 So that was something that took people
17 more by surprise than anything. And especially the
18 people that live on the tributary.

19
20 And I think anything else I've got,
21 we'll address throughout the meeting.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
24 Andrew.

25
26 Donald.

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 I would like to echo what Larry had to say about
30 Village participation in the Council. And I want to
31 compliment UAF having their program to study what the
32 Federal Subsistence Board's all about and how this
33 Council operates. And again to compliment them for
34 coming to our Council Meeting last season.

35
36 One of the issues that is recurrent up
37 in our Region is that the chinook salmon are sort of on
38 their terminal fishery there for us. And although we
39 did get more than enough escapement, we can't target
40 chinook on just one escapement season. It's been seven
41 years where we haven't made escapement or it's been
42 very, very poor. And I can't see that one year is
43 going to change things radically. And I noticed in
44 these Board of Fish proposals that there's movement
45 towards more harvest of chinook. So I'd like to
46 caution anybody going in that direction in the
47 immediate future.

48
49 One thing I participated with is the
50 Upper Tanana TCC Regional Meeting in Eagle. And it's

1 the first one we've had in Eagle. And I want to thank
2 TCC for inviting me to that Council. And I emphasized
3 that they would be beneficial for them to participate
4 more with the Federal subsistence process and put
5 applications in whenever they as a Council see it
6 available.

7

8

Thank you, Chairman.

9

10 MR. GLANZ: I don't have a whole lot to
11 go over, to talk about. But we've been working on a
12 lot of predator control down in our area. And I think
13 my last count we had -- in the last four years we've
14 taken 78 black bears out of our area. And it's showing
15 a little bit of -- a lot of cow and calves running
16 around now. So -- and most of them were taken on bait
17 stands. And then I think we had three grizzlies we've
18 got taken out this year already, too. So now we've
19 just got to get the wolves out.

20

21 And we had -- didn't have any caribou
22 come through our area at all this year. Circle and
23 Central had no caribou. Now I understand, or at our AC
24 meeting the other day, they came up and talked to us,
25 the State. And there was 560 caribou taken on the
26 Taylor Highway, which has got a 350. So Jeff Gross and
27 them has got to keep a closer watch on them in that
28 area because it's crazy.

29

30 But that's about all I've got.

31

32 We'll have a lot more discussion during
33 the meeting, so thanks.

34

35 Thanks, everybody.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks, Bill.

38

39 Andy.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 I have quite a few things here I want to just touch on
43 real briefly. First thing I wanted to bring up is that
44 life is getting a lot tougher for people who are living
45 more and more remote. Cost of food has gone up more
46 than 50 percent for people in the last three years
47 alone, so subsistence foods are becoming more and more
48 important to people living in remote areas. And
49 unfortunately we're seeing a decline in many of these
50 resources, whether it be caribou, fish or moose. And

1 now I'm hearing possibly berries, which is an important
2 food source evidently in some regions.

3

4 So I wanted to bring that up. That
5 probably -- some of that is going to be tied to climate
6 change, but certainly some of those issues are being
7 tied to increased pressure from outside areas in some
8 of these traditional subsistence hunting grounds,
9 especially closer to the Villages. It's very important
10 that those people that live remotely in the more remote
11 Villages are able to access those resources close to
12 home. Fuel is expensive. Food is expensive to bring
13 in. So I wanted to bring that up.

14

15 Probably one of the most important
16 issues to me that we've been talking about for many
17 years is fall chum. As we know, fall chum are doing
18 really well. They have been doing really well and
19 thank God for that, with the decline of chinook. But
20 as this Council has discussed for many, many years, I
21 see the warning signs coming up again. People in the
22 upper regions, especially five -- Region Five on the
23 Yukon River are almost completely dependent on fall
24 chum for their fish protein. With the decline of
25 chinook salmon, the inability for us to harvest those,
26 that is the primary protein source for people on the
27 Upper Yukon River.

28

29 As we go through this meeting, we're
30 going to be addressing a lot of proposals. A lot of
31 these proposals are designed to increase greater
32 fishing pressure on fall chum. Some of them are on
33 summer chum. All of them, especially summer chum, will
34 impact chinook salmon returns with by-catch of chinook
35 salmon. And so I think it's very important that we are
36 very cognizant of that. I know that there is a high
37 surplus of summer chum and they want to harvest that
38 commercially. And I think that needs to be done, but
39 it has to be done responsibly.

40

41 Regarding fall chum, fall chum can be
42 very abundant and then they crash really quickly. And
43 the oops. That's when oops management happens. And
44 that's something that I think the managers are very
45 aware of right now, but there again I'm beginning to
46 see more signs of greater pressure on allowing
47 commercial harvest of fall chum. And I really think
48 that we have to get the Board of Fish to realize that
49 fall chum are absolutely critical to the Upper Yukon
50 Region. Not only for human food, but also for the

1 lifestyle -- the traditional lifestyle there. The
2 Upper Yukon River is one of the few places left where
3 people are still actively using dog teams in their
4 daily life. It's critical to them. So that's a really
5 important issue.

6
7 As far as the hunting season this year,
8 we're still seeing a lot of pressure along the Yukon
9 River from people coming in. A lot of competition.
10 Most of that was focused farther down river from the
11 Eagle side. I don't think it really impacted people
12 from Eagle as much, but it's still a tremendous amount
13 of pressure down in Yukon-Charley, starting about 20
14 miles or so down river from Eagle. That does impact
15 some people that do live remotely down there. I've
16 heard a couple of people mention that it really
17 impacted their moose hunting this year.

18
19 From what I hear, a lot of the people
20 in Eagle did fairly well on moose and caribou,
21 primarily hunting along the highway. However, I did
22 hear comments about the heavy competition in that area
23 as well. But all in all, I think people did fairly
24 well with the moose and caribou in Eagle.

25
26 The other thing I wanted to bring up is
27 climate change. We talk about that. There's not
28 really a lot we can do about it. But what it does do
29 is it's impacting these natural resources that
30 subsistence users are relying on. And so we have to be
31 very cognizant of that.

32
33 And I think we need to be proactive in
34 management because climate change is going to be a
35 long, slow process. And it's oftentimes those long,
36 slow processes that kind of catch you by surprise.
37 They kind of sneak up on you. A resource goes away
38 very slowly. It's a slow decline and then you don't
39 react in time to prevent it from getting below a
40 certain threshold. And then it takes a long time to
41 bring it up, similar to the king salmon.

42
43 And then the last thing I just wanted
44 to bring up is I'm glad Virgil spoke a little bit about
45 the Yukon River Panel. One of the things I wanted to
46 just put out there as far as letting people know where
47 the Alaska Delegation stands on the Yukon River Panel.
48 We had been very proactive in trying to make sure that
49 monies are being spent to produce chinook salmon. To
50 put salmon on the spawning grounds. To actually

1 produce more fish. We're kind of getting a little
2 tired of a lot of studies and a lot of assessment of
3 chinook salmon and we really want to put the focus of
4 the monies from the Yukon River Panel Treaty into
5 getting restoration projects put in place to start
6 building the chinook run back up.

7

8 I think that's about all I have, Madame
9 Chair.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
14 you, Andy.

15

16 For Chair's report, I just attended the
17 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting Monday and
18 Tuesday for Wrangell-St. Elias. Two-day meeting and
19 then rush home and then rush in for this one. So I
20 found myself saying I used to go a lot more hunting and
21 fishing and now I just go to meetings it seems. But I
22 think you've got me beat, Virgil.

23

24 Some of the issues in our area was the
25 caribou hitting the road on the Fortymile. And I was
26 one of those to get to witness that. I was up there
27 hunting during that time. And lucky for me, I wasn't
28 on the road. I was seven miles in. But it is
29 something that the -- I attended the AC meeting in Tok
30 recently for the Upper Tanana Fortymile Country. And
31 they -- there was a discussion on, you know, how
32 they're going to deal with it. They're going to --
33 they're working on something to deal with it. Talking
34 to the public and that. So that's something we'll
35 probably end up talking about today.

36

37 And at the Park Service meeting -- I
38 mean I have a lot of notes. One of the things that did
39 come up was the Backcountry Wilderness Plan. And the
40 Park Service -- I think we're going to get a report
41 from Barbara Cellarius today on that. But the
42 Commission -- the SRC is very concerned about it. All
43 of us were interviewed by the Park Service. And
44 they've got two young gals hired. In their 20s.
45 Probably a short time in Alaska. And that concerns the
46 Commission.

47

48 You know, they say that they're
49 mandated to do this. And again, having dealt with the
50 Park Service since it came, it's been difficult for the

1 community to have some trust in the Park and what's
2 going on. So they're really concerned about this
3 Backcountry Wilderness Plan because they feel that it
4 will -- you know, they're talking about well, what if
5 this happens. What if there's too much use here. How
6 are we going to deal with it. We've got to have a plan
7 to deal with it. And that makes it hard for the user
8 to understand what that means to them.

9

10 So I was appointed to a -- the
11 Commission is going to have a working group and work
12 with them as they go through the planning process. So
13 I was appointed to that, as was a couple of other
14 people on the Commission. And I've taken myself
15 personally to taking kids out hunting anymore in the
16 fall time. I'm doing it for guiding purposes and
17 dealing with taking young people out and doing things
18 that -- both Frank and I have been doing that this
19 fall. So it's a kind of a rewarding thing to get out
20 there and do things with the kids.

21

22 Yeah. So -- and I think -- and the
23 Mentasta Village was highly successful in getting moose
24 this year, primarily because of probably some of the
25 control programs that occur in our area.

26

27 So moving on, I failed to get
28 introductions from people online. So if we can deal
29 with that right now.

30

31 Sorry, Eva. You were -- I didn't
32 remember.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Okay.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And also I
37 have to say to the Council Members, all our mics have
38 to be turned off when someone's speaking online,
39 because there's some feedback that we can eliminate.
40 So we'll have to make sure we do that.

41

42 So, Tina, do we need to turn a mic on
43 over there and see who's online? Is anyone on the
44 line?

45

46 REPORTER: I don't know. Just ask is
47 there.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Is
50 anyone online. Could you introduce yourselves.

1 REPORTER: And then turn yours off.
2
3 MS. MONCRIEFF: This is Catherine
4 Moncrieff, with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
5 Association. Could you hear me.
6
7 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Just go
10 ahead. We can hear you really good.
11
12 MR. JENKINS: Wayne Jenkins with Yukon
13 River Drainage Fisheries Association is also online.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
18
19 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in
20 Anchorage.
21
22 MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly with the National
23 Park Service.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What was that
26 name again?
27
28 MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
31
32 MR. JOLY: Yep.
33
34 MS. SCHMIDT: This is Stephanie Schmidt
35 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I'm
36 the Yukon River summer season manager. I also have
37 Sabrina Garcia, the assistant summer season manager,
38 with me here. We're calling in from the Anchorage
39 office.
40
41 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill Klein.
42 And many of you may know me from Yukon River Drainage
43 Fisheries Association, but I'm now with the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game in the Commissioner's
45 Office. And I'm calling in also.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.
48
49
50 MR. RICE: Yes. This is Bud Rice,

1 National Park Service in Anchorage. Just listening in
2 when I can.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

5

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you and
10 welcome.

11

12 All right. Moving next on the Agenda,
13 is there any public, tribal comment on non-agenda
14 items. We will do this each morning. Anyone in the
15 public that would like to speak to any non-agenda items
16 -- or online.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
21 Hearing none, we'll move along. Old business. Rural
22 termination. OSM Staff.

23

24 MR. MCKEE: Good morning, Madame Chair
25 and Members of the Council. My name is Chris McKee.
26 Again, for the record, I am the Wildlife Division Chief
27 for the Office of Subsistence Management.

28

29 This is just a rural determination
30 update. This is not an action item for the Council. I
31 just wanted to update you folks on where we are in the
32 process.

33

34 During its work session on July 28th of
35 this year, the Federal Subsistence Board took action on
36 the rural determination process. The Board divided the
37 rural determination process into three phases. Phase
38 one addressed the Board's recommendation on the current
39 secretarial proposed rule. The Board voted to
40 recommend to the Secretaries to adopt the proposal rule
41 as written.

42

43 Phase two was determining a starting
44 point for non-rural communities or areas. And the
45 Board voted to publish a direct final rule adopting the
46 pre-2007 non-rural determinations.

47

48 Phase three was direction on future
49 non-rural determinations. The Board voted to direct
50 Staff to develop options to determine future non-rural

1 determinations for the Board's consideration. And all
2 three requests passed unanimously. OSM staff is
3 expected to have a draft of options for the Board by
4 the January 2016 meeting.

5
6 After the Board provides guidance in
7 January 2016 on which option it decides to pursue for
8 future non-rural determination, OSM staff will draft
9 either a policy or a proposed rule and present it to
10 the Council's input for recommendations to the Board.

11
12 The last update I got was that both the
13 final rule on the rural determination process and the
14 final direct rule adopting the pre-2007 rural
15 determinations are on the Secretary's desk in D.C. So
16 we're just waiting to have those signed and officially
17 released. So that's kind of where we're at at this
18 point.

19
20 And that's all I have for you on this
21 subject, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

24
25 Any questions.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
30 you.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Did you have something?
33 Oh. I was just going to say, Chris, you're up again
34 actually for Red Sheep Creek.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Red Sheep.

37
38 MR. MCKEE: Oh, I'm sorry. Of course.
39 How could I forget that one?

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MR. MCKEE: After four years or more
44 dealing with that, you'd be amazed that I would forget
45 that. Well, this is going to be a pretty quick update.
46 I believe the information on this is on page 22 of your
47 booklet.

48
49 The Federal Subsistence Board met to
50 address the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's

1 request for reconsideration on Proposal WP14-51, which
2 requested re-opening of the Red Sheep and Cane Creek
3 drainages in the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
4 of Unit 25A to non-Federally qualified subsistence
5 users. The Board voted -- excuse me. While the
6 request was received within the required time period,
7 the Board concluded that none of the claims in the
8 request met the criteria toward further consideration
9 and the request was therefore denied.

10

11 So basically that means that this area
12 is not going to be open. That the proposal that the
13 Board voted on the last time wasn't held. And the
14 closure is currently under regulation. This proposal
15 and this request for reconsideration -- this represents
16 the final administrative action on this matter. So
17 there's nothing more to be done on that proposal, which
18 is to say that for the foreseeable future at least that
19 area will remain closed to non-Federally qualified
20 users.

21

22 Now, of course as you know under the
23 Federal process, anybody can put in a proposal during
24 the cycle to open the area up again. So we can't very
25 well predict whether that's going to happen the next
26 cycle. But as of now, that area is closed. So what's
27 going to happen in the future is anybody's guess. But
28 in terms of that last proposal, we're done
29 administratively. So it's closed. So I'd be happy to
30 answer any questions if you have any.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
33 questions.

34

35 Donald.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 I just would like to state that I really appreciate the
39 analysis that OSM did on this reconsideration and the
40 lengthy report that we got that we can review.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. MCKEE: Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
47 questions.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
2 Chris.

3
4 Okay. Next on the Agenda is new
5 business. Review the Federal Subsistence Board Annual
6 Report. That is on page 57. So does anyone have any
7 questions on the report.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You can see
12 what our main items of interest were that we put in the
13 report and then their answer.

14
15 MR. FIRMIN: Did you skip this one?

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What's that,
18 Andrew?

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, that's for tomorrow.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm sorry.
23 What page is what you're asking for?

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: No. I overlooked my note
26 there that says we skipped 10C for 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay. I
29 should have said so. I'm sorry.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Did
34 you have something to add, Eva?

35
36 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Madame Chair and
37 Council, I just wanted to take a moment to respond to
38 Mary Williams' question about Tribal consultation.
39 That was one of the topics in this Annual Report --
40 that concern about how Tribes in the communities would
41 be engaged in the Regional Advisory Council process.
42 And that is a work in progress, so -- and the Office of
43 Subsistence Management and the Federal Subsistence
44 Board have been working on reaching out to Tribes for
45 direct consultation, so opportunities both in person
46 and by teleconference to discuss proposals like before
47 the Regional Advisory Council meetings. If there's
48 subsistence proposals that affect the community, that
49 the Tribe would like to make recommendations on or get
50 more information on.

1 And those are held in advance of these
2 Council Meetings so that there's an extra opportunity
3 both for the community to prepare and get the
4 information, Tribes can go back to their community and
5 come forth with recommendations at the Council Meeting
6 or submit written recommendations. Still very much
7 encourage participation in the Council Meeting itself.
8
9

10 And I think that's been a big
11 challenge, you know, in particular recently with the
12 budget issues we've often been meeting in Fairbanks and
13 haven't made it out to the rural communities as
14 frequently as we would like to. And that's very
15 important to have that opportunity to meet in person
16 and make those connections directly with the community.
17 We welcome those recommendations or requests to hold a
18 Council Meeting in Venetie or the other Villages. You
19 know, and particularly if there's a question, you know,
20 or concern from the Tribe, they can also request
21 consultation at any time.
22

23 And we have -- with the Native Liaison
24 and then all of the leadership staff that are there to
25 respond to those requests for consultation. But I
26 think we have -- as Donald had noted, that
27 participation through the UAF class has been a great
28 opportunity where Tribal members or community members
29 from Villages throughout the region have an opportunity
30 to travel here. And that's part of the challenge that
31 we're faced with is, you know, some of the travel.
32

33 We very much welcome those requests and
34 those recommendations and if you have specific ideas or
35 feedback that you've gotten from the community of
36 Venetie or Arctic Village, that would be very helpful.
37 Then it's a living document in terms of trying to
38 develop, you know, a better way to connect with the
39 Tribes and the communities.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So we
42 will probably be discussing things throughout the
43 meeting. And if you guys have ideas, please bring them
44 forth.
45

46 And as we go on through the meeting, it
47 is always -- think about some issue that's very
48 important to add to our next Annual Report.
49

50 Can you give me the deadline for that?

1 Is that one that we're working on now, it has to go out
2 the end of this year? Or do we have another meeting?

3

4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
5 typically we develop the Annual Report topics at this
6 meeting and I continue to work with you to draft up the
7 details of that report. And then we come back at the
8 next meeting with that final draft. If there's any
9 modifications that the Council would like -- I know
10 there's been -- trying to get these turned around in a
11 timely manner so that the Council can get the response
12 back from the Board, some requests to try to bump that
13 up. But I would ask the Council if that second meeting
14 so that you have a chance as a Council, as a group to
15 review the draft Annual Report, provide more
16 information or detail or make any edits -- if that's an
17 important step for you, then that's the process we
18 would continue with.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. So
21 we're identifying things as we go today and then we see
22 a final draft at the next meeting. And then the next
23 meeting we look and see if we have any additions or
24 changes. And -- but see, that's for 2015. So it seems
25 like that should be done by the end of this year in a
26 logical, sensible thinking.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Right. Yeah. The timing
29 is a little strange because it's a long process.
30 Supposed to develop it with input from the Council and
31 then to actually get the response is a bit of a long
32 time frame.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. It
35 might -- maybe if we start in March and have it done in
36 the end of '15 might make more sense to me.

37

38 But Andy, did you have something?

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. I
41 guess I just wanted to bring up on this report topic
42 number four, which is the protection of caribou
43 frontrunners. And this to me is a perfect example of
44 another topic that we've been bringing up for a number
45 of years. And that's trying to develop some form of
46 educational outreach entity that would work with
47 collaboration of State, Federal subsistence users,
48 rural and non-rural users to try and promote some
49 education -- some educational awareness about this type
50 of thing, as well as impacts to rural communities and

1 that sort of thing.

2

3 So I guess what I'm trying to say here
4 is that I really think that this particular topic
5 should be built -- used to build to try and develop
6 some kind of a system for doing some outreach and
7 education collaboratively. I see this as a long term
8 need for the State. It's really a strong need for
9 especially the really remote people and the remote
10 communities. They're being very heavily impacted and
11 it's increasing. Competition is increasing. Resources
12 are declining. So we really need to get on the ball.
13 State and Federal managers, Tribal entities. And we
14 need to start collaborating and doing some planning and
15 doing some education.

16

17 So I don't know. Maybe we could put
18 that into one of our topics and try and get a response
19 from them. I think if we keep pushing it. We need to
20 get some monies put aside, both State and Federal
21 monies and maybe some Tribal monies so that we can form
22 some type of an entity to address this issue. I think
23 it will go a long ways towards saving a lot of hardship
24 in the future for all peoples. Not just rural people,
25 but all peoples. And it's just a matter of
26 communication and education.

27

28 And I think if we start that process
29 we'll save ourselves a lot of time and conflict in the
30 future.

31

32 Thank you, Madame Chair.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
35 yes. The Council had identified at the last meeting.
36 This has been in the Annual Report before. And with
37 all the work that both the Western and Eastern Councils
38 did in terms of creating both ideas and strategies and
39 networking -- and we had some of the State
40 representatives here as well.

41

42 And so we've got a draft of, you know,
43 all the different ways that it could be approached.
44 And we are planning -- so include this topic in this
45 Annual Report this year to bring it forth to OSM for,
46 you know, a confirmation of what can be done for
47 support through the program. And then we do plan --
48 there will be an All Council Meeting in March of this
49 year, where all ten Councils will come together in
50 Anchorage. But one of the main reasons for doing that

1 was to do both workshops and trainings and breakout
2 sessions. Because this is an issue of concern to many
3 of the Councils.

4
5 And that was one of the ideas, was to
6 work together, you know, both State, Tribal, Federal.
7 It's a public meeting. We're hoping that we'll have a
8 lot of Tribal participation as well. So it'll be a
9 chance then to -- so we'll have that letter, which
10 we'll continue to work on. And also the report. And
11 then a chance to really hone in on what can be done and
12 the support that's available through the Federal
13 Program.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I'm
16 hearing that it's something for our 2015 Report. Okay.
17 All right. Any other discussion this, Council Members.

18
19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Again, we'll
23 be looking at things. And please say -- identify
24 something as we go along what you want in the Annual
25 Report.

26
27 Okay. Barbara is not here. And this
28 is -- the next thing is the appointment of the
29 Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission.
30 And there's another Agenda item that needs to be --
31 when she arrives. Unless we get it done before she
32 gets here. Actually, my appointment is the one that's
33 up 2015. So we can be thinking about that.

34
35 Now, is Amy Craver here for the Denali
36 one.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
39 Amy was planning on being here later in the afternoon.

40
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

43
44 MS. PATTON: And I'll check back in
45 with Lester Erhart this afternoon. Lester is the
46 Denali SRC representative from the Eastern Interior
47 RAC. And so if there's an opportunity both to cover
48 the proposal and discuss his SRC appointment, we'll
49 find a good time that works for him to call in.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So should we
2 just move these two, that when they come in we'll add
3 it to the agenda. Okay. So those are two that are not
4 handled.

5
6 So now we're going right into the
7 proposals. Does anyone need a break.

8
9 (Council nods affirmatively)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
12 There's been a request for a ten-minute break, which
13 always turns into fifteen.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We're calling
20 it back in session. We're on Proposal Number 55.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: What page?

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Change in
25 trapping season dates for coyote in Unit 25. Page 74,
26 Virgil.

27
28 Go ahead, Lisa.

29
30 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you, Madame
31 Chair, Members of the Council. My name is Lisa Maas
32 and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of
33 Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting a summary
34 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-55, which
35 begins on page 74 of your RAC book.

36
37 Wildlife Proposal 16-55, submitted by
38 this Council, requests that the coyote trapping season
39 in Unit 25 be expanded from November 1st to March 31st
40 to October 1st to April 30th. The proponent states the
41 extended season would increase harvest opportunity for
42 Federally qualified subsistence users and that the
43 regional coyote population is abundant and possibly
44 increasing.

45
46 The proponent also states this change
47 would simplify regulations in two ways. One, by
48 aligning the coyote and wolf trapping seasons. And
49 two, by aligning the closing dates of the coyote
50 trapping and hunting seasons.

1 Coyotes are a relatively new arrival in
2 Alaska, expanding their range into the State around
3 1900. Based on trapper questionnaires, coyotes are
4 abundant in Unit 25C and are scarce in Units 25A, 25B,
5 and 25D. Coyote harvest in Unit 25 has historically
6 been low. From 2004 to 2012, 16 coyotes total were
7 reported harvested from Unit 25. However, reporting is
8 optional.

9
10 Adoption of this Proposal would
11 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
12 subsistence users and decrease Federal regulatory
13 complexity, but would mis-align State and Federal
14 seasons. Aligning the Federal coyote and wolf trapping
15 season would also allow hunters to keep coyotes trapped
16 incidentally while targeting wolves.

17
18 There are no conservation concerns for
19 the Unit 25 coyote population as harvest is very low
20 and only minimal increase is expected. The OSM
21 preliminary conclusion is to support WP16-55.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair, Members of the
24 Council.

25
26 I would be happy to field any
27 questions.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
30 Any questions, Council Members.

31
32 Will.

33
34 MR. KOEHLER: I just have a comment. I
35 think that there probably wouldn't be a conservation
36 concern if you opened that coyote season up year round.
37 There are fewer and fewer people getting out and
38 trapping. And the financial return on a coyote is
39 very, very small. So I don't think there would be any
40 harm that would come from this proposal.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Now that's
43 moving rapidly along. Okay. Thank you, Will.

44
45 Does anyone have any questions.
46 Because we have to go through this process. Remember
47 all these things over here.

48
49 Any questions of the presenter.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Unless you
4 turn that into a question, Will.
5
6 MR. KOEHLER: Okay, that's a question.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
13 That's the introduction. Now, this thing looks
14 different to me. Report on Board consultations.
15 That's next.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
18 as we were discussing earlier, the Federal Subsistence
19 Program has developed a Tribal consultation process in
20 conjunction with both the Regional Advisory Council
21 Meetings and the Federal Subsistence Board Meetings.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
24
25 MS. PATTON: So we held Regional Tribal
26 consultation sessions that were -- people were welcome
27 to come in person and also it was teleconferenced. And
28 we did not get any Tribal comments on this proposal.
29
30 Thank you.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
33 Eva. And next would be Agency comments. First is
34 ADF&G. Is there any Fish and Game people present that
35 will have a report on this. Or comments. I'm sorry.
36
37 MS. KLEIN: Hi. This is Jill Klein
38 again, in Anchorage by teleconference. And I can give
39 the State's preliminary recommendations on Proposal 16-
40 55. It's to support the proposal.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
43 Jill.
44
45 Any other questions for Jill.
46
47 Donald.
48
49 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
50 Jill, I would just like to recommend that the State

1 reinstate the sealing requirements on the coyote.
2 Because it would help us with harvest data.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Thanks, Don. I'll
7 make a note of that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
10 Federal Agencies have any comments.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Federal
15 Agencies. Anyone.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any Native
20 Tribal Village or other comments on this proposal.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or Inter-
25 Agency Staff Committee.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
30 Advisory Committee groups, other Regional Advisory
31 Councils, Fish and Game or Subsistence Resource
32 Commissions.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
35 we just received the meeting minutes from the Fairbanks
36 Fish and Game AC. And I do have copies of that made up
37 now for you. The Fairbanks Fish and Game AC supports
38 this proposal, as aligning coyote and wolf season
39 simplifies regulations for users. And that was the
40 only comment. I don't believe -- we also just received
41 the minutes for the Upper Tanana Fortymile. And they
42 did not make comment on Proposal 55.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. That
45 Committee usually 20E and 12.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And maybe 11
50 and 13 sometimes. And that's it, Eva?

1 MS. PATTON: And that is all for the
2 State AC comments and others.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Summary of
9 written public comments.
10
11 MS. PATTON: There are no written
12 public comments for this proposal.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Is
15 there any public testimony today on Proposal 55.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
20 Again, I'm going to call for public testimony. Any.
21
22 All right, Council Members.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
25 WP16-55.
26
27 MR. KOEHLER: Second.
28
29 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. It's
32 been moved and seconded -- double second. Discussion.
33
34
35 And I heard your discussion earlier,
36 Will. Which would be actually an amendment if you so
37 choose to do so. Okay.
38
39 MR. KOEHLER: I said it in the wrong
40 place.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But to change
43 coyote season if that's what you were pressing to do
44 for year round, that would be an amendment to this
45 proposal.
46
47 MR. KOEHLER: It's probably not worth
48 it.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Yeah.

1 This is a trapping proposal. So I have to agree with
2 you though.

3

4 Discussion.

5

6 Andy.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Just to make --
9 help us move along for the justification, I'll echo
10 Will's comments earlier that it doesn't appear that
11 there is a conservation concern if we were to adopt
12 this or if the Board was to adopt it, I should say. It
13 also helps to align State and Federal regulations. So
14 I think this is a good proposal and should be
15 supported.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Lisa.

18

19 MS. MAAS: I'd just like to clarify
20 that adopting this proposal would result in mis-
21 aligning State and Federal regulations, but would align
22 Federal coyote and wolf regulations, as well as Federal
23 coyote hunting and trapping regulations. But it would
24 mis-align State and Federal.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So which is
27 longer season?

28

29 MS. MAAS: The proposed Federal season.
30 Currently the State and Federal seasons are aligned.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But this
33 would be longer for the Federal.

34

35 MS. MAAS: But if you adopted this,
36 then the Federal season would be longer.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And that, for
39 me, is a reason to -- if it's longer -- or if it's
40 shorter, I would be opposed to it. But if it's longer,
41 it's good.

42

43 Any other discussion on this proposal.

44

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MR. GLANZ: Call for the question.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's

1 been called for. All in favor, say aye.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone

6 opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving

11 on to the next proposal, 56.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
14 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
15 Lisa Maas. And I will be presenting a summary of the
16 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-56, which begins on
17 page 81 of your RAC book.

