

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

April 21, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower
Rhonda Pitka
Chad Padgett, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 4/21/2020)

(On record)

MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, everybody. Before I turn the meeting over to Chairman Christianson, a few housekeeping items. First off is that when we get to public comments and for the agenda item relative to public comment on non-agenda items for folks that are on the phone, please remember that before you speak you'll need to press *1 and you'll be introduced to speak in priority that you go into the queue. Again, there will be a pause, so everybody needs to be patient with that.

Again, for folks that don't want to be on the phones for eight hours to get updates on where the Board's progress is, you can get that information of where we are at on the agenda by calling 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3888. Those two numbers are quick ways and you'll get ahold of Tom Kron, who will answer your questions. Also you can go online to find out where progress has been made on the agenda at www.doi.gov/subsistence/board or on our Facebook page, which is www.facebook.com/subsistence Alaska. So that's some ways you can keep abreast of the issues.

At this time I will go through and see who is online. This is not an official roll call. We did that yesterday to start the meeting, so this is just the reconvening of the Federal Subsistence Board on April 21st, 2020. I'm going to check in first to see if Don Striker is on the phone.

MR. STRIKER: Yes, I am. Good morning.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Don.

MR. C. BROWER: Tom, this is Charlie.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Charlie. Good to hear you online.

MR. C. BROWER: Can we have the speakers speak closer to the phone? It seems like you're in the distance.

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, we can make sure
2 that we remind people to speak right into the speakers
3 on their phones. Bureau of Land Management. Is Chad
4 Padgett here?
5
6 MR. PADGETT: I am here. Thanks, Tom.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, Chad. Good
9 to hear your voice this morning. Has Fish and Wildlife
10 Service, Greg Siekaniec, made it online?
11
12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Tom. I just made
13 it through.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: See, I knew it was
16 serendipitous this morning. I knew it would happen.
17 Great. Thank you, Greg. Good to hear your voice this
18 morning.
19
20 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.
21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
23 David Schmid.
24
25 MR. SCHMID: Good morning, Tom. I'm
26 on.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Great, Dave.
29 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
30
31 MR. PELTOLA: Ii-i.
32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ii-i. Good to hear
34 you, Gene. Public Member Rhonda Pitka.
35
36 (No response)
37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda, are you online
39 yet?
40
41 (No response)
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We'll go back.
44 Waiting for Rhonda to get connected. Chairman Tony
45 Christianson, are you online?
46
47 (No response)
48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: We're still waiting for
50

1 two of our Board members at this moment. Ken Lord, are
2 you online?

3

4 MR. LORD: I am here. Had some trouble
5 calling in. They wanted to put me on the mute spot.
6 Maybe the others are having the same problem.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. The Operator was
9 given the list of names this morning, so hopefully that
10 continues not to happen. Is Mike Routhier online as
11 well?

12

13 (No response)

14

15 MR. C. BROWER: Tom. Charlie.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is Mike Routhier
18 online?

19

20 (No response)

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. From the State
23 of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, is Ben
24 Mulligan online?

25

26 MS. PITKA: Hello, this is Rhonda
27 Pitka.

28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda. Welcome
30 this morning. Thank you. Is Ben Mulligan or Mark
31 Burch from the State of Alaska online?

32

33 MR. C. BROWER: Tom, this is Charlie.
34 Did you do a roll call on me?

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, I did, Charlie. I
37 got you and you're coming in loud and clear.

38

39 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: RAC Chairs, let's see
42 who is with us this morning. Is Don Hernandez with us
43 this morning?

44

45 (No response)

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is RAC Chair Greg
48 Encelewski with us this morning?

49

50

1 (No response)

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is RAC Chair Della
4 Trumble with us this morning?

5

6 (No response)

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is Nanci Lyons from
9 Bristol Bay with us this morning?