18

19 Wildlife Proposal 16-56, submitted by
20 this Council, requests that the beaver hunting season
21 in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D be lengthened and divided
22 into two seasons. One season would be June 11th to
23 August 31, with a harvest limit of one beaver per day,
24 one in possession. The second season would be
25 September 1 to June 10th, with no harvest limit.

26

27 The proponent states these changes
28 would provided Federally qualified subsistence users
29 with more harvest opportunity and would reduce
30 regulatory complexity by aligning Federal hunting with
31 State trapping regulations.

32

33 Beavers are common across interior
34 Alaska. According to trapper questionnaires, beavers
35 are common to abundant in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D.
36 Since 2002, when the State eliminated beaver sealing
37 requirements for Unit 25, beaver harvest data has been
38 limited. From 2004 to 2012, reported beaver harvests
39 for Unit 25A, 25B, and 25D ranged from nine to twenty-
40 four beavers per year. However, this is a gross
41 underestimation of harvest.

42

43 Adoption of this proposal would
44 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
45 subsistence users and decrease regulatory complexity by
46 aligning State trapping and Federal hunting seasons.
47 No impact to the beaver population is expected as users
48 can already harvest unlimited beaver on most Federal
49 public lands in Unit 25 under State regulations. The
50 OSM preliminary conclusion is to support WP16-56.

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
4
5 Any questions.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We
10 have a question.
11
12 Andy.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Given your
15 comments that there's an abundant amount of beaver out
16 there, I guess one of the things that I'm maybe going
17 to propose is that this proposal be to include 20E in
18 the proposal, if we can do that at this point in time.
19 Because.....
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
22 let's ask. We can do that. Or does it have to go to
23 the CNT.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: Can we do that. Or do
26 you have to do an analysis on 20E as well.
27
28 MS. MAAS: There also is a proposal for
29 16-67, which addresses beavers in 20E. But if someone
30 else would like to address adding an.....
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
33
34 MS. MAAS:extra unit onto the
35 proposal at this time.
36
37 MR. MCKEE: Yeah. I was just going to
38 -- just I was going to echo what Lisa had already said.
39 But for the purposes of this specific proposal, that's
40 probably not something we could do. Because it's just
41 outside the scope of the original proposal.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I kind of
46 thought so.
47
48 MS. MAAS: And just a clarification.
49 We'll get to 67 soon, but that is for 20E. And it's
50 also to change the harvest limit to unlimited beaver.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
2 other questions for this proposal and this
3 presentation.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
8 The next thing I need is -- is there any -- a report.
9 I'm sorry. A report on Tribes -- ANCSA Corps.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
12 at the Tribal Consultation and ANCSA Corporation, there
13 were no comments received on this proposal.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
18 Eva.

19
20 Agency comment. First is ADF&G.

21
22 MS. KLEIN: Hi. Thank you, Madame
23 Chair. The Department's preliminary recommendation is
24 to support the proposal.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
27 Jill.

28
29 Next would be Federal Agencies. Any
30 comments.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And then
35 Native Tribal Village or other. Are there any
36 comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Interagency
41 Staff.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Advisory
46 Committee Groups.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
49 the Fairbanks Fish and Game AC supports this proposal.
50 And see it as aligning State and Federal seasons.

1 Simplifies regulations for users.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Summary of
4 written.

5

6 MS. PATTON: And there are no public
7 written comments on this proposal.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there any
10 public testimony for this proposal.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
17 16-56.

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.

22

23 Donald.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 I think this is a good proposal. And it confuses me a
27 little bit. And I've asked Fish and Game in the past
28 when they were in the field what one beaver a day and
29 one in possession actually means. If I was to set up a
30 beaver camp, does that mean I can only have one beaver
31 in camp or does it have to be processed. And I would
32 like to have that somewhat explained. Because if it's
33 only one a day, that's fine. But if it's only one in
34 possession and you're in a beaver camp, it's probably
35 confusing or it could be misinterpreted as over-
36 harvest.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Is
41 anyone Fish and Game can answer that question.

42

43 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill. And I don't
44 have the answer right now, but I can look into that for
45 Don if no one is there at the meeting that can answer
46 it.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm not
49 seeing anybody waving their arms.

50

1 MS. KLEIN: Okay. So I'll look into it
2 and get back to you, Don.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But my
5 historian here -- I mean Virgil. I bet he can answer
6 it.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: I would say that in my
9 experience, unless we had an annual limit, once the
10 beaver is processed then it would no longer be part of
11 the bag limit. But I see Beth back there smiling. She
12 might have a better answer. In fish, that's what it
13 would be. Not in moose, but fish it would.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I just went
16 through an SRC meeting on burbot. And they said if
17 that -- if it's filleted out and frozen -- and you're
18 sitting there still fishing, that that's off your bag
19 limit. This was given to me by Fish and Game
20 biologists.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's right. That's
23 right.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Beth, do you
26 have something to add?

27
28 MS. LENART: Well, no. I think.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You need to
31 come to the mic. Sorry.

32
33 MS. LENART: Good morning. Beth
34 Lenart, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
35 Virgil's correct. I mean if that animal's considered
36 processed, then it wouldn't count against your bag
37 limit. But I don't know what the history is for why
38 there was one in possession for beaver for hunting
39 either. So perhaps Jill can find that answer.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
42 Thank you.

43
44 Lisa.

45
46 MS. MAAS: I can't answer that
47 question, but I would just like to clarify that for the
48 State season it's unlimited from September 1 to June
49 10th. And it's only under the Federal Regulations
50 right now that there's the one beaver per day, one

1 possession. And this proposal would align that
2 September 1 to June 10th season, but then create a year
3 round season where during the summer you have the one
4 beaver per day, one in possession. And that's how the
5 Council submitted the proposal.

6
7 But I just wanted to clarify that it's
8 just under Federal Regulations right now for this unit,
9 not State.

10
11 MR. KOEHLER: Well, couldn't you just
12 fill out a transfer of possession form and transfer the
13 beaver, you know, to -- in the case of, you know,
14 transfer the beaver carcass to your sled dog and then
15 you could go out and get another one.

16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: I think that's a
18 fictitious argument.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's quite
23 humorous, the sled dog.

24
25 Do we need any clarification about the
26 proposal as written.

27
28 Okay. Andy.

29
30 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess maybe a
31 little clarification for me. When we get to this stage
32 in each one of these proposals, do you want us to go
33 through the -- on the justification, go through each
34 one of these bullet points to give the justification.
35 Are you comfortable as the Chair just to take the
36 discussion at the table as the justification one way or
37 the other. I just want to know how formal you want it.

38
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I hear you.
41 I hear you, Andy. Me, personally, I'm comfortable.
42 But I don't know if the government is comfortable.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So help me
47 out, Eva.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
50 so under number eight, the discussion justification,

1 these are helpful guidelines. In particular to
2 highlight each of these points, these are issues that
3 the Board considers in their evaluation of the
4 Council's recommendation. And if there is any
5 conservation concern or if other subsistence users
6 would be harmed. So it's helpful to touch on these
7 topics for the flow of the Council, as long as you
8 have, you know, ample justification and discussion then
9 that's good as well.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I apologize
14 if I offended anyone. I didn't mean to. But it's hard
15 because we're volunteers and we go to these meetings
16 and we're constantly working on this stuff. And we
17 understand that we need to do all of this and we do the
18 best we can. So technically yes. We need to do this.

19

20 So Virgil.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I can remember
23 when the State changed the regulations on beaver to
24 allow you to shoot them as well. That the intent was
25 that if you were out there shooting beavers and you
26 salvaged a hide off the beaver, you could either eat
27 the beaver or use it as bear bait. And beaver is very
28 good bear bait at a bear bait station.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or dog food.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Or for dog food. Or I
33 like to just take a beaver -- I've done it a number of
34 ways. I know that there's someone in the audience
35 that's eat beaver that I've smoked before and made into
36 chili. There's a number of ways to eat beaver. You
37 can bake it. You can -- what I've done is cured it and
38 smoked it just like you would a ham. And it really
39 makes a good sandwich. Or you can bone it out and make
40 beaver chili. But there's a lot of different uses for
41 beaver.

42

43 And the intent when the State passed
44 it, that you could use beaver for all those various
45 issues. And it changed the season and then made it so
46 you could shoot them as well. Because prior to that
47 you could only trap them. And so -- and there's no
48 conservation concern for beaver. There's not that many
49 people really out trying to harvest the beaver. They
50 are a lot of work. And to actually process them is.

1 Skinning them -- I'm not very good at skinning them.
2 And if you want to save the skin with no holes in it
3 and not have a bunch of fat on it.

4
5 But I think we have a good proposal
6 here and it just makes it easier to utilize the beaver
7 resource, Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

10
11
12 Rhonda.

13
14 MS. PITKA: Yeah. I just have a
15 question. On our discussion and justification, it says
16 traditional ecological knowledge. But I haven't seen
17 in the proposal itself where that is. Am I missing it
18 or is it not there.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You mean for
21 this discussion portion.

22
23 MS. PITKA: Yeah.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, this is
26 the discussion of the proposal.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Okay.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So we put on
31 the record these points.

32
33 MS. PITKA: Well, I mean in the
34 proposal itself. Is it supposed to be in the proposal
35 itself or just in the discussion.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: In the
38 discussion, is my understanding.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Sure. The Council or, you
41 know, proponents often do put their knowledge of why
42 they're submitting this proposal and why it would be
43 beneficial or useful. But it's also part of the
44 Council's discussion, too. And also members of the
45 public to share traditional knowledge and information
46 that you feel would help inform this.

47
48 Certainly.

49
50 Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But to be --
2 it doesn't have to be part of the proposal. That's
3 her.....

4
5 MS. PITKA: Yeah.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And the short
8 answer is it doesn't have to be part of the proposal.
9 Yeah. Okay.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Call question.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
14 question's been called for. All in favor of the
15 proposal, say aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
20 opposed.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Motion
25 passes. So next is 57.

26
27 Go ahead, Lisa.

28
29 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
30 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
31 my name is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary
32 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-57, which
33 begins on page 92 of your RAC book.

34
35 Wildlife Proposal 16-57, submitted by
36 this Council, requests that the lynx trapping season in
37 Unit 25 be lengthened from November 1st to February
38 28th to November 1st to March 31st. The proponent
39 states that prime fur conditions for lynx extend into
40 March and that lengthening the season would provide
41 increased harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
42 subsistence users. The proponent also states that the
43 proposed changes would simplify regulations by aligning
44 the lynx trapping season with the wolverine trapping
45 season in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D, curtailing
46 incidental take issues.

47
48 A related proposal is WP16-58, which
49 requests extending the wolverine trapping season in
50 Unit 25C.

1 If both this proposal and WP16-58 are
2 adopted, the Federal subsistence lynx and wolverine
3 trapping seasons in all of Unit 25 would be aligned.

4
5 Lynx are common in Alaska. Their
6 populations fluctuate on an eight to eleven year cycle
7 in response to changes in snowshoe hare populations,
8 their primary prey. All harvested lynx are required to
9 be sealed, which can act as a proxy for population
10 status. Lynx harvest from Unit 25 has generally been
11 high, fluctuating up and down in response to population
12 highs and lows. From 1990 to 2014, harvest in Unit 25
13 ranged from 200 to 2,400 lynx per year.

14
15 Adoption of this proposal would
16 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
17 subsistence users by extending the season closing date
18 by 31 days, but would mis-align State and Federal
19 trapping seasons. The lynx and wolverine trapping
20 seasons in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D would be aligned,
21 which could reduce incidental take issues.

22
23 There are no conservation concerns for
24 lynx, which are cyclically abundant and primarily
25 regulated by prey availability. The OSM preliminary
26 conclusion is to support WP16-57.

27
28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
31 Lisa.

32
33 Any questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
38 you. Hearing none, we'll go on. Report on the Board
39 consultation with Tribes and Corps.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
42 again we did not receive any comments on this proposal.
43 And we have one written public comment on this
44 proposal. Was a letter submitted from Minchumina, from
45 Miki and Julie Collins. And they note that they don't
46 hunt in this region, but generally they wanted to offer
47 support for Federal subsistence proposals that would
48 help simplify regulations and less complicated overlap
49 between State and Federal regulations. So they were
50 neutral on the actual action, but supportive of

1 simplifying alignment.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
4 Agency comments.

5

6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

7

8 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
9 This is Jill. Right now the Department preliminary
10 recommendation was to oppose this proposal. It was in
11 response to the differentiation of the State and
12 Federal lynx trapping seasons.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any questions
15 of Jill.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Next.
20 Federal Agencies, any comments.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I go through
25 this and we don't have any each time. Native Tribal
26 Village or other.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Inter-Agency
31 Staff.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
36 Advisory Committee Groups.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
39 we don't have any comments on this particular proposal
40 from the AC's.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And we
43 got the summary of the written public that you just
44 gave.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Yes.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

49

50 MS. PATTON: That was the only written

1 public comment submitted.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there any
4 public testimony. There is one. Introduce yourself,
5 please.

6

7 MR. WILBER: Hi. My name's Rick
8 Wilber. I'm from Fairbanks and I'm a life long
9 trapper. Part of the Alaska Trapper's Association.
10 And I support aligning Federal and State regulations to
11 make it easier for trappers to go out and trap.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: One -- does
16 anyone have any questions of him.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No questions.
21 Thank you. Yeah. I think I have one and you're going
22 to address it.

23

24 MS. MAAS: Oh, yeah. Okay. Thanks,
25 Madame Chair. I just wanted to clarify that this --
26 adopting or supporting this proposal would result in
27 mis-aligning State and Federal regulations. Currently
28 the State and Federal regulations in lynx in Unit 25
29 are aligned. But adopting this proposal would extend
30 the Federal season by one month, so it would increase
31 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right. And
34 in that light, my question would have been do you
35 support this proposal.

36

37 MR. WILBER: I support this proposal.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
40 you.

41

42 Okie dokie. We are now on.....

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to adopt
45 Proposal 16-57.

46

47 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

50 Discussion.

1 Andy.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'll just go
4 through -- thank you. I'll just go through the bullet
5 points here. It doesn't appear to be a conservation
6 concern. As identified by the OSM Report, lynx
7 fluctuate and harvest seems to follow that.

8

9 As far as traditional, ecological
10 knowledge, many people out in the Bush are experiencing
11 much later, colder springtime temperatures which also
12 contributes to high quality pelts later into the
13 season, so this will also allow for high quality
14 harvest and use of the resource.

15

16 It's definitely beneficial to
17 subsistence needs. It gives greater opportunity --
18 more opportunity to produce some money. And lynx are
19 also very tasty to eat, so it's food for subsistence
20 users. And I do not believe that this would restrict
21 any other users, Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.

24

25

26 Bill.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: I'm going to call for the
29 question.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
32 question's been called for. All in favor of the
33 proposal, say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
38 opposed.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving
43 on to the next proposal. So we're doing the -- 58; is
44 that correct?

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. It's
49 the one I didn't have tagged.

50

1 Okay. Go ahead, Lisa.

2

3 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
4 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
5 my name is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary
6 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-58, which
7 begins on 103 of your RAC book.

8

9 Wildlife Proposal 16-58, submitted by
10 this Council, requests that the wolverine trapping
11 season in Unit 25C be extended from November 1 to
12 February 28th to November 1 to March 31st. The
13 proponent states that extending the wolverine trapping
14 season in Unit 25C would increase opportunity for
15 Federally qualified subsistence users and would reduce
16 regulatory complexity by aligning Unit 25C's season
17 dates with the rest of Unit 25.

18

19 A related proposal is WP16-57, which
20 was just discussed, considering lynx trapping season in
21 Unit 25. Again, if both this proposal and WP16-57 are
22 adopted, the Federal subsistence lynx and wolverine
23 trapping seasons in all of Unit 25 would be aligned.

24

25 Wolverines have very large home ranges
26 and very low reproductive rates, causing them to
27 naturally occur in low densities. Studies indicate
28 that wolverine populations are very susceptible to
29 trapping pressure and that trapped populations are
30 maintained from immigration from un-trapped areas.
31 According to trapper questionnaires, wolverines are
32 scarce but stable in Unit 25C.

33

34 Harvest in Unit 25C has averaged three
35 per year since 1990. As males range more widely than
36 females, they are more likely to be trapped. If more
37 females are consistently trapped than males, over-
38 harvesting may be occurring.

39

40 Thus, the State management goal for the
41 Fairbanks area is for the three-year mean wolverine
42 harvest to be greater than 50 percent male. This goal
43 has been met in all years for the Fairbanks area as a
44 whole; however, since 1990 this goal has only been met
45 in 16 out of 23 years in Unit 25C. So adjusting over-
46 harvesting may be occurring in this unit and that the
47 Unit 25C wolverine population may be maintained by
48 immigrating animals.

49

50 Indeed the reason that the Unit 25C

1 wolverine trapping season has historically been a month
2 shorter than the remainder of Unit 25 is because of
3 higher trapping pressure in Unit 25C due to its
4 proximity to Fairbanks and relative accessible.

5
6 Adopting this proposal would increase
7 trapping opportunity for Federally qualified
8 subsistence users and would align Federal wolverine
9 trapping seasons in all of Unit 25C, but would result
10 in mis-alignment of State and Federal regulations for
11 Unit 25C.

12
13 Given the extremely low reproductive
14 rates, inherently low population densities,
15 susceptibility to trapping pressure, the proximity to
16 Fairbanks and road accessibility, as well as the
17 possibility that over-harvesting may already be
18 occurring, the Unit 25C wolverine population warrants
19 conservative management.

20
21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 oppose WP16-58 due to conservation concerns.

23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
27 Members, questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hearing none,
32 let's move along. A report on Board consultations with
33 Tribes.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
36 again the Board did not receive any comments on this
37 proposal from Tribes or ANCSA Corporations.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any agency
40 comments. ADF&G.

41
42 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 This is Jill. The Department's preliminary
44 recommendation is also to oppose Proposal 58.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
47 questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I'm
2 going to go through the next group all at once. And
3 then people need to speak up if they're here to talk to
4 it. It would be any Federal Agencies, Native Tribal
5 Village or other. Or Inter-Agency Staff have any
6 comments.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hearing none,
11 Advisory Committee Groups.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
14 we did not receive any AC comments on this proposal.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: How about
17 public comments.

18
19 MS. PATTON: And no written public
20 comments either.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do I have any
23 public testimony. Any public testimony on this
24 proposal.

25
26 MR. WILBER: Hi. This is Rick Wilber
27 again. My only comment is that passing the last one
28 with lynx in all of 25 and then separating 25C for
29 wolverine, I wonder if incidental catch might occur.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: On the
32 other.....

33
34 MR. WILBER: On the wolverine.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

37
38 MR. WILBER: That's my only comment.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So that's a
41 concern. Okay. Any questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

46
47 Okay. Virgil.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
50 Number.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 58.
2
3 MR. UMPHENOUR:58.
4
5 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy, want to
12 do it? Or did you, Rhonda? Did I see you wanted --
13 oh, okay.
14
15 MR. BASSICH: No. Go for it. I talk
16 too much.
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead,
21 Andy.
22
23 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 The first bullet point is is there a conservation
25 concern. And I'm not fully -- I don't buy into that.
26 I think there may be a little bit more pressure. My
27 experience is that the -- in our Region anyways, that
28 the -- it's okay to harvest those male wolverines.
29 It's when you start getting into the female population
30 that you might have some conservation concerns. And
31 maybe I missed something, but I don't really see where
32 that's really demonstrated definitively here. So I
33 really don't believe there's a conservation concern.
34
35 I am concerned of what our public
36 comment was. And that's incidental catch of wolverine
37 if trapped during -- if the previous proposal is
38 passed, that puts our trapper in a bad position if he's
39 out in the woods and he incidentally harvests a
40 wolverine and then gets busted for it. So that's a
41 huge concern.
42
43 I think it's really important for
44 people out in the remote area and pretty much all over
45 the State to be able to utilize trapping to make some
46 money. Life's getting expensive out there. Every
47 little bit helps. Wolverine and lynx both bring pretty
48 good income to a trapper.
49
50 I don't -- my personal experience is it

1 seems like trapping is actually declining some rather
2 than increasing. And so I don't think that everybody's
3 going to run out into the woods and start trapping
4 everywhere they can to over-harvest these animals. So
5 I -- and I don't think this necessarily restricts any
6 other users.

7
8 So in summary, Madame Chair, I'm going
9 to support this proposal. I think it's a good
10 proposal. I think it's going to benefit Federally
11 qualified users. And they need all the help they can
12 get living out in the Bush now.

13
14 MS. PITKA: My next comment was just
15 going to be that it only extends the season for a month
16 to align the seasons, so I really don't see that
17 there's going to be a huge jump in trapping of
18 wolverines for one month.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, the
21 other thing I'm noticing under State Regulations, 25A,
22 B, and D are already a March 31st closed season. So
23 that must be why we only put in for 25C.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. So I
28 guess it -- what am I missing here. It looks like it's
29 all covered.

30
31 MR. GLANZ: That was just to make it
32 all uniform.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: That's the deal it was.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So there
39 wouldn't be an incidental take, if I see this
40 correctly.

41
42 Discussion, Council Members.

43
44 Andrew.

45
46 MR. FIRMIN: I believe like Ms. Maas
47 stated that there's -- it's because of the highway
48 access, was why there was a month shorter. That there
49 would be more people there. But like Andy said, and I
50 feel like trapping is more of a passion than

1 something.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. FIRMIN: It's not something like
6 people are going to be running out and doing or they're
7 not going to be flocking to this area just because they
8 get an extra month. So I think like it's more of a
9 housekeeping proposal and it helps the trappers that
10 are out there working their butts off for their catch.
11 So I'm all for it.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you have
14 something to add?

15

16 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I'd just like to
17 clarify when you pointed out that the State season for
18 the rest of 25 -- for 25A, B, and D is already to March
19 31st. The reason historically that the State season
20 for 25C for wolverine has been a month shorter is
21 because of the higher trapping pressure due to its
22 proximity to Fairbanks and road accessibility. So
23 historically the State has a reason why the Unit 25C
24 wolverine dates are not equivalent to the rest of Unit
25 25C.

26

27 And in response to Andy's comment on
28 not seeing the data supporting that more females are
29 being harvested, I'd just like to point to the graph on
30 page 109 of your RAC book. And if you look at that
31 dotted line, that's the management objective where it's
32 50 percent males are greater in the harvest. And that
33 lighter gray line is the Unit 25C harvest. So you can
34 see any time those dots are below that dotted line,
35 that means more females were harvested than males. And
36 that's over a three-year average. That's not by year.
37 That's averaging the harvest over three years. So I
38 just wanted to clarify that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Will and then
41 Andy.

42

43 MR. KOEHLER: I guess I have a question
44 that I should know the answer to, but I don't. This is
45 for -- this proposal is being set up for only Federal
46 qualified subsistence users for one month. So do I
47 understand that? And Virgil probably can help me best
48 with this. That means that are people in Fairbanks
49 qualified to go up -- Federally qualified to go up and
50 use this trapping season? No. So there's going to be

1 -- it's a very, very small group of people that are
2 going to be able to take advantage of this proposal, if
3 I understand it correctly.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You do.

6

7 MR. KOEHLER: So I would support this.
8 Because I do not see a conservation issue. And talking
9 to what she just said, I agree with what Andy said,
10 that it's when we start taking the females that we
11 start worrying about the population. And according to
12 the data I am seeing here, there's been more three-year
13 averages -- considerably more three-year averages of
14 taking mostly males. So I do not see a conservation
15 concern.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Bill.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Also I agree with
22 this passing this, if we can. But I've only seen two
23 people from Fairbanks that come up into, you know, up
24 there by our area. That's during trapping. And
25 they're not very -- well, twice we've had to go out and
26 take a caribou out of a snare. And the fun one was
27 when they caught a cow moose when they weren't
28 checking. They come out on weekends to check their
29 line. I had to try to get the locals just to start
30 tearing their traps out. But, you know, it's against
31 the law, but.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay, Bill.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: But we don't have any
36 little conflict with Fairbanks trappers. Only these
37 two individuals. So.....

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy, did I
40 skip over you? I apologize.

41

42 MR. BASSICH: No. Will addressed.

43 Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Anyone
46 else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The
4 question's been called for. All in favor, say aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
9 opposed.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. You
14 guys covered that one really good.
15
16 Next is the 60.
17
18 MS. MAAS: Madame Chair, Barbara
19 Cellarius wanted to be present for WP16-60 and I think
20 she was planning on getting here after lunch. I'm not
21 sure if we're able to.....
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We can
24 accommodate her. We'll pass over that and go to beaver
25 trapping, 67.
26
27 MS. MAAS: All right.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. We're
30 on 67.
31
32 Go ahead, Lisa.
33
34 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
35 Madame Chair. For the record, my name is Lisa Maas and
36 I will be presenting a summary of the analysis for
37 Wildlife Proposal 16-67, which begins on page 130 of
38 your RAC book.
39
40 Wildlife Proposal 16-67, submitted by
41 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
42 Committee, requests that the beaver harvest limit be
43 changed from 15 beaver per season in Unit 12 and 25
44 beaver per season in Unit 20E to no harvest unit in
45 both units. That the trapping season dates be changed
46 from September 20th to May 15 to September 15 to June
47 10th in both units and that bow and arrow be added as
48 legal gear of take for beaver in both Units 12 and 20E.
49
50

1 And also just a note. There is a typo
2 in your RAC book under the issues on page 132 and
3 general description on page 130. It should read
4 September 15th, not September 5th.

5
6 The proponent states that adopting this
7 proposal would increase harvest opportunity for
8 Federally qualified subsistence users and would
9 decrease regulatory complexity by aligning State and
10 Federal Regulations. The proponent also states the
11 proposed changes would have no impact on the beaver
12 population.

13
14 According to trapper questionnaires,
15 the beaver population in both Unit 12 and 20E is stable
16 at low to moderate levels. The trapping pressure in
17 both units is low. Northway residents harvest the
18 majority of the beaver in Unit 12 and Eagle residents
19 harvest the most in Unit 20E.

20
21 In 2002, the State eliminated the
22 sealing requirement for beavers in these units. Pre-
23 2002, an average of 47 beavers were sealed. Since
24 2002, an average of 14 beavers per year have been
25 reported harvested. In 2008, the State liberalized the
26 beaver season and harvest limits in Units 12 and 20E,
27 including the use of bow and arrow as legal gear.
28 Adopting this proposal would increase trapping
29 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
30 and decrease regulatory complexity by aligning State
31 and Federal Regulations.

32
33 No impact to the beaver population is
34 expected as trapping pressure is low and users can
35 already trap on most Federal public lands under the
36 more liberal State Regulations. The OSM preliminary
37 conclusion is to support WP16-67.

38
39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
42 Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The report
47 for consultation.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
50 we did not have any comments on this proposal for

1 Tribal or ANCSA Corporation.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
4 you.

5

6 MS. PITKA: It looks like there's a
7 comment from AHTNA.

8

9 MS. PATTON: There is. Yes. There is
10 a submitted written public comment from AHTNA,
11 Incorporated. And I can address that now or under
12 written public comments.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead and
15 address it now.

16

17 MS. PATTON: AHTNA, Incorporated had
18 written to support WP16-67 to change Unit 12 beaver to
19 hunting and trapping season from September 15th to June
20 10th with no limit. Meat or hide must be salvaged.
21 Traps, snares or firearms may be used. They feel this
22 aligning State and Federal methods and means for the
23 hunting seasons with no limit and maintaining the meat
24 or hide must be salvaged will allow more hunting and
25 trapping opportunities on Federal lands.

26

27 They note that the beaver population
28 data is gathered through surveys given to trappers and
29 the Department of Fish and Game relies on those surveys
30 to determine beaver population. The reports they've
31 had of harvest data gathered through the surveys that
32 trappers have filled out indicates that there isn't a
33 conservation concern. And an overview that they
34 received at their February Southcentral RAC meeting
35 indicated that the beaver population is stable and high
36 and -- and harvest was in -- in Unit 25.

37

38 And that concludes the written public
39 comments. And again that was AHTNA, Incorporated.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

42

43 Okay. Agency comments. ADF&G.

44

45 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 This is Jill. And the Department's preliminary
47 recommendation is to support the proposal.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Donald.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2
3 Jill, I would also like you to initiate
4 the sealing process on the beavers in these two units
5 because the trapper questionnaires are sort of iffy
6 when they are returned. And this would give us more
7 harvest data.
8
9 Thank you.
10
11 MS. KLEIN: All right. Thank you, Don.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So Don, do
14 you think people are going to be willing to have all
15 that stuff sealed?
16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll seal them for them.
18
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You better
21 become a sealing agent. Okay. I think it's something
22 we can discuss later and we'll just stick to the
23 proposal.
24
25 Next, all together I'm going to ask are
26 there any comments from Federal Agencies, Native Tribe
27 Village or other or Inter-Agency Staff.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Next is the
32 Advisory Groups. Comments.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
35 this was submitted by the Upper Tanana-Fortymile
36 Advisory Committee. And they did make a motion to
37 support WP16-67.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Next, any --
40 we went through the summary of written public comments.
41 Do we have any others beside AHTNA.
42
43 MS. PATTON: Just AHTNA, Incorporated
44 had submitted written public comments.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any public
47 testimony on this one.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hearing none.

2

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
5 16-67.

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.

10

11 Will.

12

13 MR. KOEHLER: As far as I know, the
14 harvest in my region of Unit 12 is relatively low. We
15 take a couple of beaver during the wintertime mostly
16 for a change of diet and when the fur is good. The
17 population in my region is definitely increasing, but
18 is still pretty moderate. Right now the market value
19 of beaver is such that it's very difficult to justify
20 the time and energy that goes into producing a beaver
21 pelt for sale in general.

22

23 Most of the people that I know in the
24 region that do anything with beaver tan the beaver and
25 then use it for their own use. For winter clothes and
26 the meat for their own consumption. And so the harvest
27 is very low. So I would support this proposal.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
30 other discussion.

31

32 Andy.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'll just add to
35 Will's justification. And that is that this will be
36 extremely beneficial to subsistence users. It's --
37 beaver is, as Virgil so eloquently put, kind of like
38 Bubba from Forrest Gump, is that beaver, there's a
39 million different ways to prepare them and they're darn
40 good eating.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: And they also serve as
45 dog food for people who have dogs out in remote areas,
46 during the time of the year when they may not have
47 other food for them.

48

49 And this proposal will not
50 unnecessarily restrict any other users. So it's a very

1 good proposal.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
4 discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm going to
9 tell you what happened at our SRC meeting. And maybe
10 Barbara's not going to be happy that this came up
11 without her being here, but under the National Park
12 Service regulations, bow and arrow and firearms are not
13 traps. You can dispatch an animal in a trap. See, now
14 I'm having a brain memory problem here again. I can't
15 remember.

16

17 Maybe some Park Service people can tell
18 me here, but we were told that the bow and arrow is --
19 you can dispatch them with a firearm, but there was
20 something about this bow and arrow. I can't remember
21 the details because I don't know all the CFR's for the
22 Park. It's pretty hard for me to remember everything.
23 But this came up at our SRC meeting.

24

25 And then I just wanted to say after
26 many springs of beaver trapping when I was a skin sewer
27 for many years, beavers -- I mean I -- we made a lot
28 more money because I would be trapping and making the
29 fur hats myself or fur items myself. And I can tell
30 you beaver not only are good eating. They make great
31 fur products. And they are a lot of work, trapping and
32 skinning. So this will not be any conservation
33 concern.

34

35 Anything else.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
40 been called for. All in favor, say aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any opposed.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving
49 along to 69.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: 68.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did I miss
4 one.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. 68.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 68? I have
9 them all tabbed here, but I guess I missed that one.

10

11 Sorry.

12

13 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
14 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. My name is Lisa
15 Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis
16 for Wildlife Proposal 16-68, which begins on page 141
17 of your RAC book.

18

19 Wildlife Proposal 16-68, submitted by
20 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
21 Committee requests that the lynx trapping season in
22 Units 12 and 20E be extended from November 1 to
23 December 31 to November 1 to March 15. And that the
24 November 1 to November 30 harvest limit of five lynx be
25 eliminated.

26

27 The proponent states that adopting this
28 proposal would increase harvest opportunity for
29 Federally qualified subsistence users and would
30 decrease regulatory complexity by aligning State and
31 Federal Regulations.

32

33 Again, lynx are common in Alaska.
34 Their populations fluctuate on an eight to eleven-year
35 cycle in response to changes in snowshoe hare
36 abundance, their primary prey. All harvested lynx are
37 required to be sealed, which can act as a proxy for a
38 population status since the harvest fluctuates with the
39 lynx population cycle. Currently, the lynx population
40 appears to be in the low phase of the cycle.

41

42 Adopting this proposal would increase
43 hunting opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence
44 users and decrease regulatory complexity by aligning
45 State and Federal Regulations. No impact to the lynx
46 population are expected as lynx population are
47 regulated primarily by prey availability and users can
48 already trap on most Federal public lands under the
49 more liberal State Regulations.

50

1 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
2 support WP16-68.
3
4 Thank you, Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
7 questions.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any --
12 a report from the consultations.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Those are
17 nothing?
18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
20 we didn't have any participating in person for the
21 Tribal consultation. But again we do have a written
22 public comment from AHTNA, Incorporated.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead.
25
26 MS. PATTON: AHTNA, Incorporated,
27 opposes WP16-68 for lynx trapping season in Unit 12.
28 They oppose lengthening the Unit 12 lynx trapping
29 season from November 1st to November 30th to November
30 1st to March 15th, with no limit. According to ADF&G,
31 they cite overview presented at the Southcentral
32 Meeting in February. The lynx population is low and
33 harvest numbers are -- they cite 444.
34
35 Opening a trapping season with no limit
36 when the population is low and changing the dates to
37 allow longer trapping season is counter productive to
38 the lynx population. And that concludes the AHTNA
39 appropriated letter, again opposing 16-68.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You know, I
42 can't speak for them, but I can tell you that Gloria
43 Stickwan is on the SRC for the Wrangell Park. And she
44 reported to us at the meeting that they thought this
45 proposal was for Unit 11. So she ended up voting for
46 it at the SRC. So that's to let you know. And I'm
47 sorry that she's at her RAC meeting right now, so she
48 can't speak to that. But this is coming from my
49 memory. So if I'm wrong, I apologize.
50

1 But that's what I remember her saying
2 at that meeting.

3
4 So we'll move along now to the Agency
5 comments. ADF&G.

6
7 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 This is Jill. On Proposal 16-68 the Department's
9 preliminary recommendation is to support the proposal.

10
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
13 Jill.

14
15 Any questions of Jill.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
20 then again all through Federal Agencies, Native Tribal
21 or Village or other and Inter-Agency Staff, are there
22 any comments.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Advisory
27 Committee Groups.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
30 this proposal was submitted by the Tanana AC, Upper
31 Fortymile. And they took action to support it at their
32 meeting.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Next
35 is public written comments. And there weren't any
36 others.

37
38 MS. PATTON: No.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
41 public testimony on this proposal.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

46
47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
48 16-68.

49
50 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
2
3 Will.
4
5 MR. KOEHLER: I definitely see in our
6 Region without question the hare population and lynx
7 population increasing at this time, so I think that
8 this proposal would be good. I do think that the -- I
9 don't want to make an amendment because I do think it's
10 good to keep the State and Federal seasons as much the
11 same as possible, but I do think that the November
12 period where you were only allowed to have five lynx
13 was as good because it did slow our -- it made
14 incidental catch okay, but it did -- we didn't have
15 people going out there and trapping aggressively for
16 lynx when they're not worth very much money in November
17 because they tend to fur up quite a bit later than any
18 of the canids or mustelids.
19
20 But I -- that being said, I support
21 this proposal as it is written.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Will,
24 just to make note. The Committee, if I remember this
25 correctly, were saying that it's unlikely that they
26 would ever catch over five.
27
28 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
31 huh. When they talked about it in discussion.
32
33 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
36 discussion.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, I'll call for
41 the question.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The question
44 has been called for. All in favor of the proposal, say
45 aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any opposed.
50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Now
4 the next one must be 69.
5
6 It's been requested we have a short
7 break. Yes. We can do that.
8
9 (Off record)
10
11 (On record)
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Andrew
14 just let me know that we should probably take up the
15 bear proposal before lunch. So if we go over 12:00,
16 we're going to do that. Because some people that want
17 to testify are here that won't be here later. So
18 moving on to the next proposal. It should be 70.
19
20 MR. BASSICH: 69.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. That's
23 right. We took a break. Sorry. Let's.....
24
25 MS. PATTON: Were you asking -- were
26 they asking to cover this now?
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Oh, okay.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Just to have
33 it before lunch.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Okay. I see. Yeah.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 69.
38
39 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
40 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
41 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary
42 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-69, which
43 begins on page 149 of your RAC book.
44
45 Wildlife Proposal 16-69, submitted by
46 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
47 Committee, requests that the moose season in Unit 20E
48 remainder be changed from August 24 to September 25 to
49 August 20 to September 30th.
50

1 The proponent states that many
2 Federally qualified subsistence users are not able to
3 hunt during the limited State moose season in Unit 20E
4 remainder and thus are requesting a longer Federal
5 season.

6
7 The Unit 20E moose population estimate
8 increased between 2004 and 2011. The population
9 estimate for 2011 was 4,200 to 6,400 moose, which is
10 well below State management objectives of 8,000 to
11 10,000 moose. The bull/cow ratio has consistently
12 remained well above the State management objective of
13 40 bulls per 100 cows. The calf/cow ratio has
14 fluctuated annually and by survey area, but generally
15 suggests a stable moose population in the Tok Central
16 survey area and an increasing moose population in the
17 Tok West survey area.

18
19 Between 2005 and 2013 an average of 159
20 moose per year were harvested in Unit 20E. Non-locals
21 harvested 71 percent of the moose on average, while
22 local residents only accounted for 16 percent of the
23 Unit 20E moose harvest on average.

24
25 Adopting this proposal would increase
26 hunting opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence
27 users by adding nine days to the Federal season in Unit
28 20E remainder. It would also reduce regulatory
29 complexity by aligning the Federal moose season in all
30 of Unit 20E. No impact to the moose population are
31 expected as harvest by local residents is very low and
32 the bull/cow ratio is well above management objectives.

33
34 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
35 support WP16-69.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Questions.

40
41 Andy.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Can you
44 clarify your comment on harvest data for locals. I'm
45 hearing you say that local harvest is very low. So
46 what are you trying to say there with that statement.

47
48 MS. MAAS: I'm saying that overall
49 local residents on average account for 16 percent of
50 the Unit 20E moose harvest. And if this proposal is

1 adopted, it wouldn't increase the harvest significantly
2 to affect the moose population.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Follow up. Yeah. It's
5 not so much a question to you. Thank you for
6 clarifying that. The reason why the dates are where
7 they're at is about ten years ago the local AC at Eagle
8 was trying to address the issue of increasing influx of
9 outside hunters competing and making it more difficult
10 for locals to harvest moose in the Region. And so they
11 shortened some of the seasons there to try and make it
12 less attractive for large numbers of people to come out
13 there and both hunt caribou and moose. And that also
14 led to the draw permit system that we have where you
15 cannot carry both tags with you at the same time.

16

17 So this data clearly shows that.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Registration,
20 not draw.

21

22 MR. BASSICH: I'm sorry. Registration.
23 Thank you for that.

24

25 So what you just said is very clearly
26 demonstrating that locals are still struggling to
27 harvest moose in that Region. So I don't see that data
28 point as something that's positive in support of this.
29 I see that as demonstrating that locals are still
30 having a very difficult time harvesting moose in
31 comparison with other people, which leads to a lot of
32 the what I've been talking about for the last couple of
33 years. And that is that people in local, rural areas,
34 communities are having a very difficult time competing
35 with people that are coming into the area.

36

37 I realize under the Federal Regulation
38 that you're not allowed to create regulations that
39 would put one group above another, but this clearly
40 demonstrates a problem we have in the area and the
41 struggles that we're having with creating regulations
42 to hopefully support local people in their harvest.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So is that a
47 question?

48

49 MR. BASSICH: No. I just wanted to
50 follow up and make sure that people understand that the

1 comment being made there is being made in light of
2 support of this proposal, but in fact it demonstrates
3 exactly why we're having the problems in the area that
4 we have with local harvest of moose.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
7 other questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
12 Report on consultation.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
15 there were no tribal or ANCSA comments on this
16 proposal.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Agency
19 comments. ADF&G.

20
21 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 This is Jill. The preliminary Department
23 recommendation is to support the proposal.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hmm. Okay.
26 Thank you, Jill.

27
28 We have Jeff Wells, the Assistant Area
29 Biologist here from Tok. Jeff.

30
31 MR. WELLS: Thank you, Madame Chair and
32 Members of the Council. And again, like Sue said, my
33 name is Jeff Wells. I'm with Fish and Game in Tok.

34
35 Just to add just a little bit of
36 information to Lisa's report. Currently, we don't have
37 any conservation concerns with moose in Unit 20E,
38 although in some areas -- some of the more heavily
39 hunted areas, we are relatively close to our management
40 objective of 40 bulls per 100 cows.

41
42 In the Tok West and Tok Central survey
43 areas, which encompass about 4,600 square miles,
44 essentially most of Southern Unit 20E between 2010 and
45 2012 averaged 67 bulls per 100 cows in Tok West and 60
46 bulls per 100 cows in Tok Central. So fairly high.

47
48 Last year we established a survey area
49 along the Taylor Highway, essentially from Chicken
50 south, about 2,200 square miles. And this was in an

1 area where the majority of the harvest in Unit 20E is
2 occurring. So we wanted to address our bull/cow ratios
3 an issue in that area. We estimate bull/cow ratio in
4 that area -- that survey area was about 37 per 100.

5
6 So even though that's a little bit
7 under our management objective of 40 bulls per 100,
8 it's unlikely that this proposal would affect that
9 bull/cow ratio anymore -- would affect that bull/cow
10 ratio at all.

11
12 This proposal would extend the season
13 by nine days. And that's based on the Federal season
14 was extended to September 25th in 2010. Currently, the
15 State season closes September 17th. So between the
16 18th and 25th, it's just open for Federal subsistence
17 hunters in that area that this proposal is talking
18 about. In those five years, average harvest was two --
19 two and a half moose per year. So relatively low.

20
21 So extending the season another five
22 days on that end would likely have little, if any,
23 impact on the moose population dynamics.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
28 Jeff.

29
30 Anyone have any questions of Jeff.

31
32 Andy.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Jeff.
35 That's great information. Can you tell me what the
36 moose population density is currently in 20E and how
37 that relates to the rest of the State as far as moose
38 population densities, animals per square mile.

39
40 MR. WELLS: Sure. So in that Southern
41 near 20E area that I touched on, that covers the Tok
42 West and Tok Central survey areas, it's roughly about
43 one moose per square mile. Northern 20E, we know it's
44 lower. You know, Yukon-Charley has -- the Park Service
45 has done surveys within Yukon-Charley and the moose
46 density there I believe is around .2 or so.

47
48 Quite a bit of that Northern Unit 20E
49 we haven't surveyed before, so we can extrapolate
50 between those two survey areas.

1 As far as how that relates to other
2 areas in the State, you know, one moose per square mile
3 and .2 moose per square mile -- obviously .2 is pretty
4 low. One moose per square mile is still considered
5 low, but it's -- obviously it's not extremely low.

6
7 Does that answer your question, Andy?

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you. But to
10 be clear, the point two, which is the Northern Region
11 of 20E, is considered extremely low in relationship to
12 the rest of the State.

13
14 MR. WELLS: I would consider it low.
15 You'd see similar densities probably in quite a bit of
16 the State. For example -- and Beth could answer this.
17 But probably quite a bit of Yukon Flats or north of the
18 Yukon River would be similar. And probably other areas
19 of the State would have similar low densities as well.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: And would that also --
22 would you find that in other areas that are accessible
23 by road? Or is that more remote areas? That's part of
24 the key issue on this in my mind, is that it's road
25 access hunting. And which makes it much easier for
26 there to be over-harvest in an area much quicker. And
27 you don't know the impacts from year-to-year when you
28 have road access hunting.

29
30 The more remote you get, the more
31 consistent the hunting pressures are. The more
32 predictable it is for a manager to predict it. When
33 you have road access hunting, it can vary dramatically
34 from year-to-year. And so that's part of the
35 conservation concern that I have, is that this is road
36 accessible.

37
38 You can't really judge or predict in
39 the future what's going to happen with the data you
40 have right now because you don't know what the impacts
41 of opening this is to the rest of the State, when you
42 can just jump in your RV and drive out there and go
43 hunting.

44
45 So those are my concerns, Madame Chair.
46 And thank you for your information. I think that did
47 answer my questions.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
50 questions.

1 Don -- or Bill.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Jeff, years back we went
4 from September 5th to the 15th, the State hunk. And
5 the Feds, we got it from August 20th to September 30th.
6 And I have not noticed -- unless you guys have in your
7 harvest reports any real big influx because of
8 subsistence. And most of the people drive up there
9 from Fairbanks and non-subsistence areas.

10

11 So I think that can alleviate some of
12 your problem, Andy. Because it's -- the people of
13 Glennallen aren't driving up to Central to go road
14 hunting and stuff like that, that we can see.

15

16 But have you got any other things like
17 that? Any surveys of our area, 25C?

18

19 MR. WELLS: I can't answer to 25C.
20 That would be in the Fairbanks area.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay.

23

24 MR. WELLS: So I can't answer
25 specifically to that.

26

27 MR. GLANZ: Okay. Well, no. Yeah, I
28 understand that. No. It's Tom Seton, he told me we
29 live in a moose desert in many respects. So I figure
30 that's right. But when we put it to September 20th, a
31 lot of the locals have picked up moose. And the only
32 problem is when it's that time of season, once you get
33 a moose you've got to go home and you've got to hang
34 it. You've got to start butchering the next day
35 because there's no -- but anyway, I don't think there
36 will be a big problem. Maybe it -- to my estimation,
37 what Andy's concerned with.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
40 questions. Okay.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. WELLS: Yep. Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We'll move
47 along. This is the analysis we just heard and other
48 reports. So do we have a report from consultation.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,

1 there were no Tribal or ANCSA comments on this
2 proposal.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Agency
5 comments. ADF&G.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, we did
10 that, didn't we.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I went
15 backwards. Sorry. Any comments from Federal Agencies,
16 Native Tribal Village or other or Inter-Agency Staff.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are there any
21 Advisory Committee group comments.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
24 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Committee submitted this
25 proposal and supports WP16-69.

26
27 The Fairbanks Fish and Game AC opposes
28 WP16-69, citing the proposal concerns that additional
29 season during the rut may lead to conservation
30 concerns. And again, that was the Fairbanks Fish and
31 Game AC opposes WP16-69.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
34 Advisory Committee comments.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MS. PATTON: That was it from the AC's.

39
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. All
42 right. Yeah. I'm sorry.

43
44 MS. PATTON: And we don't have any
45 public written comments for this proposal.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any public
48 testimony.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
2 Virgil.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
5 16-69.
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
10 Will, then Andy.
11
12 Will, go ahead.
13
14 MR. KOEHLER: I guess I was speaking to
15 -- going to speak to Andy's concerns of opening this to
16 everybody. As I understand it, this opens the season
17 only to Federally qualified users. And I believe --
18 who would that be for -- if Federally qualified users,
19 that means people from Anchorage and the Mat-Su and
20 Fairbanks would not be able to utilize the season,
21 correct?
22
23 MR. GLANZ: They're non-subsistence.
24 And they're closed. But they're non-subsistence.
25
26 MR. KOEHLER: Non-subsistence users.
27 So this seems like it would be a pretty small group of
28 people and that in fact the people that it would really
29 benefit would be the locals, if I understand this
30 right. And that with that in mind, I would probably be
31 supportive of this, if I understand that correctly.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You do, Will.
34
35
36 MR. KOEHLER: Okay. Yeah.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And if you
39 have this in front of you, what really helps, too, is
40 to go to that season and then look at who qualifies.
41 And it tells you on the customary and traditional use
42 determinations for 20E.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's at the bottom of
45 page 154.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's also
48 in our book, 154.
49 So Andy, did you have something else?
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I'll reference my
2 earlier comments and concerns. I do think this is
3 going to impact my local community.

4
5 I also have a lot of concerns with the
6 opening at the earlier date. I don't quite understand
7 the justification in the discussion from the Fortymile
8 Advisory Committee, where they say Federally qualified
9 subsistence users are not able to hunt during this
10 limited State moose hunting season. And why aren't
11 they.

12
13 I mean that's -- and the hunting
14 seasons have been in place for decades. And so why is
15 it that suddenly they can't participate in this --
16 these seasons. So I really don't quite buy that as an
17 argument to opening this up.

18
19 I'm really concerned about opening up
20 earlier. It is extremely warm that time of year. I do
21 think that there is a biological concern here. Moose
22 population densities in Northern 20E, as we heard, are
23 extremely low -- .2. That's extremely low. It doesn't
24 take much to really impact that.

25
26 We're seeing a lot more people coming
27 up the highways and road hunting. And because of the
28 pressures on the Yukon River, a vast majority of the
29 people in Eagle are beginning or have kind of switched
30 from Yukon River hunting to becoming road hunters. And
31 so there's direct issues there with that.

32
33 So I just see this as really a negative
34 thing for my community. And I'm not going to be in
35 support of it. I think it's really going to hurt my
36 community.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I've
39 got.....

40
41 MR. BASSICH: We worked really hard to
42 try and limit the seasons ten years ago with the
43 biologists to try and alleviate some of this problem.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
46 I understand, Andy.

47
48 First of all, did you have something to
49 contribute. And then Will, then Virgil.

50

1 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I'm thinking, Madame
2 Chair. I'd just like to clarify I didn't actually
3 write this analysis, so I can't speak definitively.
4 But I think the intent under the discussion or the
5 reasons Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
6 Committee, you know, gave was not that they weren't
7 able to hunt during the season, but that the season
8 wasn't long enough to ensure that they could meet their
9 subsistence needs. So they were just requesting a
10 longer season to provide them more opportunity in order
11 to meet their needs.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I was
14 just curious. Jeff Wells, do you remember the
15 discussion from that Advisory Committee better than I,
16 which I'm -- yeah. But Will first and then I'll have
17 him answer the question.

18
19 MR. KOEHLER: In just kind of a random
20 conversation I remember with Leif, the topic as I
21 understood it was kind of the reason people were
22 thinking when they say, you know, we're not able to
23 hunt, the basis for that was they -- the locals being
24 more restricted in their hunting due to the competition
25 during the State season, so trying to extend the
26 Federal season to provide more opportunity for local
27 hunters so they don't have to be in competition with
28 the hunters during the State season. And that's what I
29 understood this to be.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. KOEHLER: I don't have that word-
34 for-word, but that was kind of my understanding.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I sat
37 through the meeting and they -- the AC looked at it
38 really closely. And they wrapped their heads around it
39 and pretty much come to the conclusion you just said.

40
41 Would you agree, Jeff?

42
43 MR. WELLS: Yeah. Well.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: People that
46 get paid to go these meetings, they remember more than
47 me.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. WELLS: Thanks again. This is Jeff
2 Wells. I had a baby last February, so I wasn't present
3 at that meeting. So.....

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. You were
6 just present at the one that they took it back up
7 again. Do you remember?

8
9 MR. WELLS: At this most recent
10 Advisory Committee meeting?

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Uh-
13 huh.

14
15 MR. WELLS: The only thing they
16 discussed at that meeting that I recall is that they
17 supported it. I don't think there was much discussion
18 last week that I.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. It all
21 runs together in my head sometimes, but I think you hit
22 it good. Yeah.

23
24 MR. KOEHLER: With that being said, you
25 know, this is not in a Region that I have any -- you
26 know, I don't have any skin in the game in this Region
27 per se. I don't really understand the dynamics so
28 much. And Andy does. And he lives there. So I would
29 probably have a tendency to follow with his -- I
30 probably have a tendency to listen to him. If he is
31 really concerned, I would probably oppose this.
32 Because this is his area. You know, he understands it
33 better than I do.

34
35 And so if anybody else would have some
36 input from the area, I would really appreciate it.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Next is
39 Virgil. Then Andrew. Then Bill.

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. The concern I
42 have -- and I've heard this expressed by biologists in
43 the past. The reason for stopping most moose seasons
44 on September 25th is because that's when over 50
45 percent of the bulls will actually be copulating with
46 the cows. And it's so that -- it's to stop -- it's so
47 that they can do that in peace, Madame Chair.

48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I love your
2 history.
3
4 Bill. Or Andrew, were you next?
5
6 MR. GLANZ: Andrew was next. Yes.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to say that
9 Andy clarified what I was -- my concern for this was
10 having that September 20th and how warm the weather
11 that was. And I don't know anywhere because I wasn't
12 sure.....
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You mean
15 August.
16
17 MR. FIRMIN: August 20th, I mean.
18 Sorry. And that was my concern, was the warmth of
19 weather in that area. And for that reason, I will be
20 not voting in support of this.
21
22 And my suggestion would be to cut the
23 August 24, 28 section out of the State season to the
24 Board of Game. Why would you have five days of people
25 running around and then ten days, twelve days of them
26 not hunting. It seems kind of wild to me.
27
28 I think that would be the direction I
29 would recommend that Tanana-Fortymile AC take that.
30
31 Thank you.
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
34 you're saying leave it as it is. Is that what you were
35 advocating?
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: (Nods affirmatively)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
40 you'd be opposed to it. All right.
41
42 Bill.
43
44 MR. GLANZ: The only reason this was
45 proposed was to align the seasons. Yukon-Charley
46 August 20th to September 30th we can hunt. And that
47 was the neighboring game area. And 20E is on the
48 Yukon-Charley, so I thought I'd let that -- everybody
49 is very upset with it. It's no -- I can go either way.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: See, now you
2 jogged my memory. That's what I remember. There was a
3 reason behind it.
4
5 MR. GLANZ: That was the proposal on
6 the.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Because it
9 was adjacent to.....
10
11 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Just housekeeping, I
12 thought, when I -- okay.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. That's
15 exactly what I forgot. Sorry.
16
17 Other discussion.
18
19 Donald.
20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Well, it has happened to me that I was calling from 25B
23 and the moose stepped out in 20E. The season wasn't
24 open. So I just sat there and called till they jumped
25 in the river and swam across. But it could have been
26 an issue where I wouldn't have got a moose that season,
27 so it is a housekeeping issue in my eye. And if a few
28 more Federal subsistence hunters come from Glennallen
29 or Tok.....
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, they --
32 Glennallen doesn't qualify.
33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Well, Tok then.
35 I don't think that that's going to impact the .2 to .3
36 population.
37
38 Thank you.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Rhonda.
41
42 MS. PITKA: I'm just going to add that
43 this is area where I think traditional ecological
44 knowledge would have been really important to have in
45 the proposal. I wish that that was available to us.
46
47 And I also think moose don't really
48 look at a calendar. I mean they're not all hey,
49 September 25th. Let's go do this. So.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. No
2 kidding.
3
4 MS. PITKA: So I mean climate change is
5 changing the dates that moose are available to us and
6 how warm it is in August and September now. So I think
7 that maybe lengthening the season is a little bit
8 important at the end. Changing it a little bit that
9 way.
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.
14
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 MR. GLANZ: I'll call the question.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did we cover
21 all of our concerns here.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I just wanted
26 to point one thing out. If I look at the customary and
27 traditional use, who qualifies for that, I'm pretty
28 sure if I analyze it closely it wouldn't have an
29 impact. So I guess I'd have to agree with the other
30 people that agree with the proposal.
31
32 And for people that live on boundaries
33 like you, Donald, where, you know, it's this season on
34 this side and a different season on this side, that's
35 one that, you know, I think it's easier on the user to
36 have it like that. So again, I kind of feel like
37 because it's so late in the year and people are doing
38 other things, it's likely that it wouldn't have a huge
39 impact at all.
40
41 So -- Andy.
42
43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Just a quick
44 follow-up. I think if this were to pass, I would make
45 a recommendation to the Board that they do not increase
46 the earlier season. That they allow the later season
47 to be opened up, but do not increase the earlier
48 season. I think that.....
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy, it's --

1 we're open. We have right now a motion on the floor.
2 And you can put an amendment in if you'd like.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: No. That's okay. Just
5 making a comment.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I would
8 entertain that motion.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: It goes to the support
11 under ecological knowledge. That's all I'm trying to
12 do in support of this.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Would anyone
15 like to make that motion for the early season to be the
16 same as it is now. It would be an amendment.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to speak in about
19 the other one. I found that the locals had huge
20 success in the early season on Birch Creek. And with
21 the Federal, you know, early season of August 20th.
22 Because there's no State hunters out there, guys.
23 There's nobody. We're it. We're the only ones out
24 there, subsistence. And after September 15th, when all
25 the State hunters go back, that's when everybody starts
26 hunting.

27

28 Same with the caribou in our area. We
29 don't hunt caribou in December unless you want to get
30 shot, you know.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. GLANZ: We hunt in the November
35 season. Anyway, that's just my preaching.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I saw that
38 bird hunt this year. It's pretty crazy. Yeah.

39

40 Any other discussion.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
47 been called for. Do we want to do a roll call vote.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: Yep.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.
2
3 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. Roll call vote.
4 We'll start with you, Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes.
7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Larry, Senior. Larry
9 Williams.
10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Mr. Erhart is absent.
14
15 Bill Glanz.
16
17 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
18
19 MR. FIRMIN: Andy Bassich.
20
21 MR. BASSICH: No.
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: Rhonda Pitka.
24
25 MS. PITKA: Yes.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN: Will Koehler.
28
29 MR. KOEHLER: No.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Don Woodruff.
32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Virgil. Virgil.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.
38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.
40
41 MR. FIRMIN: And I was going to abstain
42 because I'm twisted on that one.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Twisted. So
45 what was the final vote. Five, is it?
46
47 MR. FIRMIN: Five to four.
48
49 MS. PATTON: Five, four. One abstain.
50 Is it.....

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's five,
2 three, isn't it? Five, three, one abstained.
3
4 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry. Five, three,
5 one abstain. Yes.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: Still counting. Still
10 thinking.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. You're
13 still thinking?
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MR. FIRMIN: No. No. You're right.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: It's five, three, one
22 abstention, one excused.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: Motion carries.
27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The motion
29 carries.
30
31 Now we're on 70.
32
33 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
34 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
35 my name is Lisa Maas. And the announcements for
36 Proposal WP16-70 begins on page 157 of your RAC book.
37
38 Proposal WP16-70, submitted by David
39 Bachrach of Homer, requests that the Regulation
40 allowing for brown bears to be hunted over bait in Unit
41 25D be rescinded.
42
43 The proponent states that a Federal
44 Subsistence Board increased the harvest limit on brown
45 bears in Unit 25D from one to two bears in 2012 and
46 that the effect of this increase is not currently
47 known.
48
49 The proponent also feels that the brown
50 bear population data are outdated and extrapolated from

1 areas outside of Unit 25D.