10

11 (No response)

12

13 MR. PELTOLA: Tom, this is Gene. You
14 might want to check and see if they're on listen only.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. Thank you. If we
17 could see if they're on listen only. I did request
18 this morning by names that RAC Chairs be allowed to
19 have an open line and did not have to hit *1 to speak.

20

21 REPORTER: Tom, this is Tina. I'll
22 contact the operator and give her the list again.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. That would be
25 very, very helpful. Okay. Getting back to the Board.
26 Also, Tina, I'd like to make sure that Ben Mulligan and
27 Mark Burch from Alaska Department of Fish and Game have
28 an open line as well.

29

30 REPORTER: Okay.

31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
33 Tina.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Board members and Mr.
38 Chair. Welcome to the morning events. I'm going to go
39 back down through roll call just for the Board right
40 now.

41

42 National Park Service, Don Striker, are
43 you online?

44

45 MR. STRIKER: Good morning. Yes.

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thanks, Don.
48 Chad Padgett, are you online?

49

50

1 MR. PADGETT: I am on.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, great. Greg
4 Siekaniec, are you with us?
5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Take two, Tom.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. U.S. Forest
9 Service, David Schmid, are you on?
10
11 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, Dave's back.
12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, great. Bureau of
14 Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Ii-i.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good to hear you, Gene.
19 Rhonda Pitka, are you online?
20
21 (No response)
22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Waiting for Rhonda.
24 Charlie Brower, are you online?
25
26 MR. C. BROWER: (In Inupiaq).
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ahh. Good to hear you.
29 Chairman Christianson, are you online?
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm
32 online.
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So we're waiting
35 just for Rhonda to get back in for a bit. The morning
36 thing with the lines, as you might have heard, I'm
37 trying to make sure to help clear up this line a bit
38 because we've had a few drops on it. So we're getting
39 that remedied. Ken Lord, are you back with us online?
40
41 MR. LORD: I'm here.
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Ken. Thanks
44 for everybody's patience with this. We'll give a
45 little bit of time here, take a pause for getting
46 Rhonda online.
47
48 OPERATOR: She is online, sir.
49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Rhonda, are you
2 with us?

3
4 MS. PITKA: Yes, I'm online. Can you
5 hear me?

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, I sure can. Great
8 to have you back. Okay, we have a full Board and
9 everybody is back online and a quorum. Tony, we'll try
10 this for a second time. Again with the reminder to
11 make sure that our State partners Ben Mulligan and Mark
12 Burch are connected as well and so are our RAC Chairs.
13 I'll turn the meeting back over to you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
16 We're back on the agenda. Hopefully everybody is
17 getting patched back in again and thanks for
18 everybody's patience in trying to do this telework
19 here. Public comment on non-agenda items is what we're
20 going to start the meeting off with this morning.

21
22 We don't have the little blue cards
23 obviously on the telephone here, so I'll ask that
24 everybody be respectful as we move forward for any of
25 the public who wants to speak at this time. We also
26 for the sake of time ask everybody to try to limit
27 their presentations to around 10 minutes just to be
28 mindful of all the other public if there is a big
29 turnout today.

30
31 With that I will turn over the floor to
32 Tom to ask if there's any public out there that wants
33 to do any testimony on non-agenda items this morning.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, at this time
36 we'd like to invite the members of the public again
37 with pressing I believe *1 so people can get into the
38 queue to address the Federal Subsistence Board.

39
40 OPERATOR: Yes, if you would like to
41 ask a question, please press *1. Please make sure your
42 phone is unmuted. Thank you. The first question or
43 comment comes from Nanci. Your line is open.

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Nanci. This is
46 Tom. Are you online with us?

47
48 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I am, Tom. I
49 was just trying to check in to let you know that I'm
50

1 here when you gave my name call in the roll.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you,
4 Nanci.

5

6 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah. Thanks.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, we're looking
9 for the next person in the line.

10

11 OPERATOR: Lorraine, your line is open.

12

13 MS. TEMPLE: Okay. Can you hear me?

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, we can.