2

3 Additionally, the proponent states that
4 allowing baiting of brown bears over bait is
5 inconsistent with National Park Service and U.S. Fish
6 and Wildlife Service proposed rules prohibiting the
7 taking of brown bears over bait on Federal lands.

8

9 The current population estimate for
10 brown bears in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D is 1,200 bears,
11 which was extrapolated from studies done in the 1980s
12 and '90s. In Northern Alaska brown bears warrant
13 conservative management as they have very low
14 reproductive rates and seldom move into new
15 territories.

16

17 According to the Yukon Flats
18 Cooperative Moose Management Plan, there are an
19 estimated 380 brown bears in Unit 25D. Based on a five
20 percent sustainable rate, the estimated sustainable
21 harvest is 19 bears per year.

22

23 Report harvest of brown bears averages
24 three to four bears per year. However, under-reporting
25 is an issue. For example, between 2006 and 2010,
26 household survey data indicates an average of 23 brown
27 bears were harvested per year, while an average of only
28 six bears per year were reported. The harvest,
29 according to the household surveys, exceeds the
30 sustainable harvest for Unit 25D. Local interest in
31 harvesting brown bears has increased due to concern
32 over the effects of bear predation on moose.

33

34 If this proposal is adopted, Federally
35 qualified subsistence users would no longer be allowed
36 to harvest brown bears over bait on Federal public
37 lands in Unit 25D, decreasing opportunity. Contrary to
38 what the proponent states, the take of brown bears over
39 bait by Federally qualified subsistence users is not
40 inconsistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and
41 National Park Service proposed Rules which proposes
42 prohibiting the harvest of brown bears over bait on
43 Fish and Wildlife and National Park Service lands by
44 non-Federally qualified users only.

45

46 Hunting brown bears over bait is an
47 efficient hunting strategy and likely results in
48 increased harvest. Additionally, the harvest limit for
49 brown bears in Unit 25D was changed from one to two
50 bears every regulatory year in 2012. The allowance of

1 a more efficient hunting method combined with a recent
2 doubling of the harvest limit could have an adverse
3 impact on the Unit 25D brown bear population,
4 especially given the low reproductive rates and
5 uncertain population status due to limited and outdated
6 data. A conservative management approach is warranted.

7
8

9 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
10 support Proposal WP16-70.

11
12

Thank you, Madame Chair.

13
14

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Questions.

15
16

(No comments)

17
18

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone have
19 any questions. Council. Yeah. Questions. Questions.
20 I guess save your comments for the discussion.

21
22

MS. PITKA: I guess my question is more
23 of a procedural question. How is somebody from Homer
24 able to make a proposal to our RAC. Is that -- I mean
25 does that make any sense.

26
27

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We're going
28 to get an answer.

29
30

MR. MCKEE: Through the Chair, Council
31 Member Pitka, under the Federal Subsistence -- the way
32 the Federal Subsistence Program works is that any
33 person can submit a proposal for changes to Federal
34 hunting and trapping regulations. It's not just
35 limited to Federally qualified users. Anybody -- even
36 somebody not in Alaska could conceivably submit a
37 proposal to change Federal hunting and trapping
38 regulations.

39
40

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you have
41 anything else, Rhonda? Unfortunately, that's the way
42 the system works. So -- yeah.

43
44

MR. JOLY: Madame Chair, this is Kyle
45 Joly with the Park Service.

46
47

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes.

48
49

MR. JOLY: All rural residents are
50 qualified for bears in Unit 20.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, we're
2 talking in 25, not 20. We're on Proposal 70. Are we
3 confused here.
4
5 MR. JOLY: Sorry about that.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
8 Andrew.
9
10 MR. FIRMIN: Has there been anything to
11 show any recent increase in harvest from -- since the
12 original proposal in 2014.
13
14 MR. MCKEE: Through the Chair, no. I
15 don't have any updated harvest information since the
16 last time this sub -- this area came up. I haven't.
17 Not from -- I requested some updated harvest
18 information from Fish and Game, but I didn't -- didn't
19 have any. So the information we have is the
20 information we have. Nothing changed from 2014.
21
22 MR. FIRMIN: And I know Refuge Staff in
23 the back of -- I asked them earlier if the guides in
24 the area -- if they have increased any guiding efforts
25 in the area from the State side. Because they would
26 have to be under our State permit to have their guides
27 in there. But I believe there was -- I don't know.
28 Steve or.....
29
30 MR. BERENDZEN: Madame Chair, Steve
31 Berendzen, Refuge Manager for Yukon Flats National
32 Wildlife Refuge. Yes. We had one guide who had, as I
33 understand, two successful hunters who took two brown
34 bears this past summer. Does that answer your
35 question? Over bait. Yes.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Did they take them
38 over bait?
39
40 MR. BERENDZEN: Yes. They were.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: So there was two hunts in
43 three years.
44
45 MR. BERENDZEN: Indeed. That's my
46 understanding.
47
48 MR. FIRMIN: All right. Thank you.
49
50 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We're hearing
2 things that are very confusing, such as the proposed
3 Rule. Do you think all of the Refuge Managers would
4 agree to -- or can you not say. I'm sorry. But it
5 seems like there's a -- it seems like we've got some
6 focus going here that not everybody agrees upon in the
7 State.

8
9 MR. BERENDZEN: You're correct in
10 saying that.

11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I won't put
17 you out to hang. So sorry.

18
19 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are there any
22 other questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I might from
27 -- Beth Lenart, do you have harvest data for us?

28
29 You might have to stay close to the
30 front now.

31
32 MS. LENART: Madame Chair, Committee
33 Members, Beth Lenart, with the Alaska Department of
34 Fish and Game. I don't necessarily have any new
35 harvest numbers. The harvest is low, but I would like
36 to make one point in that the Department's objectives
37 for brown bear harvest management changed a couple of
38 years ago. And now we used an eight percent harvest
39 rate for bears in that area. And so the harvestable
40 surplus would be 30 bears.

41
42 I don't know if that helps.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That helps a
45 lot.

46
47 MS. LENART: Helps I guess a little
48 bit. So.....

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And what year

1 was that.

2

3 MS. LENART: I want to say that was in
4 2010. I'd have to double check. But I think it was
5 2010.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So that might
8 have been overlooked. It's eight percent.

9

10 MS. LENART: Excuse me. It has been
11 five percent for a long time.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's
14 increased then.

15

16 MS. LENART: But looking at literature
17 and other areas, we had changed that to eight percent.
18 And part of that was because the area we're talking
19 about is -- you know, it's not easily accessed. And
20 there's not a heavy brown bear pressure in 25D.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
23 you.

24

25 MS. LENART: You're welcome.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
28 questions. Virgil and then Bill.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I'd like to ask
31 Beth a question.

32

33 Beth, I was talking to Don Young about
34 two weeks ago. And we were talking about the number of
35 grizzly bears that have been taken recently in Unit 28.
36 And so -- and because that bear population has been
37 studied more than any bear population probably in the
38 world. And the number of bears that have been
39 harvested if you went by the old data would indicate
40 that it was really being over-harvested. But this has
41 been going on for quite some time.

42

43 And the conclusion -- Don and I were
44 talking about this. We were wondering well, that maybe
45 the population estimates were flawed or something
46 because so many of these bears are in heavily vegetated
47 areas and maybe the population was just -- you know,
48 the estimate was way low. Do you think that could
49 possibly be the situation over in Unit 25D as well
50 maybe?

1 MS. LENART: Chair Virgil -- or Member
2 Virgil, that's a possibility. These estimates were
3 extrapolated as Ms. Maas had explained. And they're
4 from the late '80s and early 1990s based on other
5 studies done on brown bears in similar habitat. And so
6 it has been a long time since we've done a -- well, we
7 haven't actually done a real population estimate in
8 there. They have all been extrapolated in that area.

9
10 And there was a period of time when we
11 were talk -- when we've liberalized the brown bear
12 regulations in working with the Yukon Flats AC when
13 they were starting to see more bears out on the rivers.
14 And so what we were hearing back from the folks that
15 were living out there is that they thought there were
16 more bears out there. So we did think we were being
17 pretty conservative and -- back in the early '90s, late
18 '90s, and even early 2000s.

19
20 And that's why we've sort of as a --
21 regionally as a Division in Wildlife, we've looked at
22 our brown bear regulations and liberalized some of
23 them. Especially in areas where it's fairly remote.

24
25 But I'd also like to speak to the 20A a
26 little bit in that we are looking at ways to come up
27 with more affordable population estimate surveys. And
28 20A is one of the places we're going to be doing that.
29 Partly because it's close to Fairbanks. And if we can
30 come up with some techniques, we might be able to do
31 surveys in other areas in Region 3, so that's just not
32 in one or two areas.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame
35 Chair.

36
37 MR. GLANZ: I really don't have a
38 question now. Virgil asked it.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
43 other questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Just quickly,
48 when you do these harvest -- or whatever -- these
49 estimates of population, weren't they done from the
50 amount of bears harvested? And why did they stop doing

1 them?

2

3

MS. LENART: Madame Chair, the
4 population estimates were actually extrapolated from
5 other bear surveys. Actual population estimates where
6 they went out and counted bears or used different
7 techniques at least for this area and they were done in
8 similar habitat. So we just said well, if there's a
9 certain density of bears in this kind of habitat and we
10 have similar habitat, that's how we come up with that
11 number.

12

13

Some areas might use harvest data to
14 help them, but in this case it was just a straight
15 extrapolation based on habitat.

16

17

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I guess I'm
18 confused. Why is it some areas that you use the
19 harvest data and not in others?

20

21

MS. LENART: It depends on what the
22 Area Biologist feels is the best information to use.
23 It's hard to actually use a harvest data. It hasn't --
24 we've tried to use that in place of an estimated.
25 Tried to analyze that data. And in a lot of cases it's
26 hard to come up with a number. I think where AB's
27 might use it, it's an additional piece of information
28 rather than the only source of information.

29

30

MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Did
31 Rhonda -- do you have something?

32

33

MS. PITKA: I think you just answered
34 my question. I was just going to ask about the
35 extrapolation. It sounds like it's sort of just made
36 up from other studies; is that correct?

37

38

MS. LENART: Correct. We use -- if
39 there was a.....

40

41

MS. PITKA: Is that a different
42 species?

43

44

MS. LENART: No. It would be brown
45 bears. So.....

46

47

MS. PITKA: So similar habitats. Where
48 is that?

49

50

MS. LENART: Well, that was -- oh, I'm

1 trying to think because it was so long ago where they
2 did -- other parts of the Interior. It might have.....

3

4 MS. PITKA: It said 20A.

5

6 MS. LENART: 20A. And then also I
7 think most of that might have been 20A, but sometimes
8 there were even studies done in Unit -- quite a few
9 studies done in Unit 13.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

12

13 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. Thank you.

14

15 This is kind of interesting for me to
16 listen to. So I just want to get this really clear in
17 my head. What I think I'm hearing from you is that
18 population estimates done from harvest reporting are
19 not weighted as heavily or relied upon as heavily as
20 harvest data collected as a direct result of going out
21 and trying to do a survey in an area; is that correct?
22 Is that a correct an.....

23

24 MS. LENART: Member Bassich, that's
25 correct.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: All right. Thank you. I
28 think that's very important in this because in OSM's
29 report, it's basically saying based -- a population
30 density is based on harvest reporting and not surveys.
31 That surveys have not been done. And I'll reference
32 some of these other comments by other Council Members.

33

34 So thank you, Madame Chair.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
37 Any other questions. Are there any other questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Now
42 we'll move on. Thank you. Oh. Did you have
43 something?

44

45 MS. MAAS: Well, I just wanted to
46 clarify. I'm not quite sure what Andy's referring to.
47 I mean as far as population estimates go, in the
48 analysis it was all based off those extrapolations.
49 There's no -- the harvest report was based off a
50 harvest, but as far as the biology and that publish an

1 estimate, that was not based off a harvest in the
2 analysis.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I guess what I'm
5 getting at is that the population estimates being used
6 here is heavily extrapolated. It's not hard numbers
7 from say aerial surveys or some other method; is that
8 correct?

9
10 MS. MAAS: Yes. That's correct.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: Okay. That's the point
13 I'm trying to make, Madame Chair. Thank you for
14 bringing that up and clarifying that.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
17 you.

18
19 If I could remind everybody out there
20 with cell phones to please put them on mute or vibrate
21 or something, that would be helpful because it is
22 distracting to us.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 And probably remind those that went
27 outside for me, please.

28
29 Okay. Moving on. Report from
30 consultations.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
33 we did not have any Tribal or ANCSA comments on this
34 proposal.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And then
37 Agency comments. ADF&G.

38
39 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 This is Jill. The preliminary recommendation is to
41 oppose the proposal.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any questions
44 of Jill.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Jill, did you
49 have something in here or am I missing it?

50

1 MS. KLEIN: Like written comments?
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
4
5 MS. KLEIN: No. I don't think the
6 Department at this point in the process submitted
7 written comments.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
10 what are you basing your -- the Department opposed for?
11
12 MS. KLEIN: Well, some of the
13 information that you heard from Beth, she contributed
14 to our recommendation that there was low mortality
15 recently and that the harvest is below the maximum
16 sustained yield. And so they didn't think there was a
17 need to deny access to this hunting in the area. But
18 again it's preliminary. And it's really great to hear
19 everyone's comments and perspectives at the RAC to help
20 learn from.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
23 you, Jill.
24
25 MS. KLEIN: Thank you.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Beth is
28 wanting to join us at the table. She -- from ADF&G.
29
30 MS. LENART: Madame Chair, I should
31 probably also mention the Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose
32 Management Plan. And even though that's very old, it's
33 -- was ten years ago or more, we are still working off
34 of that Plan. And it was to temporarily reduce brown
35 bear predation on moose. And so part of that is still
36 on the -- well, that was one of the objectives. And so
37 that is still partly in our minds when we look at our
38 brown bear regulations.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
41 you, Beth.
42
43 Okay. Agency comments going --
44 continuing here. Federal Agencies, Native Tribal
45 Village or other. Or Inter-Agency Staff. Are there
46 any other comments.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Advisory

1 Group comments.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
4 the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes
5 this Proposal WP16-70 because it limits opportunity
6 without a conservation concern.

7

8 And -- yes. And that was it. So the
9 Tanana AC didn't take action on this proposal.

10

11 And Fairbanks AC opposes 16-70.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
14 Summary of written public comments.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
17 we have three submitted written public comments. All
18 public comments that were submitted are in support of
19 WP16-70. The public comments are located -- they begin
20 on page 166 in your meeting books. And I'll just
21 briefly summarize the comments that were made from
22 these letters.

23

24 So one public comment letter was
25 submitted by the proponent in support of the proposal
26 he had developed and submitted. The primary concerns
27 that are of high priority is that this is a business
28 perspective for him as well personal values,
29 recreation, and spiritual well-being. He's been
30 involved with reviewing and analyzing and commenting on
31 brown bear trophy hunting harvesting methods, predator
32 management, and tourism industry issues.

33

34 He spent a lot of time he notes on
35 public education through the Kenai Brown Bear Committee
36 on living with bears and the hazards of food
37 conditioning brown bears and mitigation techniques. A
38 lot of the concerns he cites are attractants from bear
39 baiting that could become a public hazard problem both
40 with recreation and businesses from food conditioned
41 bears.

42

43 He goes on to note that he feels
44 baiting is incongruent with best management practices
45 and standard public educational messages -- issues with
46 food and bears. He cites population data was
47 mathematical extrapolation from 1980s and 1990s and is
48 20 to 30 years old.

49

50 He notes that the Federal Subsistence

1 Board raised the limit from one to two bears on July
2 9th, 2012 and that the effects of the increased
3 opportunity have not been analyzed yet. He also notes
4 that the State of Alaska allows brown bear baiting and
5 gaming at 25D for the intended purpose of reducing
6 brown bear numbers for moose population and that brown
7 bears have also been low productive rate, warranting
8 scientific concern for potential over-harvest when
9 baseline data is unknown or anecdotal.

10

11 And again that was David Bachrach, who
12 is the proponent. Those are his submitted comments.

13

14 We have a second letter in support of
15 the proposal submitted by Derek Stonorov, from Fritz
16 Creek. He supports WP16-70 to change the brown bear
17 regulations on Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge,
18 noting that any bear baiting sets a dangerous precedent
19 for wildlife management on Federal lands. Increasing
20 hunter efficiency can lead to over-harvest. And a
21 discussion of brown bear baiting in any context other
22 than predator control he feels is a waste of time.

23

24 Brown bear populations he notes in Game
25 Units 10 and 11, as well as Yukon Flats are not known.
26 Little is known about them. Little data is available
27 and it's old -- 20 to 30 years old. And questions the
28 methodologies for extrapolating that data.

29

30 He notes he's lived and hunted in
31 Alaska for more than 50 years. Is a wildlife biologist
32 and served on the Homer Fish and Game Advisory
33 Commission -- Committee for many years.

34

35 And there's a third letter again in
36 support of WP16-70. And this is from Friends of Alaska
37 National Wildlife Refuges, which is a non-profit group.
38 Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges requests
39 that the Federal Subsistence Board approve Proposal
40 WP16-70.

41

42 Friends, as in the Friends of Refuges,
43 was aware -- unaware of the Proposal WP14-50 that was
44 approved by the Board in 2014, that allowed the taking
45 of brown bears over bait on Yukon Flats National
46 Wildlife Refuge. They believe that this bear baiting
47 allowance sets a dangerous precedent for this activity
48 to occur in other National Wildlife Refuges and Federal
49 lands and that the current Federal subsistence proposal
50 cycle has a new proposal to allow baiting and gaming.

1 That's 11 and 12 in other Regions.

2

3 They're concerned about brown bear
4 conservation on Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge,
5 especially since the Board of Game authorized the
6 taking of brown bear over bait in this game unit as
7 well, with the goal of temporary reduction of the brown
8 bear population. They don't feel that the scientific
9 evidence justifies the reduction of brown bear numbers
10 when abundance is unknown and feel that term temporary
11 reduction is in fact a predator control program, which
12 they cite is in conflict with the purposes of
13 management of the Refuge.

14

15 And again that was Friends of the
16 National Wildlife Refuge supporting WP16-70.

17

18 And that concludes the written public
19 comments that were submitted.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
22 Was -- right now is open for public testimony. Anyone
23 in the public.

24

25 Chris, did you come up for a reason?

26

27 MR. MCKEE: Well, I mean there had been
28 some previous discussion up here on this proposal. And
29 since I was the analyst, I was just prepared to answer
30 any other questions should they come up. So.....

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You'll get a
33 chance.

34

35 MR. MCKEE: Not that I want a chance.
36 But if you want to ask me.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You will.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there any
43 other questions for the person that wrote the analysis
44 -- the original analysis.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Now
49 the public.

50

1 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
2 RAC. My name is Carrie Stevens. I'm a longtime
3 resident of Unit 25D in the Yukon Flats. I've recently
4 moved, but I lived there for a long time.

5
6 I just want to make comments in
7 opposition to this proposal for a multitude of
8 different reasons, but I'll try to keep it short.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MS. STEVENS: I also just wanted to
13 note that I am a co-author of the Van Lanen report that
14 is noted in the analysis. And that portion of the
15 analysis is itself contradictory within two paragraphs.
16 So I oppose this for as I said many reasons, but one is
17 that this is traditional and customary practice as
18 noted in the first paragraph in Van Lanen and Nelson's
19 reports. And also because the Federal Subsistence
20 Board when they wrote on this stated that the harvest
21 level remains the same. It's still two. Method and
22 means don't change that harvest. So there shouldn't be
23 a conservation concern when it's the same number of
24 animals being harvested. And that people should be
25 allowed to harvest using their traditional and
26 customary methods as noted.

27
28 I also on a side note do believe that
29 the -- many of the comments by the person who submitted
30 the proposal are flawed. And that National Park
31 Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposed rules do
32 not impact Federally qualified subsistence users. Why
33 they are flawed, that's for another day. But those are
34 specifically for non-qualified Federally subsistence
35 users, so it doesn't matter whether they're in line or
36 not with these proposed rules, as this is specifically
37 the point of ANILCA Title 8 to allow for traditional
38 and customary practices.

39
40 Second, is well needed already is that
41 the biological data on which the basis for the proposal
42 is submitted has already been deemed extremely flawed
43 and incomplete and should not be relied upon. And I do
44 believe that the ADF&G area biologist herself noted
45 that if you ask any local, they will tell you what they
46 believe is the population out there. And I think that
47 in this case we should be relying upon the local people
48 for that information when it is not available via
49 extrapolation or whatnot theory to ask the people that
50 live in the area.

1 So I am disappointed in the OSM
2 analysis that subsistence users were not consulted and
3 also that a RAC Member himself, too, from the Yukon
4 Flats were not consulted in the OSM analysis itself as
5 to why this proposal was put forward by this RAC
6 originally in the first place, it's my understanding.
7

8 I think those are my main points. And
9 also as we heard from Beth Lenart on a biological
10 standpoint is that and the RAC's previous comments is
11 there isn't any conservation concern here in the sense
12 that we believe the bear population could warrant that
13 harvest. Again, it's just a method and means question.
14 It is not a harvest limit question and is a traditional
15 and customary practice.
16

17 So those are my comments on that
18 proposal. And just on a side note, it is very
19 disarming to sit here and for every single proposal
20 hear that there are no Tribal consultation comments.
21 And I would just really urge the RAC to consider in
22 their Annual Report and otherwise the Tribal
23 consultation process is carried out by OSM. My
24 understanding is there's a public phone call. I mean a
25 Tribal consultation phone call. Excuse me. I believe
26 Tribal consultation policy states that if any Federal
27 action impacts Tribal government's interests, they
28 should be notified directly.
29

30 Were all of the Tribal governments in
31 the Unit 25D provided this Wildlife Proposal and asked
32 for a consultation. I would assume not. And I do
33 believe that is how the Tribal consultation process
34 should go for these wildlife proposals.
35

36 And, you know, we all know that our
37 Tribal offices are two people managing a government.
38 And so they're not going to just read through a 400-
39 page document that they may have never gotten to see if
40 there's things of concern to them. And I do believe
41 that every wildlife proposal that impacts a Tribal
42 government should be provided directly to that Tribal
43 government and consultation should then ensue.
44

45 Thank you for your time.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any questions
48 of her.
49

50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks,
2 Carrie. Appreciate your testimony.
3
4 Any other public testimony today on
5 this proposal.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
10 16-70.
11
12 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
15 Discussion.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Where do I start.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Where do I
24 start is right.
25
26 MR. FIRMIN: I think we've already
27 pointed out a lot of good ideas and points on this
28 proposal. And the one that I'd want to also add is
29 that one of the papers that they use as far as harvest
30 history Van Lanen in 2012, I believe it was one of
31 them. And I know for a fact because I was there for
32 part of it and I believe I was one of the interviewed
33 people. And they interviewed ten people in the entire
34 Yukon Flats. And that doesn't grasp the amount of data
35 that they're pointing out here as well. To say that
36 there's no traditional use because ten people in that
37 year were asked has this been done customary and
38 traditionally. If it's illegal, nobody's going to say
39 yeah, I've been doing that for years.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. FIRMIN: So it's obvious why it's
44 not in the paper. I mean nobody's going to go out and
45 say yeah, I've been robbing banks for years. So it's
46 -- I mean that's a -- it's kind of silly to turn around
47 and say well, just because nobody said it that time,
48 that it hasn't ever happened.
49
50 I'd also like to point out that in the

1 higher mortality rates on table one, page 162, where
2 there was a reported mortality -- an increase for a few
3 years there, there was a bear derby going on for black
4 bears. And so those might have been taken as an
5 increase of black bear harvest, where we actually had a
6 bear derby. And, you know, the biggest black bear
7 score wins a cash price. While we were doing that,
8 these bears might have been taken and increased just
9 simply as a matter of people going out and hunting from
10 that 2007 to 2010 years.

11
12 And the other increase in the household
13 survey data mortality, I'd also like to point out in
14 those same years was when we were actually had people
15 going door to door in seven Villages and surveying
16 almost I'd like to say 75 percent of the people in the
17 entire Yukon Flats. And that's probably where you see
18 some increase in reporting there. It was because I
19 think we shot for 100 percent surveys -- household
20 surveys, which I don't think is done in very -- that
21 big of a level in the Yukon Flats on too many other
22 things.

23
24 Also, there was no documented use of
25 increase in use on a large scale. I think part of
26 another point of Van Lanen's paper that they cite in
27 here was also part of the reason behind the original
28 proposal, was because of the whole -- he identified
29 that there's a lack of -- of as many hunters out on the
30 land as there used to be. Mr. Van Lanen identified
31 what he coined a super hunter phenom, where you have
32 certain individuals that live on the land a lot more,
33 where they're out there harvesting for multiple
34 families, multiple elders, single mothers -- things
35 like of that nature. So to keep those people honest,
36 their hunting, was part of the reasoning behind this.
37 It was a methods and means for them to be able to go up
38 there and harvest, so it's similar to like a community
39 harvest program. And that was some of the thinking
40 behind the original proposal.

41
42 And I also wanted to point out that
43 since it's unknown some of the rates of them, I mean
44 there's -- let's just say they have a low breeding rate
45 in the Yukon Flats. If that's ever really been
46 studied, who's to say they aren't having triplets every
47 summer out there like rabbits. Who knows. If they've
48 never been studied, there's no way to really say for
49 sure, well, it's common over here on the Southern
50 Alaskan Range, well, that's got nothing to do with two

1 mountain ranges away.

2

3 But I don't think there's enough people
4 hunting in this manner to habituate anything. And I
5 don't see regular interactions happening because it's
6 going to be a -- well, they're not going to be
7 regularly coming back to my bait station. They're
8 going to come there once.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. GLANZ: One time.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: And I'd also like to point
17 out that while some people that are for this proposal
18 say that there's -- we need to go back to spot and
19 stalk opportunity, which is there's little to no spot
20 and stalk opportunity and a lot of it is just due to
21 the land terrain, type of terrain in the Yukon Flats.
22 And I think those are most of the reasons that I'm
23 going to oppose this Proposal.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Rhonda. Then
26 Virgil.

27

28 MS. PITKA: I'm going to speak in
29 opposition to this Proposal also. I really feel like
30 there is very little Tribal consultation. I'm not sure
31 how it's done like this, but normally when you do
32 Tribal consultation, you actually contact the Tribe
33 with a certified letter, with the Proposal that's going
34 to affecting them.

35

36 And I have a lot of issues with when
37 biological data is flawed in this manner. It makes me
38 very nervous that we have to base conservation on
39 biological data that's incomplete. I -- honestly, I
40 live in the area. And I've lived there since --
41 continuously since 2007. I do not see a problem with
42 bear population at all. I feel like we have a very
43 healthy bear population and if the data was actually
44 collected, it would probably reflect that.

45

46 I also think local people need to be
47 contacted more often about how many bear they think
48 there are. I believe -- I'm not sure which study it
49 was. I can't remember now. But I think that there are
50 more bears in the Yukon Flats than there are people.

1 I feel like we have a very healthy bear
2 population and I don't think that this would affect
3 conservation whatsoever. And this is also another
4 place where traditional ecological knowledge would come
5 in handy.

6
7 Thank you, ma'am.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
10 Rhonda.

11
12 Virgil and then Larry.

13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. This
15 Proposal was just passed last year.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Two years
18 ago.

19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: And it was -- the
21 Proposal that this Proposal wants -- or the Regulation
22 this Proposal wants to eliminate was passed last year.
23 And it came from this Council.

24
25 I have a lot of experience in hunting
26 grizzly bears. These are grizzly bears. They want to
27 call them brown bears. They're north of the Alaska
28 Range. They're not those big, fat, salmon-eating bears
29 that live along the coast that are called brown bears.
30 These bears live by hunting and killing. They're very
31 stealthy.

32
33 In the last two years I've put trail
34 cameras on moose gut piles. I've got footage that Don
35 Young, the area biologist around Fairbanks, and Glenn
36 Stout, the area biologist out of Galena, say they know
37 of no one ever getting that kind of footage. And that
38 is of a grizzly bear burying a moose gut pile.

39
40 I've baited bears for a long time and
41 just recently we've been able to bait grizzly bears.
42 And that's been under State Regulations, proposals put
43 in by the Fairbanks AC, this RAC, and myself
44 personally.

45
46 Since we have these trail cameras
47 available now that's new technology, there are a lot
48 more grizzly bears out there than people realize there
49 are. You just never knew it. Because they are
50 primarily nocturnal. They don't move around much in

1 the daylight where humans can see them.

2

3 And then the habitat where they live
4 such as in the Yukon Flats. Such as in the Koyukuk
5 Refuge. Such as over here in 20A. It's highly
6 vegetated. You hardly ever see them. With the moss on
7 the ground, you don't see their tracks. There's no
8 tracks. You put out trail cameras and you find out
9 there's a lot more grizzly bears there than you
10 thought.

11

12 Now, when Ms. Lenart was up at the
13 table a few minutes ago, I told her about a
14 conversation Don Young, the area biologist here in
15 Fairbanks, and I had just two weeks ago. And what that
16 brings into question is that there are probably a lot
17 more grizzly bears out there than people ever realized.
18 And the main reason is because number one, they're
19 smart. Number two, they're nocturnal. And in this
20 type of habitat it would be easy to underestimate the
21 population of these bears.

22

23 Anyway, I'm totally opposed to this
24 Proposal. The Board passed it, the Proposal that this
25 wants to eliminate, just this last year. Normally in
26 the regulatory process we have a three-year cycle. And
27 so you pass Proposals and you want them to be in effect
28 for three years. Then the Board or the regulatory
29 agency can review and say well, did that Proposal
30 accomplish what we wanted it to accomplish or not. And
31 then we -- and you can review it and maybe you'd want
32 to make it -- tweak it a little better and make a
33 change or something.

34

35 But anyway, this has only been in
36 effect for one year where you could bait these bears.
37 And it should stay there until at least two more years
38 and then maybe be reviewed if you wanted to, if there's
39 some new science. But right now the best science it
40 seems like we have is just getting these trail cameras
41 you can go buy anywhere practically. Put them out
42 there and you get a pretty good idea how many grizzly
43 bears are out there.

44

45 I'm totally opposed to this Proposal.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
50 Virgil. The Board of Game is three-year cycle, but

1 ours in the Federal system is two.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think they just
4 changed it.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I don't think
7 so.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: The State changed. Not us.

10

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The State
15 changed, but not the Federal. Okay.

16

17 Larry.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm trying to get my
20 train of thought together.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

25 Well, first of all, I'm going to state that I want to
26 oppose this Proposal. I'm just going to briefly touch
27 on traditional means of the way I was raised.

28

29 The way we were raised is that we do
30 not take more than we need. You know, and after all
31 the hard time getting my head around and getting my
32 thoughts around of saying, writing down that I'm going
33 to take -- I'm going to take a bear. You know, that's
34 against everything that I was taught and all the elders
35 were taught. That you do not talk about what you're
36 going to do. Because that's bragging. And you do not
37 brag or you talk about hunting.

38

39 I mean I -- you know, I'm opposed to
40 this because it's full of contradictions for me. When
41 somebody from Homer, which he has every right to say.
42 I'll give him that. Trying to, you know, put into
43 regulations which directly affects us who lives there
44 in that area.

45

46 And I'm saying the contradiction was
47 saying that there's a low moose population in Yukon
48 Flats, which is true. And we're trying to -- maybe I
49 shouldn't be saying this, but we're trying to address
50 that by increasing the bear harvest. You know, and --

1 but I just wanted to get that traditional things that
2 were taught to me and my brother and that -- that, you
3 know, just I have a hard time just dealing with this.
4 This saying I'm going to take a bear, you know, and I'm
5 going to go out there and get them.

6
7 You know, but so I just wanted to say
8 something like that because I have a hard time speaking
9 and discuss. I use my traditional language when I
10 think. And I have to interpret that into English. So
11 maybe it doesn't come out right, but I hope I can get
12 my point across.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah, Larry.
17 Even Mentasta, Katie John shared with me that they
18 don't talk about the bear. And that -- I respect that.
19 And sadly we have to go through this process for
20 regulations. And I just want you to know that we do
21 respect that.

22
23 Did I see a hand over here.

24
25 MR. BASSICH: I call question.

26
27 MR. KOEHLER: I have one.

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Oh. I'm sorry.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Let's --
32 Will. Uh-huh.

33
34 MR. KOEHLER: I would just like to
35 speak to this Proposal. Not speaking to the data or
36 anything, but just kind of how this whole process is
37 structured in such a way with the hope -- if my
38 understanding is correct, with the hope that in our Fed
39 -- in the Federal system, as opposed to the State
40 system, we have rural preference.

41
42 We have -- which I kind of have always
43 understood or translated as a local preference, so that
44 a local Region can hunt in the -- with the methods and
45 means and values that they have. And I think there's a
46 lot of value to that.

47
48 And Pippa could speak to this a little
49 bit better, but it seems in my reading that cultural
50 values tend to be regionalized. And we have a Proposal

1 here that probably it reflects the cultural values of a
2 brown bear viewing guide in Homer. And probably makes
3 perfect sense for his Region. Because that's -- this
4 proponent, that's what he does. For a living he takes
5 photographs of brown bears. And so in his Region, his
6 values might work very, very well. But we have -- we
7 are in a different setting. We have -- of different --
8 we have different means by which we survive and make
9 our living. And so we have different values.

10

11 And so I guess my comment on this is I
12 would oppose this mostly because it is -- it feels to
13 me like an outside source trying to force their values
14 upon us. And all of the written comments come from
15 people that do not live and survive in the area. And
16 they have that different value system, which is --
17 there's nothing wrong with that. But it seems to me
18 that tolerance for other people's values is much easier
19 when it is reciprocated.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Very well
24 said. Thank you, Will. I appreciate that.

25

26 Anyone else have -- Bill.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: Just one. I don't think
29 there's anybody sitting on this Board here that's
30 opposed to predator control. I mean we -- that's one
31 of our big -- we're all advocates for predator control.

32

33

34 The same people who write these kinds
35 of letters are the same ones, and they go to State Game
36 -- well, we've got to have a buffer zone. That take up
37 all the time of the people. So I'm definitely opposed
38 to this.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. And I
41 might add, I had my two years of experience bear
42 baiting now. And the habituating of bears, I don't buy
43 it based on what I've seen. They tend to completely
44 disburse after the bait is pulled. And what it -- what
45 that -- the whole grizzly bear adding to the black bear
46 baiting was there you sit in a bear bait and here walks
47 a grizzly bear and you can't shoot it. And here it
48 just gives an opportunity.

49

50 And I feel that it's important to bring

1 some of this stuff out on the record. And so that's my
2 two cents.

3

4 Now you're calling for the question.

5

6 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. One quick comment,
7 if I may.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I just want to add
12 to the perspective on what this means to people living
13 out in a remote area, which I do. If a grizzly bear
14 comes into your area and starts basically terrorizing
15 your home, your property, your dogs. If you have
16 children, your children. You want every tool in the
17 arsenal to safely dispatch that bear.

18

19 As Virgil stated, most of the time
20 grizzly bears are coming in at night. Most of us in
21 this room don't want to go out in a pitch black night
22 and try and shoot a grizzly bear. This is a safety
23 issue for me. For protection of my property.
24 Protection of things that I care about and that I've
25 worked hard for.

26

27 So irregardless of whether you're a
28 guide or whatever, for those of us who live remotely,
29 this is a method and means issue that is extremely
30 effective. And it's probably the safest way to do it.

31

32

33 Now I'll call question.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And now you
36 made me add something. In the springtime there isn't
37 much darkness when we're baiting bears, but they still
38 are late night visitors to bait stations on the whole.

39

40 Okay. The question has been called
41 for. Now, do you want to just -- do you want to roll
42 call this or just -- no. Okay. All in favor of this
43 Proposal, say aye.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: Aye.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. You
48 don't want to be that way.

49

50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I was afraid
2 that would happen. This Proposal reads -- okay. Yeah.
3 We've got to wrap our heads around what it means.

4
5 The Proposal is requesting to shut down
6 the bear baiting in Unit 25D. All in favor.

7
8 (No aye votes)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All opposed,
11 say aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Motion fails.
16 I would say unanimously because I'm voting, too. No
17 opposition.

18
19 Okay. It's a quarter or more to 1:00.
20 And I would say 2:00 o'clock come back. Okay. 2:00
21 o'clock.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right. I
28 think we should all get to our seats and get started
29 here. We've got one more member that's probably on
30 their way to the table somewhere. And I want to ask
31 the Council, I was approached about somebody that's
32 taking the class for the UAF. And they are -- were not
33 here this morning on non-agenda items. And is it okay
34 with the Council if we bring them forward. They just
35 had something they wanted to talk to us about on non-
36 agenda items.

37
38 (Council nods affirmatively)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
41 Thanks, guys and girls. I heard she was the lady with
42 the cute baby. The darling, little baby. Do you need
43 me to hold her?

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

48
49 MS. WRIGHT: Hi. My name is Brooke
50 Wright. And I am a Tribal Management student and I am

1 originally from Rampart. This is my first time getting
2 involved in these meetings, but I have -- after
3 reviewing some of the paperwork that we went through on
4 the.....

5
6 (Phone interruption)

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hang on.
9 Somebody is speaking into their mic. You need to mute
10 it. We're getting all your voices talking.

11
12 MS. PATTON: So for folks on
13 teleconference, if you push star six that will mute the
14 background noise. And then when you want to speak you
15 can just push star six again. But that will help
16 everyone hear clearly.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I apologize.
21 Go ahead.

22
23 MS. WRIGHT: And I wanted to support or
24 encourage that an elder be part of the analysis of the
25 preliminary conclusions for proposals. Just because
26 for us, they are our scientists. They've been here.
27 They know our lands. They know our cultures. They
28 know the animals. And that's one thing that I would
29 encourage and would at some point put a proposal in for
30 that.

31
32 And that was my comment. Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
35 Was that a question then? And how to go about it?

36
37 MS. WRIGHT: A comment.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

40
41 MS. WRIGHT: And I will figure out how
42 to go about it.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.

45
46 MS. WRIGHT: And make a proposal.
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
50 you.

1
2 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You'd better
5 keep close on her. Somebody might grab her.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And thank you
10 for your testimony.
11
12 Okay. I want to ask the Council really
13 quickly. We did not take up 60. Do you want to take
14 that up next. Barbara Cellarius is here.
15
16 (Council nods affirmatively)
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We'll
19 take up 60. Page 114, Council Members. So Lisa will
20 be doing the presentation; is that correct?
21
22 MS. MAAS: Yes.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
25
26 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
27 Madame Chair. I'm moving this microphone away.
28 Hopefully I'm not.....
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
31
32 MS. MAAS: Sorry. I'm loud. But I
33 will try not to hurt people's ears.
34
35 All right. Thank you, Madame Chair,
36 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
37 Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary of the
38 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-60, which begins on
39 page 114 of your RAC book.
40
41 Wildlife Proposal 16-60, submitted by
42 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory
43 Committee, requests the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt be
44 open to all Federally qualified subsistence users with
45 a customary and traditional use determination for
46 caribou in Unit 12 and that an unlimited number of
47 Federal registration permits be available.
48
49 The proponent states that the
50 regulations resulting from the 804 analysis are

1 unnecessarily restrictive and that based on the low
2 number of permits issued and caribou harvested in past
3 years, there is no reason to limit the number of
4 permits or to exclude anyone that has C&T from the
5 hunt.

6

7 The proponent also states adopting this
8 Proposal will increase hunting opportunity and have no
9 impact to the caribou herd or annual harvest.

10

11 The Chisana caribou herd is a small,
12 non-migratory herd ranging between Wrangell-St. Elias
13 National Park in Unit 12 and Southwestern Yukon Canada.
14 Management goals as established by the Chisana Caribou
15 Herd Working Group include a stable or increasing
16 population, bull/cow ratios of greater than 35 bulls
17 per 100 cows, and calf/cow ratios of greater than 15
18 calves per 100 cows. When all these criteria are met,
19 the working group recommended a bulls only harvest that
20 is less than two percent of the total population, with
21 the allocated harvest distributed equally between
22 Alaska and the Yukon.

23

24 The herd declined during the 1900s to a
25 low of 315 animals in 2002, which prompted an intensive
26 captive rearing program that augmented calf survival
27 and recruitment. Since 2003, the herd has appeared
28 stable at 700 animals. And the bull/cow ratio has been
29 above Management objectives. Since 2005, the calf/cow
30 ratio has also been above Management objectives.

31

32 Predation by wolves, severe weather,
33 and poor range conditions are considered limiting
34 factors.

35

36 The Chisana caribou herd is valued for
37 guided hunts because of their large antlers. In the
38 early 1990s, between 20 and 70 Chisana caribou were
39 harvested in Alaska in the Yukon. Non-residents
40 accounted for the majority of the harvest, with locals
41 accounting for only nine percent.

42

43 In 1994, the Federal Subsistence Board
44 closed the hunt in Alaska due to conservation concerns.
45 In 2012, the Board reopened the hunt, limiting it to
46 communities identified as eligible in the Section 804
47 analysis. The harvest quota was seven bulls and
48 authority to manage the hunt was delegated to the
49 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
50 superintendent.

1 Since the hunt reopened in 2012, it has
2 been under-subscribed. Zero to three caribou per year
3 have been harvested and the number of issues permits
4 has been substantially less than the number available.

5

6

7 Adopting this Proposal would increase
8 hunting opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence
9 users. Due to the quota, no impact to the Chisana
10 caribou herd is expected. Issuing an unlimited number
11 of permits would remove the delegated authority from
12 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
13 superintendent, which would affect the ability of
14 managers to quickly and effectively respond to changing
15 hunt conditions.

16

17 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
18 support WP16-60, with modification to retain the
19 delegated authority of the superintendent of Wrangell-
20 St. Elias National Park and Preserve to set the number
21 of permits.

22

23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
26 Members, any questions.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No questions.

31 Okay.

32

33 Did you have something to add?

34

35 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, I was just going
36 to add that -- a couple of pieces of information that
37 aren't in the analysis that we've gotten more recently.

38

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

41 Introduce yourself.

42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: My name is Barbara
44 Cellarius and I'm the Subsistence Coordinator for
45 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. And
46 thank you for holding off taking up this Proposal until
47 I got here. It's been a busy week for me.

48

49 I just wanted to let you know that I do
50 have the results of the 2015 hunt. I've gotten harvest

1 reports from everyone who had a permit. And while you
2 were at lunch you should have gotten a yellow handout.
3 And at the bottom of that handout there is a table.

4
5 In 2015, we issued eleven permits.
6 Seven people hunted and no caribou were harvested.

7
8 And Jeff Wells is here from Fish and
9 Game, but we -- he provided a report for our SRC. And
10 we have updated bull/cow and calf/cow ratios and they
11 continue to be above the parameters -- the minimum
12 parameters for allowing a hunt.

13
14 Thank you, Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
22 Barbara.

23
24 Okay. Do we have any -- nothing
25 additional from you, Jeff Wells?

26
27 MR. WELLS: Apart from.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you want?
30 Do you have something to add?

31
32 MR. WELLS: No. I don't.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. All
35 right. We'll go through the process.

36
37 Report on Board consultations with
38 Tribes.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
41 we did get feedback from Northway. They thought they
42 might have a representative attending the meeting here.
43 They didn't provide comments specifically to the
44 Proposal, but did express they had some concerns and
45 wanted to address the Council. It might be that if we
46 don't have representatives here from Northway now, that
47 they would be able to come tomorrow. So again, we did
48 have interest and an expression of wanting to
49 participate with the Council in that. But they're not
50 here today.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did they say
2 who the representative was?
3
4 MS. PATTON: Jamie Marunde was working
5 with her.....
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
8
9 MS. PATTON:her Tribal Council.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And she's on
12 our agenda, isn't she?
13
14 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes. And I
15 think she was -- she was also trying to juggle both the
16 Southcentral meeting and this meeting to participate in
17 both.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, in all
20 fairness, I guess that would be important to have Jamie
21 to participate.
22
23 Council Members, how do you want to go
24 about this. Do you want to continue through the
25 process.
26
27 MS. PITKA: When is she expected to be
28 here.
29
30 MS. PATTON: I know she was hoping to
31 be here for both days, was the last I heard. But she
32 was it sounded like juggling some other things as well.
33 I could try an email and get, you know, some feedback
34 from her. It might be some time. That might not be,
35 you know, in the next little bit here.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So does she
38 have a smart phone? Can you just text and then just
39 say text right back? This is phenomenal what happens
40 here today. Did you have a phone for her?
41
42 MS. PATTON: I do not. Just an office
43 phone.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You should go
46 ahead. We'll go ahead and finish the report, if it's
47 okay with the Council. And if you could send her a
48 quick email, that would be great. So.....
49
50 Will.

1 MR. KOEHLER: We're all juggling quite
2 a few things. Or at least I'm fairly busy right now.
3 I'm fine with putting this off, but, you know, we do
4 have a time and we do have a meeting schedule. And,
5 you know, if you guys are willing to let me take care
6 of a few things that I really need to take care of
7 while I'm in town, I'll let you know when I'm
8 available.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Now, now,
11 now.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But I
16 understand exactly what's going on here. We take a lot
17 out of our life here to do all this stuff. So I will
18 -- any problem going ahead, Council.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. If
23 anyone has any problem, let me know right now.
24 Otherwise we're going on through.

25
26 Next is the Agency comments. ADF&G.

27
28 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 This is Jill. I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish
30 and Game. And the preliminary recommendation of the
31 Department is to support the Proposal, and as modified
32 by OSM.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
35 you.

36
37 MS. KLEIN: No problem.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
40 questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Jeff must
45 have some input for us.

46
47 MR. WELLS: Thanks, Madame Chair. I
48 was just going to say I have made up some composition
49 data graphs for the SRC. And I might be able to just
50 give it to you guys and you can do with it -- look at

1 it and let us know if you have any questions. But I
2 have made them up, so I'll just go ahead and pass them
3 up here.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Just
6 give it to Eva. She'll take care of it for us.

7
8 Well, is it okay. Start down there and
9 pass it around. Eva?

10
11 MS. PATTON: Oh. Absolutely.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
18 There's this protocol that I'm always wrestling with.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Yeah. I know. That's
21 perfect. Thank you.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

24 Thanks, Jeff. Appreciate that.

25
26 So if you guys see anything on there
27 that you have questions about, we'll call him up again.
28 In the meantime, I'll help you out and pass this over.
29 Because you're next.

30
31 We have -- is there any Federal
32 Agencies, Native Tribal Village or other. Inter-Agency
33 Staff comments.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is that a yes
38 or a no. In the meantime, the next thing would be
39 Advisory Committee Groups comments. And I'll need Eva
40 for that.

41
42 Well, I guess -- yeah. Barbara, you
43 can speak for the Subsistence Resource Commission of
44 the Park, for the Wrangell.

45
46 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair, I can
47 tell you what the Southcentral RAC did on this
48 Proposal, as well as present the comments from the
49 Eastern -- or the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC -- I'm sorry.
50 It's just been a really long week.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Put your next
2 hat on. Yeah.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: But the Southcentral
5 RAC took this Proposal up yesterday and they supported
6 the Proposal with the modification suggested by OSM.
7 So that was the Southcentral RAC. And then I'll
8 present the comment from the Wrangell-St. Elias
9 Subsistence Resource Commission.

10
11 Did I -- do I need to identify myself
12 again? I'm sorry.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We forgive
15 you. Although there's people online. They might enjoy
16 who's present or talking right now.

17
18 MS. CELLARIUS: So this is Barbara
19 Cellarius from Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, but
20 I'm presenting the comments from our Citizen Advisory
21 Committee, the Subsistence Resource Commission.

22
23 And the Wrangell-St. Elias National
24 Park Subsistence Resource Commission supports WP16-60,
25 as modified in the OSM preliminary conclusion. The
26 Proposal would provide additional subsistence
27 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
28 in the local area in the communities that the SRC
29 represents.

30
31 It's difficult to access the herd
32 during the hunting season and the proposed change is
33 not likely to significantly increase the harvest. We
34 continue to be concerned about the small size of the
35 herd and support retaining the superintendent's to set
36 the number of permits as a tool to use in managing the
37 hunt.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
40 questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Were
45 there any other AC's or -- AC's is all that's left, I
46 guess.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
49 the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 60.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Oh. Here we are. Move to
4 support. And they noted that they talked to Sue
5 Enstminger on the Federal subsistence regulations and
6 discussed who sets the bag limits, number of permits,
7 and the motion passed unanimously to support Proposal
8 16-60.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Next
11 is the summary of written public comments.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
14 we have one public comment submitted. And this was
15 AHTNA, Incorporated. And they support Proposal 16-60,
16 with an amendment to allow only Federally qualified
17 subsistence users with positive customary and
18 traditional use for caribou in Unit 12. They oppose
19 opening Unit 12 Chisana caribou hunt to non-Federally
20 qualified subsistence hunters, adding the communities
21 of Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Tanacross will provide an
22 opportunity for them to harvest Chisana caribou and to
23 sustain their livelihood and meet subsistence needs.
24
25 As the Proposal states, harvesting a
26 Chisana caribou is difficult due to terrain and access
27 to the hunting area. Most likely not too many Chisana
28 caribou will be harvested by including C&T for these
29 additional communities to the Unit 12 caribou hunt.
30
31 Additionally, Wrangell-St. Elias
32 National Park superintendent has the discretion to
33 close the hunt if the hunters are reaching the harvest
34 quota for this herd.
35
36 Again, this AHTNA, Incorporated, and
37 they support WP16-60.
38
39 And just to let the Council know, too.
40 So when we were in communications with Jamie Marunde
41 through Northway, she had indicated the Council was
42 working on drafting a letter to submit to the Eastern
43 Interior Council and she was hoping to be here in
44 person.
45
46 Ben Stevens did receive that letter
47 that was addressed to the Eastern Interior Regional
48 Advisory Council and so we can read that letter.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So you have

1 the letter?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Unless you would prefer to
4 read it, Ben.

5

6 MR. STEVENS: I would. Thank you
7 for.....

8

9 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Absolutely. Thank
10 you.

11

12 MR. STEVENS: Thank you for your
13 flexibility, Madame Chair. And I do appreciate the
14 consideration you're giving, even though it does veer
15 outside your normal operating procedures.

16

17 Anyway, I did get a letter opposing
18 this Proposal from Jamie. And if you'll allow me, I'll
19 just hit a couple of the main points.

20

21 The letter was addressed to you folks.
22 And it says the Northway Village Council opposes this
23 Proposal by the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game
24 Advisory Committee to remove ANILCA Section 804
25 eligibility restriction and to open the hunt up to all
26 Federally qualified subsistence users with positive
27 customary and traditional use for caribou in Unit 12.
28 This would add Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Tanacross, and the
29 eligibility list.

30

31 The reason the Community of Northway
32 opposes this Proposal is one, known negative outcomes
33 of increased hunting to the already volatile caribou.

34

35 Two, interest in seeing long term and
36 consistent growth before expanded hunting of this herd
37 occurs. Currently, the estimated herd size is a third
38 of what it was at its population height in the late
39 '80s.

40

41 Three, tremendous potential costs by
42 all parties to engage in conservation efforts to
43 improve population numbers once increased hunting
44 undoubtedly negatively impacts the herd.

45

46 Next, the detriment of commercial
47 interests in expanding hunting policy in this area.

48

49 Finally, the Canadian residents and
50 First Nation Tribes also have interests in this caribou

1 herd and have instituted a voluntary ban on hunting
2 since 1994. All forms of license harvest have been
3 legally prohibited in Yukon under the Wildlife Act
4 since 2002.

5
6 The Chisana caribou herd is an
7 extremely sensitive herd that cannot and should not be
8 open to additional hunting exposure.

9
10 Therefore, Madame Chair, I believe this
11 letter here is adamantly opposed to this Proposal.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. And
14 it's very unfortunate that she is not here. That we
15 can't ask questions. Because I have a feeling that
16 there might be some misunderstanding. And I could --
17 at the SRC meeting, it was brought out to our attention
18 that there was 1,800 people that qualify now. And the
19 additional numbers would be somewhere around 200 with
20 those three communities. And those are the only three
21 communities that would be added, so this is
22 unfortunate. Because I would love to ask those
23 questions. But if anybody hears from her, we can ask
24 those questions.

25
26 Okay. I must move along. We are now
27 public testimony. Is there any public testimony in the
28 room on this proposal in this room or online.

29
30 Ben, do you have some?

31
32 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 I appreciate your indulgence. It would be my sense
34 that it would be prudent for the Council to not
35 approve, not go ahead until we know more from the
36 Northway folks.

37
38 That would be my comment and my
39 suggestion.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
42 Members, is there -- do you want to take this up and
43 give Northway a chance to comment before we take it up.

44
45 MS. PITKA: I wouldn't mind deferring
46 until she gets here.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We've
49 got all of the preliminary stuff done. So it would be
50 -- we'll be at public testimony. And we'll take it up

1 when we hear from them. So we won't have a motion.
2 With no motion on the floor, so we can move along.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you have
5 something, Don?

6

7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes, Madame Chair. I'd
8 just like to add that the AHTNA Tribe in their letter
9 wanted to amend it with a C&T. And I would like to
10 maybe put on the record that maybe Eva could contact
11 them. And that would be a separate proposal for a C&T
12 for Dot Lake, Healy Lake, and Tanacross.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You might be
15 misinterpreting that also.

16

17 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Sorry.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

20 Barbara.

21

22 MS. CELLARIUS: If you've looked at the
23 -- this is Barbara Cellarius, with Wrangell-St. Elias
24 National Park. If you look at the original proposal as
25 submitted, it was ambiguous as to whether it removed
26 the Federal closure for everyone or only removed the
27 Federal closure for people with -- who already had C&T.
28 So what AHTNA is I believe stating is that the support
29 letting all Federally qualified subsistence users with
30 C&T in the existing C&T hunt.

31

32 There was just -- there was confusion
33 with the Proposal as written. It was clarified with
34 the proponent that it's only applying to the Federally
35 qualified subsistence users.

36

37 So I think this addresses this concern.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Which the
40 only added communities are the three mentioned.
41 They're already mentioned. They already got C&T.
42 Yeah. Just that they're not included, which is.....

43

44 MS. PITKA: So they got C&T but not
45 included by name on.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.

48 Because there's an 804.

49

50 (Phone interruption)

1
2 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, boy.
3 Yours is ringing.
4
5 MS. PATTON: It might be Jamie.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Five bucks.
8 No.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Does
13 that answer your question. Yeah. They're already in
14 it. Because of an 804, these three communities who
15 weren't part of it, the 804. And it just takes it off
16 of 804.
17
18 So just the C&Ts that are in the book.
19 And it's so few numbers that it would have -- at any
20 rate, we'll go through that later.
21
22 Okay. Anything else.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I guess
27 we'll take that up later. And we're going to take up
28 the next proposal. And that would be 18.
29
30 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
31 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
32 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary
33 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-18, which
34 begins on page 170 of the RAC meeting book.
35
36 Wildlife Proposal 16-18, submitted by
37 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
38 Resource Commission, requests that brown bears be
39 allowed to be hunted over bait in Units 11 and 12, with
40 a season from April 15 to June 15 in Unit 11 and April
41 15 to June 30th in Unit 12.
42
43 The proponent states that this would
44 increase harvest opportunity for Federally qualified
45 subsistence users, particularly in heavily forested
46 areas where brown bears do not concentrate.
47
48 In 2012, the Alaska Board and Game
49 permitted brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 12
50 and in 2015 permitted this in Unit 11. Since 2012, the

1 National Park Service has adopted temporary
2 restrictions on the take of brown bears over bait on
3 National Preserve lands.

4
5 Currently, the National Park Service
6 has proposed to permanently restrict brown bear baiting
7 on National Preserve lands under State Regulations.

8
9 The National Wildlife Refuge System is
10 reviewing possible similar restrictions on Refuge
11 lands. And again these restrictions would apply only
12 under State Regulations.

13
14 There is very limited information on
15 brown bears in Units 11 and 12. In Unit 11 no formal
16 surveys have been conducted, but frequent visual
17 observations indicate abundant populations and good
18 productivity.

19
20 In Unit 12, the only survey occurred in
21 2000, which estimated 400 brown bears in the unit.
22 Using harvest as an index, productivity appears
23 adequate.

24
25 In Unit 11, an average of 17 bears per
26 year are harvested. In Unit 12, an average of 19 bears
27 per year are harvested, which is well within the State
28 management objective.

29
30 In 2012, after the State legalized
31 brown bear baiting in Unit 12, the number of bear
32 baiting stations increased 80 percent, but there is no
33 substantial increase in harvest. Local residents,
34 including Federally qualified subsistence users,
35 account for less than 30 percent of the brown bear
36 harvested on average in both units.

37
38 Adopting this proposal would open
39 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to brown
40 bear baiting and would increase harvest opportunity for
41 Federally qualified subsistence users. The effects on
42 the brown bear population are uncertain. Harvest is
43 expected to increase as baiting is a more efficient
44 harvest strategy; however, as locals comprise the
45 minority of the harvest and harvesting Unit 12 has not
46 increased substantially since the State permitted brown
47 bear baiting, the increase in harvest may be small.

48
49 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
50 defer WP16-18. The National Park Service is currently

1 considering whether brown bear baiting is an acceptable
2 activity on National Park Service lands. Deferring
3 would allow the National Park Service time to make this
4 determination and allows for the Regional Advisory
5 Councils to provide input on the record.

6

7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Could you
10 read the last thing additionally on your justification?

11

12

13 MS. MAAS: For the justification?

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

16

17 MS. MAAS: The justification -- the
18 National Park Service is currently considering whether
19 brown bear baiting is an acceptable activity on
20 National Park Service lands. Deferring would.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. No. No.
23 That's in the justification. There's one paragraph.
24 And the last paragraph reads additionally.

25

26 MS. MAAS: Oh, I'm sorry. You meant in
27 the Proposal.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Could you
30 read it?

31

32 MS. MAAS: Additionally -- and this is
33 for -- on page 180. Additionally, in the absence of
34 recent population estimates and good information about
35 sustainable harvest levels, a conservative approach is
36 warranted prior to authorizing more efficient methods
37 of harvest such as baiting.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That wasn't
40 the one I wanted to read aloud, but that's okay. It
41 works.

42

43 Any questions, Council Members.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No questions.

48

49

50 (No comments)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Report
2 on Board consultation with Tribes.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
5 we didn't have any comments through the Tribal
6 consultation. We do have a written letter from AHTNA,
7 Incorporated, again. I can read that now or with the
8 written comments.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Go ahead.

11
12 MS. PATTON: This is from AHTNA,
13 Incorporated. They support WP16-18 to allow Federally
14 qualified hunters to use bait in Unit 11 and Unit 12 to
15 hunt brown bear. In Unit 11, allow bait to hunt brown
16 bear between April 15th and June 12th. And in Unit 12,
17 allow bait to hunt brown bear from April 15th to June
18 30th.