16

17 MS. TEMPLE: All right. Good morning,
18 everybody. My name is Lorraine Temple. I'm a 36-year
19 resident of Alaska and I listened all day yesterday. I
20 really enjoyed hearing the reports from around the
21 State. It really broadened my understanding of the
22 issues regarding subsistence for sure.

23

24 Anyway, just a little bit about me. I
25 have properties and homes in Cooper Landing and Homer.
26 My businesses are in tourism, the tourism industry. I
27 have rentals and I do a historical tour of Cooper
28 Landing. I've also been a dog musher with tour
29 businesses in Homer. I started the Godwin Glacier Dog
30 Sled Tours in Seward and we had operations in Juneau on
31 the glaciers.....

32

33 (Reporter dropped from teleconference 3
34 minutes)

35

36 MS. TEMPLE:that many pet
37 encounters, but this isn't true. A lot of the
38 encounters, the fatalities, the injuries aren't
39 reported, so it's not out there. That's first.

40

41 But secondly people are deathly afraid
42 in the winter of going out, so they're curtailing their
43 activities and not fully enjoying the use of our trails
44 and public areas, beaches, where their dogs typically
45 run free.

46

47 In talking around with my neighbors and
48 friends in the community, one phrase keeps coming up.
49 They feel held hostage from hiking, skiing, enjoying

50

1 the backcountry in the winter with their dogs, so they
2 just don't do it. Believe me, the level of community
3 stress and anxiety is palpable with the traffic amount
4 in November.

5
6 Of course we're always leery of illegal
7 out-of-season traps. That's just a whole different
8 subject. Actually an active trap was found last June
9 within three feet of the trail head to the Russian
10 River Falls. It's just a wonder no dog or kid stepped
11 on it.

12
13 Anyway, with the changing face of the
14 population of Alaska the regulations need to reflect
15 the greater good of all, not just a select few. A good
16 example I like to use is smoking. You know, smoking
17 used to be totally acceptable in restaurants, but with
18 time it was deemed unsafe, unhealthy, unfair. The
19 majority of people moved outside to confined areas.

20
21 The same with trapping. It's become
22 unsafe, unhealthy, unfair for the majority and should
23 be regulated to areas further away from the general
24 public to best reflect the use of our public land.

25
26 There is trapping utilized in the back
27 country. We want to establish a buffer around the
28 areas. I've been really encouraged by the communities
29 of Juneau, Yakutat, Anchorage, but without this buffer
30 in crafting a recreational use area. The same thing
31 happened in Unit 7, specifically the Cooper Landing
32 area. We, as a community -- I'm speaking for myself as
33 a (breaking up).

34
35 I think I just got dropped.

36
37 OPERATOR: I can still hear you.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, you're still
40 good.

41
42 MS. TEMPLE: Okay. I just heard a big
43 sound. Anyway. So we're willing to readdress this
44 issue with the APA and the Board of Game. But the Fish
45 and Game regs for the trapper code of ethics include
46 promote trapping methods that will reduce the
47 possibility of catching non-target species and the
48 importance of trap placement to avoid busy roads and
49 trapping pets and potentially offending passers by with
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1 the sight of a trapped animal.

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You know, I read that. It's like, well, this code seems to be silent and ignored in a lot of areas. I'm certain this can be enforced on the State and Federal lands in our area, especially the placement caveat.

What I'm hoping to accomplish is to be the voice of reason so that a compatible, reasonable, logical solution can be met with all parties involved that will allow a safe, stress-free use of public lands year round.

You know, perhaps not asking for a mile setback as WP20-20 does, but rather maybe a 400-yard setback from designated, highly-used trails like other communities have adopted. At least 500 yards if not more. Some communities have set a mile from permanent homes. Look at the possibility of marking traps to alert pet owners of the existing danger with colored tape. There's several ways to accomplish this goal.