19
20 Taking of bears over bait has been and
21 still is a method to harvest brown and black bears in
22 the Copper Basin communities. AHTNA people customarily
23 and traditionally use snares to kill bears to protect
24 drying salmon on fish racks. Opportunistically,
25 harvesting brown and black bears occurred to feed
26 families. Some AHTNA people ate brown bears and others
27 did not. Brown bears' meat was consumed. Meat was
28 boiled or fried. Hides were used for clothing, such as
29 clothes, mattresses and tents, muk luks. Clothes were
30 used as jewelry or necklaces. Bladder was used as
31 windows. Fat was used as heating source and for
32 lighting in dwellings.

33
34 There isn't a conservation concern for
35 black or brown bears in Unit 11 and 12. Harvesting a
36 few bears in areas across the Copper River and forested
37 areas will help to keep the natural abundance of
38 diversity and wildlife and population within balance.

39
40 And again this was AHTNA, Incorporated,
41 in support of WP16-18.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Next
44 is the Advisory Committees and groups.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
47 the Upper Tanana and Fortymile Advisory Committee
48 passed a motion unanimously to support Proposal WP16-
49 18. And note Sue would like the minutes from this
50 meeting to take to the RAC meeting.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
2
3 MS. PATTON: This is in the minutes.
4 So that was Upper Tanana.
5
6 And then we have no comment from the
7 Fairbanks AC. It's outside the Region.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
10 Barbara's going to speak to the meeting I just spent
11 two days at.
12
13 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
14 Cellarius again presenting comments from the Wrangell-
15 St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. The
16 Commission supports WP16-18 as written. This Proposal
17 -- well, I said it was submitted the Commission. It
18 does not pose a conservation concern based on the
19 experience in Unit 13, where brown bear baiting was
20 recently authorized under State of Alaska Regulations.
21 It is not anticipated that the harvest would increase
22 significantly. Regarding concerns about food
23 conditioning, most of the bait used is natural
24 materials. Additionally, baiting of black bears is
25 already allowed and brown bears are already feeding at
26 the bait stations.
27
28 And I do have the Southcentral RAC vote
29 on this as well. The Southcentral RAC also supported
30 the Proposal as written. They took it up this morning.
31
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any
34 questions.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Barbara, I
39 had one. How did the discussion go regarding the OSM's
40 Committee?
41
42 MS. PATTON: I actually received a text
43 with the results of the Southcentral vote.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, okay.
46
47 MS. PATTON: So I wasn't.....
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Without.....
50

1 MS. PATTON: I wasn't there. Just
2 somebody said that they would share the -- at least
3 send me the vote so I could share them with you.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
6 appreciate it. Thank you.

7
8 Okay. All right. Written comments.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
11 we have two other submitted public written comments.
12 Both of these comments oppose the Proposal.

13
14 The first is a letter written by Dave
15 Bachrach from Homer. And he cites an ongoing issue of
16 concern and public education in Alaska conditioning
17 bears to attract things like fish waste, unsecured
18 garbage, and freezers that might attract bears to
19 homes, businesses, and recreation areas, which could
20 result in bear-human conflicts.

21
22 Public safety concerns posed by food
23 conditioned bears are universally recognized by Natural
24 Resource Agencies throughout the range of the species.
25 Food conditioned bears are more likely to endanger
26 humans.

27
28 And he goes on to note several points
29 about lack of current brown bear population for the
30 GMU. Brown bears have low reproductive rate,
31 warranting scientific concern for potential over
32 harvest, particularly when baseline data is unknown or
33 anecdotal. And Board of Game liberalized brown bear
34 regulations in 2003 to increase harvest of bears in
35 Game Unit 11.

36
37 And that was David Bachrach to oppose
38 WP16-18. He notes a fourth point, too, that brown bear
39 baiting is largely -- in Unit 12 is largely to benefit
40 ungulate populations under the State of Alaska
41 Management Policy.

42
43 The second letter that was submitted in
44 opposition to Proposal 16-18 is from Derek Stonorov of
45 Fritz Creek, Alaska. He notes brown bear baiting or
46 any baiting sets a dangerous precedent for wildlife
47 management, especially on Federal lands. Bear baiting
48 increases hunter efficiency and can most certainly --
49 can lead to over harvest.

50

1 Brown bear populations in Game Unit 10
2 and 11, as well as Yukon Flats National Wildlife
3 Refuge, are not known. And what little data available
4 is 20 to 30 years old. And it's doubtful that the
5 methods used by ADF&G for making these estimates would
6 stand up to peer review.

7
8 He notes he's lived and hunted in
9 Alaska for more than 50 years as a biologist and has
10 served on the Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
11 Again, this is a letter from Derek Stonorov in
12 opposition to WP16-18.

13
14 And that's it for the public letters
15 submitted.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
18 Members, are you keeping track of me. Did I fail to go
19 through the Agencies. Yes. I didn't, didn't I. Yeah.

20
21
22 Okay. Agency comments. I apologize
23 for this.

24
25 Yeah. Andrew.

26
27 MS. KLEIN: Okay. Thank you, Madame
28 Chair. This is Jill. The Department's preliminary
29 recommendation is they support the Proposal. It will
30 provide additional opportunities.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
33 you, Jill.

34
35 And then Jeff.

36
37 MR. WELLS: Thanks, Madame Chair,
38 Members of the Council. Jeff Wells, Fish and Game in
39 Tok. I just wanted to clarify one thing from the OSM
40 Report. That population estimate from 2000 was not
41 from a survey. That was from extrapolation from nearby
42 units. And we still believe that population estimate
43 is accurate. There has been population surveys in
44 adjacent Units 13 and 20E and also used some data from
45 20A. So I just wanted to clarify that that was not
46 from a population survey.

47
48 That was extrapolation as well.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any

1 questions.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I've
6 got to go back to Andrew. Andrew, what did we miss
7 that you wanted to speak to.

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Well, I just wanted to
10 make sure Eva read the one in support of the Proposal
11 from AHTNA as well.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: She did
14 underneath the.....

15

16 MR. FIRMIN: Underneath the other?
17 Okay.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The -- yeah.
20 The consultation. Yeah.

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: And then I just wanted to
23 say there's another here, but it was addressing 16-70
24 and not 16-18.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, she --
27 yeah. He's looking in the book and it says it's to 17.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Correct, Madame Chair.
30 Several of the letters that were submitted were
31 addressing multiple Proposals. And so they were
32 addressing both 16-70 and 16-18 in the same Proposal.
33 The comments that were made for 16-70 were presented
34 under that Proposal for written comments.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But I see the
37 confusion here though. Because it says 16-70 in this
38 letter and it's just a repetition -- a repeated letter
39 from the prior Proposal. So we might -- this letter
40 looks like it's just speaking to that 70. Where does
41 it say 18 on there.

42

43 MR. KOEHLER: In the second line of the
44 letter.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The second
47 line?

48

49 MS. PITKA: In the second line of the
50 letter.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What I'm
2 reading in my book says 16-70. I don't see 18.
3
4 MR. FIRMIN: 190.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 190.
7
8 MS. PATTON: No. You are correct.
9 This notes just 16-70. This is Tom Collopy. And this
10 is under.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. And
13 I'm looking at the wrong letter.
14
15 MS. PATTON:under 16-80.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's on page
18 184.
19
20 MS. PATTON: So 184 is the letter.....
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I was looking
23 at this one.
24
25 MS. PITKA: Oh, okay.
26
27 MS. PATTON:from Derek Stonorov.
28 And so in the first sentence he states support of 16-
29 70. In the second sentence he states please do not
30 support WP16-18. And so the identical comment for 16-
31 70 was read under that proposal. And I just referenced
32 their comment on 16-18 for this one.
33
34 There is another public comment that's
35 inserted here that is just referencing 16-70.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So there's
38 just two, right?
39
40 MS. PATTON: For 16-18, yes.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Sorry.
43 I thought I was where you were on the wrong page.
44
45 MR. FIRMIN: But, isn't.....
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Why don't you
48 put that on the record. What are you asking.
49
50 MR. FIRMIN: Maybe I wasn't paying

1 attention, but did she read AHTNA's letter of support
2 of WP16-18. She said there's two letters -- public
3 comment letters, but there's actually three. One in
4 support, two in opposition.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Right. Correct. Madame
7 Chair and Council, AHTNA submitted a written letter of
8 support and we read that under the Native Corporation
9 comments as well.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: I wanted to ask Jeff a
12 question. Okay. Did I hear you say that it was
13 believed that maybe the population estimates using
14 extrapolation from nearby areas was more accurate than
15 previous Proposals we've been discussing?

16
17 MR. WELLS: Member Umphenour, I can't
18 speak as to the other areas. I was just explaining
19 more specifically where that extrapolation came from.
20 So for Unit 12, we estimate brown bear population to be
21 between 350 and 425. That's based on other surveys in
22 adjacent Units 13 and 20E, and also 20A. Those are the
23 units where bear survey had been conducted and that's
24 how we came up with that estimate.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Is that where they did
27 the barbed wire around the bait and then did DNA
28 analysis of the hair?

29
30 MR. WELLS: Yeah. So the study you're
31 referencing was in Unit 20E in about 2006. And that's
32 where they did -- collected hair and did some genetic
33 work. They also came up with a brown bear estimate
34 back in the 1980s in 20E as well, but that -- the more
35 -- most recent one was from 2006.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so you think that
38 that's maybe a better population estimate doing it that
39 way?

40
41 MR. WELLS: Well, I think it really
42 depends on the area. Again, it comes down for Unit 12
43 -- Unit 12 isn't the same as Unit 20E. One example is
44 there's ground squirrels in Unit 12 and there is not
45 ground squirrels in Unit 20E, which is one food source
46 for brown bears. So it's still an extrapolation. And
47 it's our best estimate.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Madame
50 Chair.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you look
2 at the -- I'm sure the data on the percent of increase
3 in bait stations is 80 percent? Did that come from
4 your office?

5
6 MR. WELLS: Yeah, Madame Chair. That
7 was from the first year that brown bears were allowed
8 to be harvested over bait. And I don't have the exact
9 numbers in front of me, but there was a substantial
10 increased number of bait stations registered, whether
11 that was coincidental to being the first year you could
12 harvest brown bears or for another reason.

13
14 What I can tell you in relation, so
15 it's been three years so far that you can harvest brown
16 bears over bait. Those first three years, which were
17 2013 to 2015, those springs three, six, and eight brown
18 bears were harvested over bait, although total harvest
19 throughout the entire year stayed fairly constant at 24
20 in regulatory years 2012 and 2013 and 23 in regulatory
21 year 2014.

22
23 As far as total number of bait stations
24 registered, I don't have that info on the top of my
25 head for the last two years.

26
27 MS. MAAS: The number of bear baiting
28 stations in 2013, the spring following the State
29 legalizing it, was 89. And the 11-year average that --
30 the preceding 11 years, the average was 50 bait
31 stations per year.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So that's not
34 80 percent.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Right. I think the 80
37 percent increase was year-to-year. And I don't have
38 the 2012 number in front of me, but the number for 2013
39 was 89. And the overall average was -- for 11 years
40 was 50. But again I don't have the number that was in
41 2011 or '12 in front of me.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So what are
44 you basing the 80 percent increase on? 50 average and
45 89 is not 80 percent more. That's confusing.

46
47 MR. KOEHLER: 89?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: From 50?

50

1 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. That's an 80
2 percent increase.
3
4 MS. MAAS: Okay. Thank you. I'm not
5 going to try.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Not in my
8 math. Not in math it isn't.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah. If there's 40 more
13 bait stations than there were before. 40 is four-
14 fifths.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's still
17 misleading.
18
19 MR. KOEHLER: That's till right at
20 around 80.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: To me, that's
23 45 percent more.
24
25 MR. KOEHLER: No. No. No. No. If
26 there's.....
27
28 REPORTER: Will. Will.
29
30 MR. KOEHLER: Oh. I'm sorry.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But let's not
33 argue about math, okay?
34
35 MR. KOEHLER: Well, no. I think it's
36 -- there's -- if there were 50 bait stations before and
37 there was an added 40, that would be right at 80
38 percent. An increase.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You must have
41 got an A in Algebra.
42
43 MR. KOEHLER: No. No. I didn't. But
44 that's.....
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I did.
47
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I get
2 it from 50 to -- and 49 more. It's just how you do
3 your math.

4
5 Virgil.

6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. If my memory is
8 right, we're -- and I'm talking about 20E outside of
9 Tok. When they -- the Board of Game passed a
10 regulation so that you could take grizzly bears over
11 bait in that area, I know quite a few people put out
12 bait stations for them. But I think there was very
13 little harvest of grizzly bears over bait. Do you
14 recall what that was in that first year?

15
16 MR. WELLS: Member Umphenour, are you
17 talking about the -- when it was approved by the Board
18 of Game via not through the regular hunting
19 regulations, but through predator control? Is that
20 what you're speaking to?

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: It might be the
23 Predator Control Plan. I'm not sure. I remember that
24 myself and a couple other people were talking about it.
25 And we were kind of keeping an eye on it. And maybe it
26 was a Predator Control Plan, but people could shoot
27 grizzly bears over bait out of Tok, up to Taylor
28 Highway. And that the people were not getting hardly
29 any bears. Do you remember that?

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I do.

32
33 MR. WELLS: Yeah. So that -- you're
34 speaking as to there was an area designated where you
35 could bait grizzly bears. This was prior to 2012. It
36 was part of the Intensive Management Program. I don't
37 have the exact numbers in front of me, but it was
38 relatively few. I don't have those exact numbers in
39 front of me.

40
41 But since regulatory year 2012, you've
42 been allowed to take them under State Regulations in
43 both Units 20E and 12.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Part of the
46 point I was -- I think it's a learning curve on how to
47 do that. But I do know that when they -- well, maybe
48 Sue has more information than I do. I don't know. I
49 know the success was very low.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it was.
2 I remember it well. There wasn't that many people that
3 set out any and it wasn't productive at all, as I -- I
4 mean it was probably three or four years, I believe it
5 was, prior. And it was not productive.

6
7 MR. WELLS: Yeah. Madame Chair, that's
8 why they stopped that program. It was in place for
9 four or five years, but they stopped it because it was
10 not meeting the objectives under that Intensive
11 Management Program. So it was not an effective tool to
12 meet the objectives lined out for that Program. So
13 that was removed.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
16 Any other questions.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I have one
21 for OSM. What I really wanted to hear was -- and you
22 probably read it. However, as brown bears -- and like
23 Virgil, these are grizzly bears in our country -- have
24 been feeding at black bear baiting stations for years
25 and there's no increased threat to public safety that's
26 expected. So I'm confused why you come up with this
27 justification for defer.

28
29 MS. MAAS: I would defer to the Park
30 Service on that.

31
32 (Laughter)

33
34 MS. MAAS: I mean the justification
35 under this is from the Park Service.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. You
38 write it, but the Park Service is.....

39
40 MS. MAAS: It's a collaborate effort.
41 And it goes through many rounds of review and, you
42 know, all Agencies have input. So.....

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

45
46 MS. MAAS: Yeah. I feel like it's a
47 political issue.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

50

1 MS. MAAS: And I don't want to say
2 something and get in trouble. So I'll leave it at
3 that.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
6 other questions.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Moving along.
11 Is there a report from Board consultation.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
14 we did not have comments on this Proposal under
15 consultation.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Other than the letter that
20 was submitted by AHTNA, Incorporated, for.....
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, just to
23 keep us unconfused maybe we'll read it under public
24 comments. Okay.
25
26 MS. PATTON: Because we did go through
27 public comments for WP16-18.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Am I trying
30 to do this again?
31
32 MS. PATTON: We read the public
33 comments.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I must be
36 tired.
37
38 MS. PATTON: And we're back into
39 discussion again.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
42 think we need a motion.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh. We're done with
45 public testimony.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I
48 asked is there any other public testimony on this.
49 And.....
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
2 16-18.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
7 Discussion.
8
9 Virgil, then Andy.
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: And I support the
12 Proposal. They have kind of a -- in that area, a
13 combination of grizzly bears and brown bears, depending
14 on where you're at; however, there is a learning curve
15 on how to hunt these bears over bait. And it takes
16 people a while to learn how to do it; however, once you
17 learn how to do it, then it's much more effective than
18 trying to hunt them spot and stalk, as they've said in
19 some of these various Staff reports.
20
21 In order to spot and stalk a bear of
22 any kind or any animal, you have to be able to see it.
23 That means it has to be out in an open area someplace,
24 either on a hillside or out in a big meadow or
25 grasslike or whatever. If it's in thick trees and
26 brush, you can't see it. So you're not going to stalk
27 it. The only thing you could possibly do would be to
28 call it, which you can call them as well. But most
29 people don't know how to do that. And the bear has to
30 be where it can hear you before it can even come to you
31 if you're trying to call it.
32
33 So if you want to be efficient at
34 harvesting these bears, one of the best aids you can
35 have is to be able to use bait. But I totally support
36 the Proposal, Madame Chair.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
39
40 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. I guess maybe
41 I just need some clarification. This was submitted by
42 the SRC -- Wrangell SRC, correct?
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's
45 correct.
46
47 MR. BASSICH: And then in the final
48 line which you pointed out in the justification, it
49 says that the Park Service is still considering whether
50 it's appropriate within the Reserve. And then when I

1 look at the boundaries of Unit 12 and 11, a very large
2 portion of that falls within Wrangell-St. Elias. So I
3 guess I'm just wondering if this is -- if this Proposal
4 passes by the Board, but then the Park Service that
5 we're not going to allow it, what's the point?
6

7 If the vast majority of it -- I realize
8 there are some areas outside the Wrangell-St. Elias
9 that might benefit -- subsistence users might benefit.
10 But maybe you could explain some of that to me because
11 I'm a little confused as to why we're doing this.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Here's the
14 deal. If you remember when we got the first report on
15 the first rule, they told us it would never affect
16 subsistence. That proposed rule was just for
17 sporthunting. They're calling it sporthunting. A lot
18 of people argue that it's just general hunting, but it
19 does not stop these proposals from going through the
20 Federal Board. We can still have bear baiting for
21 subsistence.
22

23 Under that Park Service Proposed Rule,
24 it would stop it for -- if that passes through, which
25 mostly will, it will shut it down to the regular hunter
26 from across the State on any Preserve Land. But on any
27 of the Park land, if we don't have a Proposal that
28 allows it, it would not be allowed.
29

30 MR. BASSICH: Okay. That clarifies.
31 Thank you.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
34 And then that's probably one of the most hardest things
35 for me to wrap my head around, is why would the Park
36 Service come to us and tell us that it doesn't affect
37 us. And then suddenly when you read this, they're
38 telling you it does affect you. I have a real hard
39 time with it.
40

41 Andy.
42

43 MR. BASSICH: Okay. So I guess I'm
44 just going to work through the justifications here as I
45 see them. It doesn't appear that there's a
46 conservation concern from all the documentation that I
47 see.
48

49 This is a traditional means for
50 subsistence users to harvest these animals, so I think

1 it's a positive thing for people living in remote
2 areas. Subsistence users or -- this will benefit
3 subsistence users on the land and I don't see this as
4 necessarily restricting other users the way it's
5 written, so I will be in support of this.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Others.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. KOEHLER: Call for the question.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That quickly.

14 We don't need to put any more on the record. Okay.

15

16 MR. KOEHLER: We talked about it. I

17 mean we're basically saying the same thing we said

18 on.....

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: From the last

21 proposal.

22

23 MR. KOEHLER:the last proposal.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So we put all

26 that on the record. Okay.

27

28 The question is called for. All those

29 in favor, say aye.

30

31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone

34 opposed.

35

36 (No opposing votes)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Passes

39 unanimously. And I would like to say that I got a

40 grizzly bear over bait last year and I cooked up a

41 bunch of steak. And I'm going to bring it in after

42 break and so you can all taste it and tell me that you

43 don't like it. So I decided it's very important to let

44 you know that it's good for human consumption.

45

46 All right. Next. Help me out here.

47 Is it 13. The next proposal is a crossover proposal,

48 number 16.

49

50 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,

1 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
2 my name is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summer of
3 the analysis from Wildlife Proposal 16-60, which begins
4 on page 191 of your RAC book.

5
6 Wildlife Proposal 16-16, submitted by
7 the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee, requests
8 that Federal public lands within the Paxson closed area
9 in Unit 13 be closed to the hunting of big game by
10 Federally qualified subsistence users.

11
12 Big game in this area includes black
13 and brown bears, bison and caribou, moose, mountain
14 goat, dahl sheep, wolf, and wolverine.

15
16 The proponent states the Paxson closed
17 area provides viewing areas for moose, caribou, and
18 brown bears and that this closure is needed for
19 biological and aesthetic reasons.

20
21 The Paxson closed area was established
22 by the State in 1958 to provide for easily accessible
23 wildlife viewing. In 1993, BLM lands in Unit 13 were
24 selected by the State, which was allowed to over select
25 by 25 percent lands it wanted conveyed from the Federal
26 Government under Title 9 of the Alaska National
27 Interest Lands Conservation Act or ANILCA.

28
29 In 2014, the BLM became aware of lands
30 in Unit 13 that are unencumbered by State selection,
31 including 1,500 acres within the Paxson closed area.
32 These 1,500 acres returned to BLM Administration and
33 were open to big game hunting under State and Federal
34 Regulations by default. There are no conservation or
35 over harvesting concerns for any of the big game
36 species within the Paxson closed area.

37
38 Maintaining big game hunting on Federal
39 public lands within the Paxson closed area may lead to
40 conflicts with others that use the area for
41 recreational purposes. There are also safety concerns
42 over big game hunting in Paxson area, although these
43 concerns are somewhat diminished since small game
44 hunting has always occurred in the area.

45
46 Local community members are concerned
47 over disturbing caribou migrations and over wintering
48 moose. However, as there are only 1,500 acres of
49 Federal public lands within the Paxson closed area,
50 closing or opening these lands is not expected to have

1 any impact on the conservation or harvest of big game
2 species within Unit 13. Additionally, this proposed
3 closure does not meet any of the criteria for a closure
4 under the Federal Closure Policy.

5
6 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
7 oppose WP16-16.

8
9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
12 Any questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Report
17 on the consultations.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
20 we did not have any comments from Tribes or ANCSA
21 Corporations in the consultation.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Agency
24 comments. ADF&G.

25
26 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
27 This is Jill. Right now the Department's preliminary
28 recommendation was to support the Proposal.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
31 questions. You want to know why? Ask.

32
33 MS. KLEIN: Why?

34
35 MS. PITKA: Yes. What was the
36 justification?

37
38 MS. KLEIN: I think some of it was that
39 it had been closed for so long. And they present now
40 that it's opened a public safety concern and it has
41 been in an area where locals and visitors could go to
42 view wildlife safely. And that people might
43 accidentally enter an area that's been opened to
44 hunting.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But Jill,
47 hasn't it been open all this time anyway on Federal
48 land?

49
50 MS. KLEIN: I'm not sure of the Federal

1 history. What I was just learning is in 2014 it says
2 the opening of hunting for Federally qualified users in
3 a portion of the Paxson closed area that had been
4 closed. So I thought something opened in 2014, but I
5 may be incorrect on that.

6

7 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair, that's
8 correct. That since 2014 when those lands were
9 returned to BLM Administration, it was opened to big
10 game hunting by default.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or there
13 wouldn't be a proposal to close it. Okay.

14

15 MR. KOEHLER: But before then, it had
16 been closed?

17

18 MS. MAAS: That's correct.

19

20 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
23 Any comments from Federal Agencies, Native Tribal
24 Village or other, or Inter-Agency Staff.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
29 Hearing none. Advisory Committee Groups.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
32 we don't have any Advisory Committee comments on this
33 Proposal.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are you sure?

36

37

38 MS. PATTON: I just read it. I'll
39 double check again.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm surprised
44 that Paxson doesn't.

45

46 MS. PATTON: The only AC comments that
47 we received directly were for the Fairbanks Fish and
48 Game Advisory Committee and the Upper Tanana-Fortymile
49 Advisory Committee. And neither has commented on this
50 Proposal.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But this
2 wasn't submitted by the Paxson Fish and Game Advisory
3 Committee. Okay.

4
5 All right. Next. Advisory -- or the
6 Subsistence Resource Commission. Go ahead.

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: Actually, if you're
9 interested I can tell you what the Southcentral RAC did
10 with this Proposal.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: And I will tell you
15 that John Schandelemeier, who's the Chair of the Paxson
16 AC, was at the Southcentral Meeting and testified in
17 support of their Proposal.

18
19 But the Southcentral RAC opposed the
20 Proposal. There was a lot of discussion. They had a
21 number of members of the public who commented. The RAC
22 spent a lot of time discussing this Proposal, but in
23 the end they voted to oppose it.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks,
26 Barbara. Appreciate it.

27
28 Summary of written public comments.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
31 we have 11 written comments that were received and many
32 of them were submitted all together as handwritten
33 comments from individuals. And then we also have a
34 letter in support of WP16-16 that was submitted by
35 AHTNA, Incorporated, the Customary and Traditional Use
36 Committee comments.

37
38 I'll start with AHTNA, Incorporated.
39 They oppose WP16-16, which proposes the closure of
40 Paxson area, which is in the unencumbered Federal
41 public lands. Federally qualified subsistence users
42 will not have an opportunity to hunt for large and
43 small game near or off the highway system within the
44 Paxson hunting areas.

45
46 Closure of this significant customary
47 and traditional use area for hunting, gathering, and
48 fishing will disenfranchise Federally qualified
49 subsistence users. Federally qualified subsistence
50 users will have to hunt elsewhere on Federal public

1 lands. Other Federal public lands are largely
2 inaccessible.

3

4 Hunting areas on public lands within
5 Unit 13 is minimal and closing this additional acreage
6 in which to hunt for large and small game would be
7 disadvantageous to the local Federally qualified
8 subsistence users.

9

10 Paxson areas are an ideal place to
11 hunt, fish, and pick berries. Closure of the Paxson
12 areas will adversely affect hunters that combine
13 hunting with other subsistence activities, such as
14 picking berries or fishing.

15

16 Paxson Lake areas described above are
17 AHTNA people's customary and traditionally use areas
18 for hunting, gathering, and other subsistence purposes.
19 AHTNA people have used these areas for thousands of
20 years to hunt, fish, and gather plants.

21

22 Please refer to the report entitled
23 Some Ethno-Graphic and Historical Information on the
24 Use of Large Mammals in the Copper Basin, by William
25 Simeone. On page 38 is -- she's suggesting to look at.
26 And that was published August 2006. And it states in
27 some areas -- this is in quotes. "In some areas, such
28 as Paxson Lake, Tanana Lake, or Tazlina Lake, caribou
29 were stampeded into the water and speared from canoes."

30

31

32 Other documentation in this report by
33 the late AHTNA Chief Ben Neeley states that he and his
34 family hunted up on the Gulkana River and into the
35 Tangle Lakes area. And that's citing page 28 of that
36 Report by Bill Simeone.

37

38 And that concludes the AHTNA comments.
39 Again, AHTNA, Incorporated, supports WP16-16. Oh, I'm
40 sorry. I misspoke. They oppose WP16-16.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: All right. Thank you. I
45 just had a question about procedure. It seems to me in
46 the past whenever we came to this point of written
47 comment, we basically just identified who the proponent
48 was or who the letter was from and whether they're in
49 support or not.

50

1 And I'm just wondering if some policies
2 have changed that we're going into detail on ever
3 letter and then reading it into the record. It's in
4 the record because it's in our book, so I'm wondering
5 why we're spending the time going through the detailed
6 content of the letter.

7
8 It seems to me that we could speed up
9 and make our meeting more efficient if we could just
10 identify who wrote the letter, whether they're in
11 support or not. Because each one of us has this before
12 us. We can read it, disseminate it, and then use that
13 to make our decision or our recommendation. Just some
14 -- I'm just trying to.....

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think
17 people are being more vocal.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But yeah, I'd
22 like it to be concise. What about the rest of the
23 Council. Would you agree.

24
25 MR. KOEHLER: I would agree.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Nod of
28 heads.

29
30 (Council nods affirmatively)

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. I
33 think it does need to be a little shortened up.
34 Appreciate it. Yeah. Just in essence of time for us.

35
36
37 Okay. We got through the written
38 public comments.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
41 there were ten other comments that were submitted.
42 They're very -- they're brief. Essentially each
43 individual was stating their support or opposition to
44 this proposal. And that's on page 208 and 209. And
45 these -- oh, go ahead.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I will admit
48 that I kind of yellowed in each individual one.

49
50 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And I've got
2 13. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight,
3 nine, ten, eleven, twelve. And then the last one you
4 read, 13. So that would be 13 opposed.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Okay.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And not 11.
9
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Yes.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I read
13 each.....
14
15 MS. PATTON: These are individuals.
16 Yeah.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER:
19individual one.
20
21 MS. PATTON: Yeah.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's 13.
24
25 MS. PATTON: Okay.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So okay.
28 Thanks, Andy.
29
30 Now we are ready. Did I call for
31 public testimony. Is there anyone out there that wants
32 to testify to this.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Move to adopt
37 Proposal 16-16.
38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
42
43 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, do you have any more
44 information about this? Because it seems to be a
45 little bit -- it's not quite so cut and dry to some of
46 the other proposals. And you're the closest one I know
47 of to the area. And it's just -- it seems like there's
48 a lot of people supporting, a lot of people opposing
49 that are living in the Region. So.....
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, what
2 has happened in areas like Unit 13, there's very little
3 Federal land. So if there's just a little window of
4 place where they can go, they don't want to lose that
5 window of opportunity. And.....

6
7 MR. KOEHLER: And yet the proposal for
8 closing it comes from a local Advisory Committee.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right. And I
11 know John Schandelemeier personally. He lives out in
12 the middle of the -- he has a -- he had a lodge out
13 there. I think he's -- I'm surprised he's still there
14 actually. But yeah. He probably had some strong
15 feelings about that. So it sounds like after a long
16 discussion with the Southcentral and he was present,
17 that the Southcentral still went with it. That's all I
18 can contribute that I know.

19
20 I just know that people when there's a
21 little piece of land that they can hunt on, they're
22 anxious to go there and hunt. I do know that that
23 chunk of land is right at the Denali Highway where it
24 hits the Richardson. And it's highly visible. It's
25 just all open. And there's a lot of cabins that you
26 see over at Summit Lake from there. And yeah. And I
27 think the amount of caribou that might get shot in that
28 little piece of Federal land might be minuscule.

29
30 MR. KOEHLER: It sounds like maybe it's
31 also a nice place to run your dog team unmolested by
32 caribou hunters.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Probably when
37 they're present, it's a different story. Because it is
38 on the road system. Yeah.

39
40 Andy and then Virgil.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 Yeah. Well, I think it goes to what you were saying a
44 little bit earlier, too. That some of it has to do
45 with just what people grow up with and what their
46 interest is in the use of the land. And it sounds like
47 it's more an issue of that than any kind of a
48 biological or any other kind of a concern there.

49
50 I'm a little bit torn because I think

1 it is good to have some of these areas in the State
2 where there is access to view without hunting pressure
3 for those that want that kind of experience. But
4 sitting here in this seat, my job is to protect people
5 who live out in the Region and need the food.

6
7 And with that thought in mind, I think
8 I'm going to be opposed to this Proposal. Because it
9 doesn't -- there is no conservation concern with this.
10 There may be some people in the area that it's a --
11 would be a very important food source for them fairly
12 close to home, which as a subsistence user is
13 oftentimes really, really important to you.

14
15 And I'm not -- as far as, you know,
16 unnecessarily restricting other uses, I think it's a
17 matter of people just working together and trying to
18 figure out how to make it work in their Region. And it
19 sounds like they have some pretty dedicated people on
20 their local Advisory Committees and they're, you know,
21 representing the Region. So I think this Proposal
22 should fail and people should be in a position to try
23 and work out what's going to work in the Region
24 locally.

25
26 I feel a little bit uncomfortable
27 commenting on something so far removed from me. That's
28 all I have to say, Madame Chair.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And the
33 reason we take it up, as you know, is that people in
34 our Region qualify to hunt there.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Right.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So Virgil.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I don't know how
41 many people are familiar with this area, but -- I
42 haven't been down there for a while, but it's where the
43 people live at Paxson. That would be like opening the
44 hunting season in Downtown North Pole basically.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I don't know
47 exactly.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's not that
2 populated, Virgil.

3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's not that
5 populated, but that's where the people live. There's
6 not much population in Paxson. But it comes from their
7 AC.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Exactly.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: And that's right along
12 the road, between the road and the -- right beside of
13 the road. You drive by where the people live. The
14 Highway Department Camp is there for their snow removal
15 and et cetera. And a couple other people live right
16 there. It's -- they want to close people hunting right
17 there in their yard basically is what it appears to me.

18
19
20 But -- so I kind of feel like
21 supporting it because the people that live there are
22 the ones that put the proposal forward. And that's
23 been a closed area since 1958 anyway.

24
25 But I support it, Madame Chair.

26
27 Plus, that's right downstream from that
28 fish hatchery that the PWSAC has. That stream site
29 incubation box for all the red salmon. And they've
30 caused all kinds of major problems with that. Anyway,
31 so that attracts bears.

32
33 When they were building pump station
34 ten, I was on the crew that built that thing back in
35 '74. And there was very few people that actually lived
36 in Alaska that worked on that job. They were from all
37 over the place. I had to write a letter once because
38 of the comments I made about that, where they come
39 from. But in -- in the Lower 48.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Are we
44 getting off topic?

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: No. I'm not getting
49 off topic. What I'm saying is those guys really enjoy
50 sitting over there and watching the bears right there

1 on the creek, the river. And I'm serious. The Gulkana
2 River. Right below the fish hatchery. That's what
3 we're talking about. Just right there at Paxson. And
4 this is right in the Town of Paxson is what they want
5 to close. So I support it.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.

8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Did the Paxson AC put
10 anything in before the Board of Game.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: They didn't
13 need to because it's already closed.

14

15 MR. FIRMIN: So that's only the Federal
16 side that's open.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.

19

20 MR. FIRMIN: There is no State season
21 in this area.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's just this right
24 there. It's the only thing they're talking about.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: And that's the town's
29 center.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I was going
32 to tease you, Virgil. If your guide use area was in
33 that area, you'd want it open.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh, gosh.
38 Did that answer your question, Andrew?

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. I guess so. I was
41 looking at a different part of the map, but I see that
42 as being kind of restricting for subsistence users that
43 live right there.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. FIRMIN: But that is -- that is
48 right there. That's like hunting across the river. It
49 doesn't seem awfully close to people's homes. And
50 especially if the hunter's from there -- from farther

1 away than that community.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And, you
4 know, I could argue there's a bunch of people live
5 where I do. And I want to have it closed for viewing.
6 I just -- I have a little difficulty with that because
7 it all works. And when I see all the people go by my
8 house go moose hunting and I go wow, that's a lot of
9 people. But I don't want to shut them out.

10

11 And I don't know. That's -- I just
12 don't see it as a huge conflict because -- and I guess
13 I would like to -- I would love to hear what the vote
14 was from the AC because a lot of these people that are
15 -- don't want it. All these comments that are opposing
16 that, they live there, too. They live out there, too.
17 That's their home. So I know it was closed. Maybe
18 there's places where -- that need to get back open
19 again in this State. That's kind of where I'm
20 thinking.

21

22 Others.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I suppose we
27 could take no action and let the Southcentral deal with
28 it because it's their Region. But this is a crossover
29 Proposal and it affects people in Unit 12, along the
30 Nabesna Road.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And maybe me.
35 I can't -- I'd have to look at my C&T to find out.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Well, and I myself got a --
38 closing areas is something I'm never in favor of. We
39 did it on the Coleen and they were trying to close it.
40 And like Virgil stated, in that case it belonged to
41 everybody in America, you know. But not subsistence
42 hunting of course, but the area. I mean and pretty
43 soon they won't want nobody walking around back there.

44

45

46 You know, I'd like to see them close
47 the area around Central, too. I get motor homes plus
48 poor snowmachines stuck in my driveway trying to turn
49 around. So I got no -- I mean let them hooked.

50

1 So I'm opposed also.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We
4 have a motion on the floor. We're on discussion. Is
5 there other discussion on this motion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is your
10 opportunity.
11
12 Donald.
13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Call for question.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I hope
17 we met all of our stuff here.
18
19 Andrew.
20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Before we call the
22 question, I just want to clarify one thing on this
23 little map here. Which part are they actually trying
24 to close. The part inside the closed area that's been
25 closed since 1958 or the part adjacent to it.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you
28 remember when Lisa said that by defacto BLM got the
29 land.
30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah. That's what I was
32 reading here.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So it's that
35 yellow.
36
37 MR. FIRMIN: The yellow was inside the
38 closed area.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Okay.
43
44 MR. KOEHLER: So we've been talking
45 about two square miles.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I know.
48 That's why I said it's just -- it's so insignificant.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's
2 just.....
3
4 MR. KOEHLER: It sounds like a small
5 town feud.
6
7 (Laughter)
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So if I was
10 to go through this whole thing I'd have to agree -- I'd
11 say that the OSM did a good job of covering all these
12 issues.
13
14 So is the question -- any other
15 questions.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So the
20 question's been called for, Donald?
21
22 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yep. Okay.
25 If it gets -- all those in favor of closing that little
26 piece of one mile or two miles, say aye.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Aye.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Raise your
31 hand. How many opposed. Okay. I mean in favor.
32
33 And how many are opposed, say aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And raise
38 your hand. Go ahead. Are you abstaining?
39
40 MR. KOEHLER: Abstained.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
43 there's the vote. Is that 7-1-1. Okay.
44
45 So do we need a break or do you want to
46 move on to another one. Take a break.
47
48 (Council nods affirmatively)
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We'll

1 take a ten-minute break.

2

3 (Off record)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
8 We are now on number 17. Remove the restrictions in
9 Unit 13 to hunt caribou within the Pipeline Corridor.
10 And Lisa is going to work on that one for us.

11

12 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
13 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
14 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary
15 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-17, which
16 begins on page 211 of your RAC book.

17

18 Wildlife Proposal 16-17, submitted by
19 the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
20 Council, requests that the restriction prohibiting
21 Federally qualified subsistence users from hunting
22 caribou within the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-
23 way in Unit 13 remainder be rescinded.

24

25 The proponent states that this
26 restriction is an undue burden on Federally qualified
27 subsistence users and not related to any conservation
28 concerns.

29

30 The proponent also states that there is
31 no restriction to hunting within the Pipeline Corridor
32 under State regulations.

33

34 The restriction to hunting within the
35 Alaska Pipeline Corridor was adopted from State
36 Regulations when the Federal Subsistence Program was
37 established in 1990. The restriction was lifted under
38 State Regulations in 1995.

39

40 The nelchina caribou herd population
41 has been within or above the management objective of
42 35,000 to 40,000 caribou over the past ten years. The
43 bull/cow ratio has been well above the management
44 objective of 40 bulls per 100 cows since 2009 and the
45 calf/cow ratio indicates a stable to increasing
46 population.

47

48 The nelchina caribou herd in Unit 13 is
49 a popular hunt for many users due to its easy
50 accessibility and proximity to Anchorage and Fairbanks.

1 The annual harvest quota has been met or exceeded every
2 year since 2010. Most of the harvest, about 80
3 percent, occurs under State Regulations, which expected
4 as Federal Public Lands only comprise 15 percent of
5 Unit 13.

6
7 Adopting this proposal would remove the
8 risk of citation for hunting within the Pipeline
9 Corridor and would provide Federally qualified
10 subsistence users with the same opportunity as users
11 hunting under State Regulations. There are no
12 conservation concerns for the nelchina caribou herd and
13 adopting this proposal is not expected to have any
14 biological impacts.

15
16 There are some public safety concerns
17 about hunting near the Pipeline; however, no incidents
18 have occurred since 2001 and users may already hunt
19 within the Pipeline Corridor under State Regulations.

20
21 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
22 support WP16-17.

23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you for
27 that great report.

28
29 Short and sweet and to the point.

30
31 Any questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
36 Consultation report.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
39 there was no comments from Tribes or ANCSA Corps during
40 the Tribal consultation sessions.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. ADF&G.

43
44 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 This is Jill. The Department's preliminary
46 recommendation is to support the Proposal.

47
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

50

1 Any other Agency comments, Federal,
2 Native Tribal Village, or Inter-Agency Staff.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Advisory
7 Group comments. Do we have any.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
10 there were no comments on WP16-17.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
13
14 MS. PATTON: From the AC's that
15 submitted comments.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Barbara, did
18 you have some report for us?
19
20 MS. CELLARIUS: I received a message
21 from a member of the Southcentral Council. And the
22 Southcentral Council supported the Proposal.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Any
25 public written comments.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
28 we do have again a letter from AHTNA, Incorporated.
29 And they support WP17-16 (sic), citing that the Federal
30 Regulation should allow more liberal hunting
31 opportunities than State Regulations. And along the
32 Alaska Oil Pipeline right-of-way. And that's AHTNA,
33 Incorporated. Again, they support WP16-17.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any public
36 testimony.
37
38 (No comments)
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
41 16-17.
42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.
46
47 Andy.
48
49 MR. BASSICH: Well, I guess to me this
50 seems like it's almost more like a housekeeping type of

1 a proposal. If it's already allowed within the State
2 and there's no conservation concerns. I don't hear any
3 objections from any entities, so I'd be in support of
4 it, Madame Chair.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Others.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Did you call
11 for the question?

12
13 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. I
16 thought so.

17
18 Okay. All in favor.

19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
23 opposed.

24
25 (No opposing votes)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.

28 Thank you.

29
30 Next would be 20. Unit 11 sheep.

31
32 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
33 Members of the Council. For the record, my name is
34 Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary of the
35 analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-20, which begins on
36 page 233 of your RAC book.

37
38 Wildlife Proposal 16-20, submitted by
39 this Council, requests that the harvest limit for sheep
40 in Unit 11 be modified from one sheep to one ram with
41 3/4 curl horn or larger.

42
43 The proponent states that a
44 conservative approach to sheep management in Unit 11 is
45 needed due to declining sheep populations and
46 relatively easy road access. The proponent states that
47 the requested changes are necessary to enable the sheep
48 population to increase. And would still give Federally
49 qualified subsistence users a meaningful priority over
50 State users.

1 There are numerous sheep populations
2 within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve,
3 which spans Units 11 and 12. Density, abundance, and
4 trends varies by population and location. Overall, the
5 total sheep population within Wrangell-St. Elias
6 National Park and Preserve has declined about 50
7 percent since 1990, from about 26,000 in 1990 to about
8 12,400 in 2010. However, the Unit 11 sheep population
9 has remained relatively stable over the past 20 years.
10 In 1993 therein an estimated 5,100 sheep and in 2010 an
11 estimated 4,400 sheep. Although again this is an
12 overall Unit-wide estimate, population numbers in some
13 portions of the Unit are well below those observed in
14 the early 1990s. In 2010 rams comprised 25 percent of
15 the Unit 11 sheep population, with full curl rams
16 comprising six percent of the overall Unit 11
17 population. Total Unit 11 sheep harvest has declined
18 since 1991. Harvest average 54 sheep per year between
19 2005 and 2014. Local residents accounted for most of
20 the harvest, averaging 26 sheep per year. And the vast
21 majority of sheep harvested are rams, with most of
22 those being greater than 3/4 curl horns. One
23 alternative considered was to modify the proponent's
24 request to any ram.

25
26 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
27 Preserve and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game are
28 conducting research on the effects of selected harvest
29 on the ram population structure and they support this
30 alternative under this study concludes in two years.
31 This alternative was not selected as it negates the
32 proponent's intent to protect younger rams; however,
33 the Council may wish to further discuss the merits of
34 this alternative.

35
36 Adopting this Proposal would result
37 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
38 by restricting harvest to rams with 3/4 curl or
39 greater, but would still maintain a meaningful
40 subsistence priority. Disturbances to ewes and younger
41 rams would also be reduced, which could aid in
42 enhancing the Unit 11 sheep population.

43
44 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
45 support WP16-20. And I would also just like to clarify
46 that in the justification for this, which is on
47 page.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: 231.
50

1 MS. MAAS:231. Thank you. There
2 is a typo. And it should be Wrangell-St. Elias, not
3 Unit 11, when it says the sheep population has declined
4 approximately 50 percent. That's in Wrangell-St.
5 Elias, not Unit 11.

6
7 Thank you, Madame Chair.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think you
10 did say that this was mostly road access. The Preserve
11 is, but not the Park part. And subsistence qualifies
12 for that also. That's something that we need to keep
13 in mind. Understand what I'm saying?

14
15 MS. MAAS: According to the discussion
16 that was part of the proponent's rationale, was that
17 the requested change is necessary to enable the -- or
18 is needed due to declining sheep population because of
19 easy -- relatively easy access.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Where there's
22 roads.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Right.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other areas
27 would be different.

28
29 MS. MAAS: Right.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Just a
32 clarification.

33
34 Okay. Any other questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Barbara, did
39 you have some more to report?

40
41 MS. CELLARIUS: I did. I just wanted
42 to mention a couple of things. The handout that you
43 got at lunchtime -- yeah. The very final sheet has
44 some updated sheep population data that we got from
45 some recent surveys. And I would just point out that
46 these recent surveys, 2013 to 2015, indicate that the
47 sheep population is stable to increasing. There have
48 been greater than 40 rams per 100 ewes in 11 of the 13
49 count units surveyed during this period. And total
50 sheep numbers and the ewe has increased. And the

1 lamb/ewe ratios were high in all of the count units
2 surveyed in 2015, both in GMU 11 and GMU 12, those
3 count units within Wrangell-St. Elias.

4
5 And if you're interested -- well,
6 actually I should see if Judy our wildlife biologist
7 has been able to call in.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Judy, have
10 you called in? Are you out there online?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: I know that they were
15 -- the Southcentral Council was getting close to Agency
16 reports, so it may be that she hadn't quite been able
17 to join us yet.

18
19 I also have some information on the
20 research project if you're interested in hearing about
21 that.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Which project
24 was it.

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: The sheep research
27 project that the Park is doing with Tom Lohuis, who's
28 the Fish and Game Sheep Biologist.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

31
32 MS. CELLARIUS: I could give you a
33 little more information about that project.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm sure we'd
36 like to hear that.

37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: So the project is to
43 determine the effects of the full curl harvest
44 regulation versus a less restrictive harvest regulation
45 on juvenile rams. So under the full curl only harvest
46 regulation more mature rams are left to breed the
47 population. Under a less restrictive harvest
48 opportunity more mature rams greater than 3/4 curl are
49 removed by harvest and juvenile rams participate in the
50 rut to a greater extent, leading to immature courtship

1 behavior, including harassment of ewes, less tending of
2 ewes, prolonged mating season, and remaining with ewes
3 past the rut. This increased participation causes
4 greater energy expenditure by both groups, depletes
5 energy reserves, lowers pregnancy and parturition
6 rates, and could lead to higher over winter mortality.
7

8
9 So the purpose of the study is to test
10 that hypothesis and they will also be screening for
11 disease. And so this is the project that would be
12 conducted over the next two years. We have a good
13 opportunity to do it in the Park because we have one
14 unit that has a full curl ram for all hunters -- full
15 curl ram harvest limit for all hunters and then a Unit
16 that there are -- is a less restrictive limit for
17 subsistence users.
18

19 The other thing to note about this
20 study is it's going to be coinciding with a NASA-funded
21 UAF study to quantify changes in vegetation and the
22 snow extent in alpine ecosystems. And that's going to
23 be using remote sensing. And so they will be able to
24 sort of look at the results of the study that they're
25 doing and compare it to this remote sensing project
26 which is also focusing on sheep.
27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No results.
31 They're just starting this study, right?
32

33 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
36

37 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes. They're just
38 getting started. They plan to be in the field
39 next.....
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
42

43 MS. CELLARIUS:fall and winter.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Will.
46

47 MR. KOEHLER: Barbara, could you please
48 read that hypothesis part again just so -- because I --
49 I was listening to and I.....
50

1 MS. CELLARIUS: Sure.
2
3 MR. KOEHLER: And it was kind of only
4 half there.
5
6 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, and, you know,
7 I'm trying to read fast. And I'll read it a little
8 more slowly.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MS. CELLARIUS: Under a less
13 restrictive harvest strategy, most mature rams are
14 courted -- are removed by harvest. So when you had
15 a.....
16
17 MR. KOEHLER: I understand what you're
18 saying.
19
20 MS. CELLARIUS: So you end up with
21 juvenile rams participating in the rut more when the
22 mature rams have been removed.
23
24 MR. KOEHLER: That's the hypothesis.
25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah. And so then
27 there's some discussion about, you know, maybe they're
28 essentially less good at the -- you know, less good at
29 mating essentially. And so this -- so when the
30 juvenile rams are participating more in the rut it
31 causes greater energy expenditure by both groups, the
32 rams and the ewes, depletes energy reserves, lowers
33 pregnancy and parturition rates, and could lead to
34 higher over winter mortality among junior rams
35 participating in the rut.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is a
38 hypothesis.
39
40 MR. KOEHLER: And this is.....
41
42 MS. CELLARIUS: This is the
43 hypothesis.....
44
45 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.
46
47 MS. CELLARIUS:that's going to be
48 tested by the study.
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Okay.

1
2 MS. CELLARIUS: To try to understand
3 essentially the impact of having a full curl ram.....
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We get it.
6
7 MS. CELLARIUS:harvest limit
8 versus something less.
9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Uh-huh. We
11 get it.
12
13 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair, this is
14 on page 230 of your RAC book. If you're more of a
15 visual learning versus audio then you could read what
16 Barbara just said on page 230 under other alternatives
17 considered.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But I'm a
20 little bit confused that this -- that you can do that
21 in Unit 11 and 12 because the only place where it's
22 open to any sheep is in -- for subsistence use. And
23 the rest of the hunting in Unit 11 is for full curl
24 ram. So I don't see -- is full curl ram in both? You
25 know, for most of the hunting, it's full curl ram. And
26 it's just subsistence use. It's not so it doesn't seem
27 like you can really do it unless you're just doing it
28 in the high Park.
29
30 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, and, you know,
31 I'm sorry that Judy hasn't managed to call in. It's
32 been hard for us juggling two RAC meetings at the same
33 time. But we do have, you know, a fairly substantial
34 area of Unit 11 that -- where only subsistence harvest
35 is occurring.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: That's right.
38
39
40 MS. CELLARIUS: It's up in the
41 mountains, which is where, you know, you're going to
42 find sheep, a lot of it.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And those
45 people don't have aircraft access, so it's probably not
46 heavily used. So.....
47
48 MS. CELLARIUS: So.....
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But it's a

1 little confusing to me how that can -- you can derive
2 that.

3
4 MS. CELLARIUS: The biologists feel
5 like this is a good opportunity to test this hypothesis
6 given the current harvest limits.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You needed to
9 test it when it was any sheep for everybody, is when
10 they need to go back and work on when it was open for
11 everybody, which it was for a good many years.

12
13 MR. KOEHLER: And they did do studies
14 during that time. And all of the information from that
15 time then would say that this hypothesis is not --
16 would not be able to be proven.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. That's
19 -- I think that came up at our SRC meeting, too.

20
21 Okay. Any questions.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Moving
26 on. Consultation.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
29 we did not receive any comments during the Tribal
30 consultation or ANCSA consultation.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Agency
33 comments.

34
35 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 This is Jill. The Department's preliminary
37 recommendation is to support the proposal.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
40 Jill. Our feedback.

41
42 Any comments from Federal Agencies,
43 Native Tribal Village, Other, or Inter-Agency Staff.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Advisory
48 Committee Group comments.

49
50 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,

1 the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee supports
2 WP16-20 as a conservation based Proposal. And the
3 Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee also supports
4 unanimously WP16-20.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
7 Advisory Groups.

8
9 Barbara.

10
11 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
12 Cellarius. And first I'll share with you that the
13 Southcentral RAC voted to oppose the Proposal. And
14 then the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource
15 Commission also took up the Proposal. The SRC supports
16 an amended version of the Proposal. Specifically the
17 SRC recommends amending the Proposal to restrict the
18 harvest of dall sheep in Unit 11 to any ram. Given
19 stable to increasing sheep populations in our area, a
20 3/4 curl or larger restriction to subsistence users is
21 not needed at this time. Protecting ewes helps to grow
22 the sheep population and any ram harvest limit would
23 preserve subsistence opportunity with minimal impact to
24 the sheep population. Once the results of the upcoming
25 sheep study are available, there will be an opportunity
26 to use the results of that study to help make further
27 decisions about sheep harvest regulations.

28
29 Thank you, Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So you have
32 the vote for the Southcentral RAC?

33
34 MS. CELLARIUS: I don't.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

37
38 MS. CELLARIUS: I just have -- I just
39 got a -- I've heard from two people now that they just
40 voted it down.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
43 you, Barbara.

44
45 Any written public comments.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
48 we have one written public comment submitted by AHTNA,
49 Incorporated, Customary and Traditional Use Committee.
50 They oppose WP16-20. They feel that there is no

1 conservation concern that would warrant the restriction
2 to subsistence users at this time. And if there was a
3 concern, that the restrictions should be proposed to
4 the Alaska Board of Game. And they note that qualified
5 subsistence users cannot fly in to hunt on the National
6 Park lands, which limits that access. And that
7 sporthunters have more access. And there may be
8 greater conservation concern there.

9

10 So again, AHTNA, Incorporated, opposes
11 WP16-20.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there any
14 public testimony.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
19 16-20.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.

24

25 Will.

26

27 MR. KOEHLER: I am in favor of any
28 proposal that moves the ram requirement to -- from any
29 sheep to rams or rams of 3/4 curl. In this Region, I
30 feel that we're still recovering from that hard winter
31 of -- what was that, seven or eight years back now.
32 That in the -- in my area of Unit 12 that I've seen
33 which is not impacted by this, but that was a very
34 broad reaching -- that winter had very broad reaching
35 affects in our Region. I'm just now starting to see a
36 little bit of improvement. And we also had a very,
37 very hard spring on the spring of 2012. And I think
38 that our sheep populations could do with some careful
39 management. And I think that there's quite a bit of
40 literature that suggests that the full curl or at least
41 the 3/4 curl requirement is good for our sheep
42 populations. And I don't think that it negatively
43 impacts subsistence users enough to justify keeping it
44 open to any sheep because I think we have a lot better
45 chance for our children and grandchildren to be able to
46 hunt sheep if we have -- if we do some restrictive
47 measures now.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andrew.

50

1 MR. FIRMIN: I'd just like to say that
2 I'm -- the less restrictive way that I prefer is the
3 SRC's any ram amendment to the Proposal. It sounds
4 less restrictive to me and it sounds like that would
5 give them leeway because their -- what was it called.
6 Their DRM. Their DRM hypothesis sounds completely --
7 it has relevance. The cat's away. The mice are going
8 to play, you know.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone else.
11 Comments.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Discussion.

16
17 Donald.

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll defer to what Will
20 said. I don't know much about the sheep in that area,
21 but I know that shooting any sheep is not very
22 conservation wise.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, that's
25 why we put it in, if you remember. And I think I had
26 some say about that. I've hunted that area for many,
27 many years and there is areas where -- isolated pockets
28 where they're shooting probably out some populations
29 because, you know, it's road access to this one little
30 areas and a lot of people can shoot any sheep. And it
31 just seems like we should take care of our future of
32 our sheep. So -- and at the SCR it was a compromise.
33 And I thought maybe that's what I was going to see
34 coming from Southcentral based on all the people that
35 were at our SRC meeting that that's how it would come
36 out at the Southcentral, so I'm a little disappointed
37 that it didn't come out like the SRC's.

38
39 But I would -- I don't know. I think
40 I'm now really feel strongly about sticking with our
41 original proposal and not amending it.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: Can we call the question
44 then.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We'll
47 base it on what OSM's -- for all this conservation
48 concern, all the comments that OSM has brought forth.

49
50 Question's been called for. All in

1 favor.

2

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone

6 opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Motion

11 passes.

12

13 Now, we have one more here. Two more

14 actually -- or three. This is another crossover

15 Proposal on number 37.

16

17 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
18 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
19 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary
20 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-37, which
21 begins on page 240 of your RAC book.

22

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

31

32 Specifically, the proponent requested
33 Federal caribou regulations be aligned with the
34 recently adopted State Regulations RC76 in order to
35 reduce regulatory complexity and aid in the
36 conservation of the declining Western Arctic and
37 Teshekpuk caribou herds. The proponent states that the
38 conservation of these herds is imperative and that the
39 proposed changes are aimed at conserving the declining
40 herds while enabling subsistence users to continue to
41 meet their needs.

42

43 The Unit that is most relevant to this
44 Council is Unit 24, as residents of Stevens Village and
45 Tanana have customary and traditional use for caribou
46 in this Unit. The season and harvest limits in the
47 portion of Unit 24 closest to these communities -- and
48 these are the yellow and green portions on your map --
49 are not affected by the changes proposed in WP16-37.
50 WP16-37 is concerned with the Western Arctic and

1 Teshekpuk caribou herds and this portion of Unit 24 is
2 occupied by the Ray Mountain caribou herd.

3

4 I will leave it up to the Council
5 whether they would like me to stop here or present more
6 information for the west of Unit 24 and the biology and
7 harvest of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Do you want
10 to hear more.

11

12 (Council shakes head negatively)

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm seeing
15 no. This is a crossover Proposal so we would probably
16 be more interested in what the effects are of people.
17 So.....

18

19 Will.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: And also this is a
22 Proposal by Jack Reakoff. And we've seen a number of
23 his proposals before. They're always very well thought
24 out and very well organized. Usually very good for the
25 resource and always very long.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Let's
30 keep it to the short version, please.

31

32 MS. MAAS: Oh. In that case, I mean
33 Madame Chair, that was pretty much my presentation. It
34 was that the portion that's closest to Stevens Village
35 and Tanana, there's not any changes proposed for the
36 Ray Mountain herd.

37

38 The OSM conclusion is to support with
39 modification, but again this is a Proposal that's six
40 units. And.....

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Chris
43 might have some input for us.

44

45 MR. MCKEE: Well, yeah. I mean I'll
46 just echo what Lisa says. This is dealing with the
47 Teshekpuk and Western Arctic caribou herd and it's just
48 a crossover because of the two Villages in your Region
49 that have it. But it's a huge proposal. In fact, it's
50 the largest analysis I've ever seen in the time I've

1 been here.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. MCKEE: And we have just about
6 every Council just about is going to be taking this up,
7 say for Southcentral and Southeast just about. And so
8 we're -- and each Council so far has had their own
9 little amendments to make. And so it's already very
10 complex. So unless you want to get further into the
11 weeds, I would suggest possibly.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No action.

14

15 MR. MCKEE: Thankfully. You know, very
16 gently suggest to take no action.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, if I'm
21 hearing you correctly, the portion that affects our
22 Region, there is no change.

23

24 MS. MAAS: Well, again, I don't know if
25 Lester is on the phone. He can speak for Tanana or
26 anyone from Stevens Village. I don't -- I mean Stevens
27 Village and Tanana, they have C&T for all of Unit 24.
28 But if you look at your map, that -- you know, the
29 area that -- that green and yellow little corner down
30 in 24, that's the Ray Mountain herd and that's the area
31 that's closest to Stevens Village and Tanana. And
32 there's been other propo -- there's several other
33 proposals that concern Unit 24 that aren't considered
34 crossovers because they don't -- they weren't
35 considered to affect that portion that is closest to
36 Stevens Village and Tanana. So again, I'm not sure how
37 many people from Tanana and Stevens Village hunt
38 further into Unit 24.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is he online.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Lester is not online yet,
43 but we were going to take up Proposal.....