If there are needs to trap, (indiscernible) in the areas close to trapping. Create a request process through the appropriate channels and make sure neighbors are alerted and traps are very well marked. We can work together on this. I have the dialogue with community members who do and do not trap and they too are willing to work together on this issue.

Please, this needs to be addressed and changed for the better. Thanks for this time and your consideration. I really appreciate being able to talk today.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello. Is everybody still on the line? Thank you for that this morning. Is there any questions?

(No comments)

OPERATOR: Next commenter question comes from Walter Sampson. Your line is open.

MR. SAMPSON: Yes. Good morning. Can

1 you hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
4 you, Walt.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. Good morning.
7 First of all my name is Walter Sampson and I'm
8 originally from Noorvik. I live in Kotzebue. I'm
9 retired and I sat on the Regional Advisory Council for
10 a good 15 years, which has been good. I want to thank
11 the Board for the opportunity to speak in regards to
12 the happenings today. More so to the Advisory Councils
13 who gave their good perspectives in regards to some of
14 the issues that they face. I'm also a Vietnam combat
15 veteran, so I want to thank you for your time.

16

17 As I listen to some of the concerns of
18 the Regional Advisory Councils yesterday, I was also
19 disappointed in regards to hearing some of the cuts
20 that are being made to some of the Advisory Council
21 positions. I think we need to remind ourselves that
22 the Advisory Council are your spokesperson to the
23 Advisory Board for Bush Alaska. If such cuts are being
24 made to some of the positions, then you're losing some
25 of the information that are important to the
26 decision-making of the Federal Board. I think the
27 Federal Board needs to make sure that the Regional
28 office needs to be reminded that whatever they can do
29 to give support to the Secretary to restore the funding
30 source for.....

31

32 (Reporter dropped from teleconference 7
33 minutes)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, it keeps
36 kicking us off there. You've got to be patient with it.
37 I think once we get through this morning. It seems
38 like the whole day went better yesterday.

39

40 REPORTER: Okay, Tom, this is Tina.
41 I'm back on.

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Maybe, Tom, you
46 could just make a quick check and make sure we still
47 have a quorum.

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. Alrighty. Do

50

1 this again. Don Striker.
2
3 MR. STRIKER: Holding steady. Thank
4 you.
5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chad Padgett.
7
8 MR. PADGETT: Here.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good, Chad. Greg
11 Siekaniec.
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13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Take three, Tom.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. David Schmid.
16
17 MR. SCHMID: Take four for me.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty.. BIA, Gene
20 Peltola. Gene, you on?
21
22 (No response)
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: No Gene. Public Member
25 Rhonda Pitka.
26
27 MS. PITKA: Here.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda. Charlie
30 Brower.
31
32 MR. C. BROWER: (In Inupiaq).
33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Charlie. And
35 Tony.
36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, still
38 here.
39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. I think we're
41 just missing Gene right now. We do have a quorum, Mr.
42 Chair, as Gene is trying to get back on, to listen to
43 public comment.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
46
47 MR. PELTOLA: I'm here, Tom.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is that you,
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1 Gene?

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MR. PELTOLA: Yeah. BIA is back on after getting dumped eight times and then being allowed back on as a listen only.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, you have to really make it explicit with the Operator that you're a participant.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It really depends on the Operator you get.

MR. DOOLITTLE: For sure. Operator, we'd like to resume with the public comments. Begin with folks with *1.

OPERATOR: Yes, sir. I do apologize. Next one comes from Joel Jackson. Your line is open.

MR. JACKSON: Good morning. My name is Joel Jackson. I'm from the village of Kake in Southeast Alaska. My organization is the Organized Village of Kake, which I'm the president of currently.

My call-in today is concerning the emergency hunt that my organization had submitted for moose and deer on our island. Just a quick history of what we've been doing. I had a request sent to the Alaska Fish and Game. It was denied. I went to the District Ranger in Petersburg. He didn't have the authority to do it, so I went to the Juneau Regional Office. I think it was Mr. Schmid that had his staff member talk with me.