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Was he
46 interested in this?

47

48 MR. UMPHENOUR: He was sitting right up
49 there this morning. Jack.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Jack was.
2 Not Lester.
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MS. PATTON: But I was going to call
9 Lester for this next proposal coming up, so I can give
10 him a call now. He was going to call in by
11 teleconference if you want to hear if he has anything
12 to say from Tanana.
13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council, it
15 looks like it's we might just consider no action.
16
17 MR. KOEHLER: I would consider that for
18 sure. It would probably make sense. But I will have
19 to say that in the past I've spent a lot of time
20 talking to -- I should -- let me rephrase that. I
21 spent a lot of time listening to Jack about caribou.
22
23 (Laughter)
24
25 MR. KOEHLER: And, you know, I would
26 say that I have a tremendous amount of respect for his
27 views and I think his judgement is very, very sound.
28 So I would think that this Proposal is probably very
29 close to being on track for what is needed for that
30 Region. But if as I'm understanding, that Region
31 really doesn't have anything to do with us. Maybe it's
32 none of our business.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's like
35 they said. There's no change.
36
37 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's just
40 that little portion in green.
41
42 So is everybody in agreement.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Do we need a motion to
45 take no action.
46
47 MR. GLANZ: Do we need a motion to make
48 no.....
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We can do

1 that or we can just move on. Whatever you want to do.
2
3 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
4 make a motion that we take no action on this proposal.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Any other
9 discussion.
10
11 MR. FIRMIN: I have just one.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You have a
14 question.
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: If it says no change, how
17 come -- the existing, or am I just reading -- this is
18 too long to read it, all 15 pages of it. But it almost
19 looks like in the 24A portion, it changes from one
20 caribou to five per day. How is that no change. Or am
21 I reading -- I'll flip back here again.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It might be
24 the C&T, Andrew.
25
26 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair, the map
27 -- so what I'm saying is that the map I passed out --
28 you know, that green and yellow portion -- there's no
29 change. The only change is the State splitting it into
30 two hunt areas instead of one hunt area. But the
31 season limit and -- or the season and harvest limit for
32 that area is not changing because that's the Ray
33 Mountain herd. But for that blue area, Unit 24B and
34 24A, there are changes proposed. And that's what I was
35 kind of asking the Council, is if they wanted me to get
36 into the changes proposed for 24B and A and the biology
37 and harvest of the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk herd.
38 Because again I'm not sure how much Stevens Village and
39 Tanana utilize the Western Unit 24 where the proposes
40 are -- the changes are being proposed.
41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Okay. So just for
43 clarification, there's a whole other regulation page in
44 the Regulation book dealing with those two little areas
45 that has nothing to do with this part in here. Ray
46 Mountain herd.
47
48 MS. MAAS: Right. Yeah. No changes to
49 the Ray Mountain herd are being proposed, other than
50 the State splitting it into two hunt areas.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Which would be green and
2 yellow.
3
4 MS. MAAS: Right. Right. Yeah.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: All right.
7
8 MS. MAAS: Uh-huh. That's the change
9 for that areas.
10
11 MR. FIRMIN: Just to be clear.
12
13 MS. MAAS: Sure. Thanks.
14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
18
19 MS. PITKA: I just going to say that I
20 hadn't heard any concerns from either of those two
21 communities about the caribou herd.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The question
24 has been called for. All in favor of the motion to
25 take no action, say aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And all
30 opposed.
31
32 (No opposing votes)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Now, are we
35 going to.....
36
37 MS. PATTON: I'm going to give Lester a
38 call on his cell phone and then he's going to call in
39 on his land line to cover Proposal 16-31.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
42 wonder. Would we -- and then we still have that
43 Proposal that we've been waiting to here from. It's
44 the Chisana caribou.
45
46 MS. PATTON: And I haven't -- I left
47 Jamie a message, but I haven't received a call back.
48 So.....
49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

1 MS. PATTON: No word back yet.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: While you're
4 calling him, Council Members, maybe we should take up
5 -- do you want to take up -- we also passed over the
6 appointments for the two SRCs. So.....
7
8 MS. PATTON: And that would be --
9 because Lester is also on the Denali SRC. So.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.
12 Well, we could do the Wrangell.
13
14 MS. PATTON: Yeah. We could do -- we
15 could do Lester for the Denali SRC as well.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Barbara,
18 could we -- could I have you come up to do the
19 Wrangell? And then we'll have Lester for the Denali.
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
22 Chair. If you'll look at again that yellow packet that
23 I keep referring to. Let me find my copy. And it's
24 the wrong yellow packet. Well, in the yellow packet
25 there is a -- here it is.
26
27 On the second page, at the bottom half
28 of the page, there's a discussion of the Wrangell-St.
29 Elias Subsistence Resource Commission. One member of
30 the Commission is appointed by this RAC. The
31 requirements for a RAC appointment under the provisions
32 of ANILCA are that the appointee must be a member of a
33 Regional Advisory Council or a local AC in the Region
34 and also engage in subsistence uses within the Park.
35 And currently your appointee to the Wrangell-St. Elias
36 SRC is Sue Entsminger. And her term expires in I think
37 it's November of this year. So I am here to ask you
38 for a reappointment. Or if you want to appoint someone
39 else, that's your prerogative as well. And I believe
40 Sue is interested in being reappointed. And I will
41 stop there, but am happy to answer questions.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil, I'm
44 going to hand over the chair.
45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Say again.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm going to
49 give you the chair position right now.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
4
5 MR. UMPHENOUR: I can hear. Did you
6 want the floor.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. I'm
9 telling you to take over.
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So I'm not
14 railroading you guys.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okie dokie. Somehow
17 I'm lost here.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay. So.....
22
23 MR. FIRMIN: I'll help him. Can I help
24 you?
25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Go ahead.
27
28 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I'd like to
29 make a motion that we appoint Sue Entsminger as the SRC
30 for Wrangell-St. Elias. Well, that's the motion I
31 guess.
32
33 MR. GLANZ: I'll second it then.
34
35 MR. FIRMIN: And then speaking to the
36 motion, Sue has done a really good job for as long as I
37 can remember, since I have been on this Council. And
38 actually this particular SRC is really the only one we
39 get a lot of really good information from. Denali, we
40 always seem to not really get quite as much, although
41 we're not as involved in that area as a Region, so it's
42 understandable. But I think Sue's done a great job.
43 She's very passionate about it and she has outstanding
44 knowledge and brings that knowledge to this Council.
45 And therefore I think she should be reappointed, since
46 she is interested.
47
48 MR. KOEHLER: I would echo all those
49 thoughts.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Anyone else have
2 anything to say.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: I'll call for a question.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: All in favor of
7 reappointing Sue as our rep to the Wrangell-St. Elias
8 SRC, say aye.
9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Opposed, same sign.
13
14 (No opposing votes)
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: I turn the chair back
17 over to you.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I was going
24 to grab your neck and give you a Dutch-rub like my
25 uncle did, but I'm glad you turned it over.
26
27 Okay. How are we doing.
28
29 MS. PATTON: And I'm assuming that was
30 a unanimous vote yes.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It must have
33 been. I didn't get to vote. I didn't vote.
34
35 MS. PATTON: You had no say in the
36 matter.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No. It's all
39 for the kids, is my story.
40
41 So have you heard from Lester.
42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes. I just got to Lester
44 and he's going to call in on the teleconference now so
45 we can take up Proposal 16-39 as a crossover proposal
46 that affects Tanana specifically.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
49
50 MS. PATTON: And then Amy's here.

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Right.
2
3 MS. PATTON: And while we've got him
4 online, we can address the Denali SRC appointment.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Sounds good.
7
8 So we're probably going to hear that
9 beep-beep whenever he calls in; is that right, Tina?
10 Yeah. So let's give him a minute.
11
12 And this one isn't in our Board book so
13 she's handing it out right now.
14
15 It's 39, correct?
16
17 MS. PATTON: Yeah.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: Page what?
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's at 39,
22 which -- here. I have one. Yeah.
23
24 MS. PATTON: So Tanana has C&T for its
25 Region within the Nowitna Refuge.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. And
28 the reason it's a crossover is that Tanana has C&T.
29
30 Do you guys want to take five minutes
31 or just wait till he calls.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: No response.
36
37 MS. PATTON: Are you online, Lester?
38
39 We didn't hear any beeps. Do we have
40 others online with us at this time?
41
42 MR. PAPPAS: This is George Pappas,
43 OSM. There are total 11 people online right now.
44
45 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you. And
46 are you able to hear all right?
47
48 MR. PAPPAS: Everybody but you.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. PATTON: Thanks, George.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. This
4 was handed out because it's not in our book. Virgil
5 just asked me about that.
6
7 Do you know if his Advisory Committee
8 took this up?
9
10 MS. PATTON: He did not mention the
11 Tanana AC voting on this.
12
13 I don't know, Jeremy, if you're
14 familiar with the Tanana AC.
15
16 MR. HAVENER: No. I'm not familiar on
17 the Tanana AC.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Okay.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I don't think
22 it's Tanana. It's something else.
23
24 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's the Tanana-Rampart
25 mainly.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Tanana-
28 Rampart mainly. Yeah.
29
30 I guess what we could do while we're
31 waiting -- unless you guys want to give him a few more
32 minutes. We could.....
33
34 MS. PITKA: Don Honea is here from.....
35
36 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Don is here, too,
37 and available to speak to the Region.
38
39 MR. HONEA: Well, I -- I would much
40 rather have Jeremy.....
41
42 REPORTER: Don, get up to a mic,
43 please.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You need to
46 get to a mic.
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

1 REPORTER: He's a RAC member, he
2 knows.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair, Members of
11 the Eastern Interior, I'm going to be -- I'd rather
12 have Jeremy from Nowitna Wildlife Refuge explain this
13 -- the resolution in itself before I comment on it.
14 Because I am in support of it. In fact, it's my
15 resolution -- or it's my.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Proposal.
18
19 MR. HONEA: proposal. So I would
20 rather have him explain that -- what exactly it means.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So just to
23 clarify, you're on the -- is it Western?
24
25 MR. HONEA: Yes.
26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. Thank
28 you.
29
30 I imagine that we could go through the
31 -- we either have our RAC member online listening to
32 the introduction to the proposal -- the analysis or --
33 now I think we've got him.
34
35 Is that you, Lester, that we hear?
36
37 MR. ERHART: Yeah. That is me.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. It's so
40 good to hear your voice. Hope you're doing okay.
41
42 MR. ERHART: Oh, yeah. A little
43 slower, but I'm doing all right.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. We
46 just have OSM at the table and ready to do the analysis
47 of the Proposal, so you're just on time to listen in.
48
49 MR. ERHART: Okay.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All right.

2

3 MR. ERHART: All right.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: It's Proposal
6 16-39. Lisa is here to give us the Proposal.

7

8 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
9 Madame Chair, Members of the Council. For the record,
10 my name is Lisa Maas and I will be presenting a summary
11 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal 16-39. And you
12 all received copies of this analysis.

13

14 Wildlife Proposal 16-39, submitted by
15 the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
16 Advisory Council, requests that all Nowitna National
17 Wildlife Refuge lands downstream of the Little Mud
18 River drainage in Unit 21B be open to moose hunting
19 during the September 5th to October 1 and to be
20 announced winter seasons. And you can refer to pages
21 four and five of the analysis for maps of the affected
22 area. And again, it's residents of Tanana have
23 customary and traditional use for moose in Unit 21B.
24 This is a crossover Proposal.

25

26 The proponent states that this proposed
27 change would increase harvest opportunity for Federally
28 qualified subsistence users and that the moose
29 population can sustain an increase in harvest.

30

31 Recent surveys on the Nowitna National
32 Wildlife Refuge indicate that the Refuge moose
33 population is stable under a best case scenario, but
34 may be declining. The bull/cow ratio is modest,
35 averaging 25 bulls per 100 cows over the past 15 years.
36 Most, about 97 percent, of the reported moose harvest
37 in Unit 21B occurs under State Regulations. Only zero
38 to five moose per year have been harvested by Federal
39 registration permit.

40

41 One alternative considered was to align
42 State and Federal hunt area descriptors for Unit 21B to
43 correct an oversight made in 2006 and to reduce
44 regulatory complexity. This alternative could merit
45 discussion by the Council.

46

47 Adopting this Proposal would enable
48 Federally qualified subsistence users to hunt portions
49 of Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge during the extended
50 Federal season of September 26 to October 1st, when

1 bull moose are most active. And would improve access
2 for residents and Ruby and Tanana to Nowitna National
3 Wildlife Refuge during this time period.

4
5 The Administrative burden on Nowitna
6 National Wildlife could increase and hunter compliance
7 and reporting may decrease because hunters would no
8 longer be funneled through one access point on the
9 Nowitna River. There are no conservation concerns as
10 harvest under Federal Regulations is extremely low and
11 the current season for the affected area is 40 days
12 longer than the requested season.

13
14 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
15 support WP16-39, with modification to remove their
16 regulatory language for the Unit 21B winter season and
17 delegate authority to the Federal Land Manager to open
18 and close the season via delegation of authority letter
19 only.

20
21 Thank you, Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Council
24 Members, any questions.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Are
29 there further reports on the analysis.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
34 Lester, do you have any questions of the analysis?

35
36 MR. ERHART: No. I don't.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Thank
39 you.

40
41 Now, report on the consultations.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair and Council,
44 there were no comments from Tribes or ANCSA
45 Corporations on this Proposal.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

48
49 Agency comments. ADF&G.

50

1 MS. KLEIN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 This is Jill. The Department's recommendation -- or
3 preliminary recommendation for Proposal 39 is to
4 support it with any modifications by OSM.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

7
8 Any other Agency comments. Federal,
9 Native Tribal Village or other.

10
11 MR. HONEA: Tribal.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Well,
14 yeah. Come on ahead. Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. HONEA: Madame Chair, Members of
17 the RAC, Eastern Members of the Board, actually this
18 was my Proposal. And actually we're only talking about
19 the last week. Already in RM834 under the State hunt,
20 September 5th to the 25th, that is open. The whole
21 Refuge was open. Somehow in the last three or four
22 years.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I'm sorry.
25 I'm trying to.....

26
27 MR. HONEA: Okay. Somehow in the last
28 three years, we as a Western Interior, we inadvertently
29 did go ahead for some changes. And we -- so actually,
30 I introduced this when we had our joint meeting last
31 year. And it was favored by Charlie Wright from Tanana
32 Action. This is going to really help Tanana as well as
33 Ruby hunters on that last subsistence hunt. And I
34 could see the concern from our Wildlife Refuge manager
35 and their Staff about adjacent lands. And I guess what
36 we have to know is where those end and where the Refuge
37 starts. But to justify this and the price of fuel and
38 the cost of getting there and such. And Lester knows
39 this, that the Wildlife Refuge runs all the way up
40 almost to the bone yard. So if there was hunters
41 coming from Tanana, either coming down or going back,
42 they could harvest a moose on Nowitna Wildlife Refuge
43 lands. At present they can't. It's only within the
44 half mile corridor. And we're only talking about one
45 week, so I support this. And I'd like your
46 consideration of it.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question,

1 Don. Has your RAC met?
2
3 MR. HONEA: You mean the Western
4 Interior?
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes.
7
8 MR. HONEA: No. We meet the 3rd, 4th,
9 5th of November.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So
12 this would be your comments. These are your comments.
13
14 MR. HONEA: Yeah. Actually, it's my
15 comment. It's my proposal. But it's.....
16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah.
18
19 MR. HONEA: It was written up by OSM.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
22
23 MR. HONEA: Thank you.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Or Western
26 Interior was the proposal. Yeah. I was just curious
27 if you guys met yet.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 Any other questions.
32
33 Don.
34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 Are you supporting the modification by OSM?
37
38 MR. HONEA: Certainly, yeah. I
39 appreciate that. I mean I accept it. Sure. I mean I
40 think it gives deference to the Refuge Manager.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. I
43 appreciate it.
44
45 Any other questions.
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you.
50

1 The only thing I didn't say was Inter-
2 Agency Staff Committee. Any comments.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. Then
7 Advisory Committee Groups.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Madame Chair, we have not
10 received any comments from Advisory Committee Groups.

11
12 Lester, while you're online, I don't
13 know if you have any involvement with the Tanana
14 Rampart Manley AC. If you know if they've weighed in
15 on this Proposal at all.

16
17 MR. ERHART: No. They didn't. Yeah.
18 I met with them, but they didn't have no comment on it.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Lester.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thanks,
23 Lester.

24
25 MR. ERHART: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Is there any
28 written public comments.

29
30 MS. PATTON: No written public comments
31 submitted.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And then
34 public testimony. Any other public testimony.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
39 16-39.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. As
44 written. I'm assuming that's as written, Virgil.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

49
50 Discussion.

1 Do you want to start, Lester, on
2 discussion?
3
4 MR. ERHART: No. Go ahead. I'm
5 listening.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You just want
8 to listen. Don't you want to tell us?
9
10 MR. ERHART: Well, I think that this
11 would really help the Tanana hunters because like she
12 said, we can't do it now, but it would help us when --
13 like when we're coming home if we didn't get a moose
14 and then one comes out on the river, there it is, you
15 know? I think this would help Tanana greatly. That's
16 my view there.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
19 Lester.
20
21 MR. ERHART: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Other
24 discussion.
25
26 Andy and then Virgil.
27
28 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Lester, I have a
29 question for you. In your lifetime, did you used to be
30 able to hunt this area? Or is this something that was
31 closed.....
32
33 MR. ERHART: Yeah. Yeah. In the early
34 -- in the early parts. When they first started. I
35 don't know when this was. It was back in the '70s
36 sometime. But yeah, I used to go down and hunt that
37 area.
38
39 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 The reason I asked that is just for justifications. It
41 obviously doesn't seem that there's a conservation
42 concern with this and there is evidence that this was a
43 traditional hunting grounds in previous times. And so
44 I think this will benefit subsistence users in that
45 Region. And it's certainly not going to restrict other
46 users. It's opening it up. It's not being
47 restrictive.
48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I drive my boat
50 through there every year during this time period coming

1 back from Huslia. And you have to be tough if you're
2 going to go get a moose over there then because
3 normally the weather is horrible, like it was this
4 year. Lots of wind, snow, rain. But I have seen bull
5 moose while I've been driving through all that.

6

7 Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yes. Go
10 ahead and introduce yourself.

11

12 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Madame Chair
13 and Council Members. My name is Jeremy Havener. I'm
14 the Subsistence Coordinator with Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko
15 National Wildlife Refuge. And the Refuge -- their
16 stance on this Proposal was neutral. We don't have any
17 biological concerns. But one thing I do want to point
18 out with this Proposal and it appears to be kind of an
19 issue. And we definitely want to address this so that
20 way there's no law enforcement issues. Is when you
21 look at a map of our Refuge -- and I apologize. I
22 don't have one here in front of us. I do have a
23 handout I could give if anybody would be interested,
24 that has kind of a zoomed in land status map of the
25 Refuge. But the one thing you've got to keep in mind
26 when participating in Federal subsistence hunts -- and
27 if you look in these Federal Wildlife Regulation books
28 on I think it's page 12.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: In our handy-
31 dandy there's this one.

32

33 MR. HAVENER: Yep. That handy-dandy
34 right there.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. That's
37 110, Council Members.

38

39 Is that map sufficient?

40

41 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. That should work.
42 And I'm looking at page 12. And it's Federal
43 subsistence regulations apply only to Federal Public
44 Lands. And in here it states Federal Public Lands
45 include lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
46 Service, National Park Service, BLM, U.S. Forest
47 Service. And these regulations do not apply to State
48 or private lands and Regional and Village Native
49 Corporation lands and Native allotments are considered
50 private lands and are managed under State management

1 authority, which means those lands are not open for
2 this Federal subsistence hunt.

3

4 And we're going to do a good job with
5 outreach. Sending out maps to the Tribal Councils and
6 just getting out and talking to people, but this is one
7 thing we had a concern with and we really want to jump
8 on and, you know, let people know that you still need
9 to know where you're at when you're participating in
10 these Federal hunts. So.....

11

12 And that's all I had. Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hey, we've
15 all been dealing with that for many, many, many years.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MS. PATTON: Lester's chuckling.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: What GMU is
22 this. I gave you the wrong number. Virgil says it's
23 95. Okay.

24

25 Do you have something, Lisa?

26

27 MS. MAAS: Yeah. Through the Chair,
28 thank you. Just to kind of add to what Jeremy was
29 saying. If you look at page four and five, you can see
30 that hatched area on page four. That's the current
31 hunt area. And then if you look on page five, that
32 hatched area is the proposed hunt area. And it's a
33 little hard to see, but all the light gray area is Fish
34 and Wildlife Management. And this isn't a perfect map,
35 but you can see that the white area under that hatched
36 area would be the area that would not be open to
37 hunting during that season, even along the Yukon River.

38

39

40 And also I didn't get into the weeds on
41 the Regulatory history, but just to clarify about
42 hunting in this area. In 2007, the current seasons,
43 including that extended Federal season of September 26
44 to October 1, were established. And so this hunt area
45 that's being proposed was open from 2007 until 2012.
46 But then in 2012, as part of another analyses, it was
47 realized that those portions weren't actually include
48 in the hunt area descriptor because of an oversight
49 made in 2006. So just to clarify, you know, Andy's
50 question that this area was open from 2007 to 2012.

1 And so residents of Tanana and Ruby had, you know,
2 access along the Yukon River during that time period.
3 And then because of another analysis, it was realized
4 those lands weren't included in the hunt area, so they
5 were closed. And then the Western Interior, you know,
6 proposed this Proposal to kind of set it back how it
7 was back in 2007 and 2012 hopefully.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I think I'm a
10 little confused now.

11
12 MS. MAAS: And basically this area was
13 open to hunting from 2007 to 2012.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Well, I guess
16 I'm curious. If I'm reading this correct, page four,
17 the hatched area is current hunt area. And then in
18 five, that's the proposed hunt area. So why would you
19 have a Federal proposed hunt on State land when -- and
20 it couldn't occur.

21
22 MS. MAAS: That's just how the hunt
23 areas are defined. I mean the hunt area's just all in
24 the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge lands, which the
25 boundary of Nowitna -- that's within the boundaries.
26 But Jeremy might explain better than I can on how.....

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But people
29 have to know that that -- it's under State Regulations
30 on State land. Not Federal. That's what we have to
31 deal with all the time.

32
33 MS. MAAS: Right. Yeah.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Yeah. And
36 that was your warning.

37
38 MR. HAVENER: Yeah, Madame Chair. For
39 the record, Jeremy Havener, Fish and Wildlife Service
40 out of Galena. Yeah. This hunt -- if this Proposal
41 passes it will be open on the Nowitna National Wildlife
42 Refuge. And it's going to be open only on Federal
43 lands from that September 26th time frame to October
44 1st. And currently this hunt is open on the Nowitna
45 River drainage up to the Little Mud River, and
46 including the Little Mud River drainage. So it's
47 constricted there and it wants -- we want it to be open
48 on the -- or the Proposal is stating to open the whole
49 Refuge on Federal lands.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So is there a
2 joint State Proposal? Is this just.....
3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: No.
5
6 MR. KOEHLER: This is just on the
7 Federal lands.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I know. But
10 in our area, we have joint ones that take in the State
11 also. This is not one of those. Okay.
12
13 MR. HAVENER: Yes. This is just a
14 Federal Proposal.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Virgil.
17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. So if you're
19 traveling up the Yukon River between Ruby and I guess
20 the bone yard, where is the Refuge boundary? Is it the
21 -- would it be the south bank of the river? The north
22 bank of the river? And whose property do all those
23 islands belong to.
24
25 MR. HAVENER: Virgil, through the
26 Chair. The boundary is going to be on the south bank
27 of the Yukon. And in that handout I gave out, it kind
28 of shows a dark, black line going along the south bank
29 of the Yukon. And there's also some of the islands
30 that are included as well.
31
32 MR. KOEHLER: Pieces of islands.
33
34 MR. HAVENER: Exactly. Pieces of
35 islands. So I mean that's kind of what I was speaking
36 on earlier. It's definitely going to be a little bit
37 confusing with boundaries and knowing where you're at.
38 So that's what I want folks to be aware of.
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Me,
41 personally, I don't know why you just don't put the
42 hashtag we're not on State land. Just put it on your
43 Refuge land.
44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is all Refuge
46 land.
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But this is
49 not.
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, yeah. It is.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is
4 private property.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: No. No. This is the
7 Refuge boundary. These things are private property.
8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: But this is
10 under State Regulations.
11
12 MR. UMPHENOUR: That white is Refuge.
13 This is some kind of.....
14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: So the white
16 is Refuge. No.
17
18 MS. MAAS: Okay. I guess maybe there
19 is some little confusion on just -- the hash marks
20 around, that's the boundary of Nowitna National
21 Wildlife Refuge. And within the Refuge boundary there
22 are State selected lands and.....
23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Native
25 lands.
26
27 MS. MAAS:Native lands and things
28 like that.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Which do not
31 qualify for Federal Regulations.
32
33 MS. MAAS: Right. So maybe there -- I
34 mean there is a misinterpretation on all Federal lands
35 versus within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.
38
39 MS. MAAS: I interpret it as within the
40 boundary of the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Andy.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 Yeah. It seems to me the reason why we're taking this
46 up is because it's a crossover Proposal that primarily
47 affects people in our Region, which is the Tanana --
48 Village of Tanana.
49
50 I'm hearing from Lester that this would

1 be a very good thing for their people. And for us to
2 sit here and debate boundaries and areas and all of
3 that -- State land, Federal land -- I think we're
4 getting wrapped around the axle. And I would like to
5 see this -- take a vote.

6

7 MS. PITKA: Question.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay.

10 Question has been called for.

11

12 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: All in favor,

15 say aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone

20 opposed.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I like the
25 idea that that's the Mud River. Sometimes things are
26 as clear as mud. Okay.

27

28 Lester, we have another topic to bring
29 up, so hang on.

30

31 MR. ERHART: Okay.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: The motion

34 passes.

35

36 MR. ERHART: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Hang on

39 there, guy.

40

41 MR. ERHART: All right.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Oh. Maybe --

44 hang.....

45

46 MS. MAAS: I'm sorry. I just wanted to
47 clarify that the motion passed without OSM modification
48 or with OSM modification.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: There was

1 no.....
2
3 MR. KOEHLER: We -- the motion was made
4 as written.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: As written.
7
8 MS. MAAS: Okay. All right. Thank
9 you.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. That
12 part is taken care of.
13
14 Next thing on the Agenda is the Denali
15 SRC appointment.
16
17 MS. CRAVER: Madame Chair and Members
18 of the Council, for the record, I'm Amy Craver and I'm
19 the Subsistence Manager at Denali National Park and
20 Preserve. And as you know, Lester Erhart has been --
21 was appointed to the Denali SRC by the Eastern Interior
22 RAC. And his term is now recently expired. And so I'm
23 coming to you to find out if you want to reappoint
24 Lester. I will report that Lester has done an
25 excellent job reporting on just issues relating to
26 Tanana. And he has gone to all of the meetings except
27 for one, which was an excused absence. So we've been
28 really appreciative of Lester's contribution to our
29 Denali SRC.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And Lester's
32 happy to serve another term, right Lester?
33
34 MR. KOEHLER: He's not here, so we can
35 reappoint him.
36
37 MR. ERHART: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.
38 I'd really like to get back on there because I think
39 it's great.
40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Good. I'm
42 glad to hear it, Lester. We're happy to have you.
43 Okay.
44
45 MR. ERHART: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
46
47 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
48 that we elect Lester to the Denali RC. What do you
49 call it.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: SRC.
2
3 Do I have a second.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And it's been
8 motioned and seconded.
9
10 Any other discussion.
11
12 (No comments)
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Question.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Question's
17 been called for. All in favor.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Anyone
22 opposed.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You're in
27 unanimously.
28
29 MR. ERHART: Thank you very much.
30 Thank you very much, guys.
31
32 (Laughter)
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: We miss you.
35
36 MR. ERHART: Yeah.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I hope you
41 get.....
42
43 MR. ERHART: Yeah. I wish I was there.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: I hope you
46 get to feeling better.
47
48 MR. ERHART: All right. Thank you very
49 much.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Thank you,
2 Lester.
3
4 MR. ERHART: All right.
5
6 MS. PATTON: You take care, Lester.
7 Thank you.
8
9 MR. ERHART: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Okay. So now
12 that was our crossover Proposal.
13
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
15 Do you want to take up this next topic. The review of
16 the -- I mean the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
17 Program.
18
19 MR. BASSICH: I think that would be
20 great. Let's do that.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: One more.
23
24 (Pause)
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: Sorry.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: They're right here.
29 Oops.
30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: This is my
32 book. So did you have some, Virgil? Did you have
33 Board of Fish Proposals?
34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. I've only got
36 one though.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: You've got
39 one.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.
42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENSTMINGER: And there's
44 one from my Region, too. So anyone else have any Fish
45 Board Proposals they want to take up tomorrow, they
46 need to bring them forward.
47
48 Okay.
49
50 All right. Well, we're going to recess

1 for the day and come back at 8:30.

2

3 Thanks, everyone.

4

5 (Off record)

6

7 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 196 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING taken electronically on the 22nd day of October 2015;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 9th day of November 2015.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:09/16/18