It sounded promising that they would work with us. As far as I know they (phone cutout). Sorry about that. And then the next following day I got a call from a guy in Anchorage with the Forest Service and he said he would submit the application to the Federal Board of Fish and Fish and Game.

So that's where we're at now. I submitted this because right now we're experiencing shortages on meat, chicken, eggs and a number of -- everything really. Our stores probably get in -- I didn't talk to them. It looked like they probably get in at least half their order that they submit. Maybe

1 even less.

2

3 So it's very concerning to me as a
4 tribal leader that this is going on. I want to be
5 proactive on my approach to making sure our tribal
6 citizens have what they need. As I stated to the
7 Forest Service employee that I talked to, I'm not
8 asking anybody's permission. I'm merely checking the
9 boxes.

10

11 I will do what I need to do to provide
12 for our tribal citizens regardless of what happens. If
13 it comes down to it, that's my stand. I would rather
14 do this legally and not make us criminals for trying to
15 feed our people. That's not what we are.

16

17 Many of you guys know how our little
18 villages help each other. We share everything. Some
19 of you that concept is probably not registering, but we
20 share. I've been going out -- since we had a lockdown
21 here in our village, going out, sending my nephews out
22 to fish halibut and king salmon when it was open.

23

24 King salmon is closed around here now
25 for two months. We got a notice from Fish and Game
26 that there would be no closures. Sport fishing and
27 personal use would be open to everybody to help fill
28 their freezers and provide for their families.

29

30 So I know this king salmon closure was
31 in place, so I called that guy that was on the paper.
32 He said, oh, no, no, it's open everywhere. He asked me
33 what office to call and I told him Petersburg office.
34 He got back to me and he said, oh, I'm sorry, that area
35 is closed for two months. Opens June 15th again.

36

37 So that statement by the Fish and Game
38 on that flyer was highly, highly -- you know,
39 misinformation on there. I'm glad none of our
40 fishermen got in trouble because of that statement or
41 that flyer. If they're going to put out anything --
42 and I know it's not your guys's area to say anything
43 about it, but if they're going to put out flyers, make
44 sure you have correct information.

45

46 Also with the Federal flyer that came
47 out same thing. Very vague. Second time around I was
48 more aware. So I called the guy on the paper. The
49 only thing that's permitted in our area is steelhead

50

1 fishing.

2

3 So it's very concerning to me as a
4 tribal leader to have to beg or even ask permission,
5 which I'm not, but a lot of people -- a lot of tribal
6 leaders do ask. I'm not asking. I hope that you guys
7 will be able to do the right thing and allowing this
8 permit.

9

10 I want the tribe to be in charge of it
11 because I don't want anybody to just go out and shoot
12 anything out there, any moose or deer. We don't want
13 to impact moose on our island, so I want control of
14 that. I will control it.

15

16 So it's something that needs to happen
17 during this time. Whether it's a one-time thing or you
18 put a policy in place, a long-term policy, like giving
19 the District Rangers of the Forest Service permission
20 to grant our hunt. I hope I ain't talking to a dead
21 phone. I should have asked if you guys could hear me,
22 I guess.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: I can hear you loud and
25 clear, Joel. This is Anthony Christianson.

26

27 MR. JACKSON: Okay. Thank you, Tony.
28 Those are my concerns. We're a remote village. I have
29 to make sure our tribal citizens are getting the best
30 food right now. There's a lot of people under stress.
31 I want our elders to have their traditional food which
32 is not processed because right now their immune system
33 has to be at its peak in case anything happens. That's
34 what I'm charged with and that's what I want to relay
35 to you as the Board of Subsistence.

36

37 I take this very seriously and I think
38 everybody across the state should be doing the same
39 thing. We need to be able to provide for our tribal
40 citizens and we don't need to jump through hoops every
41 damn time. Excuse my language. I'm very upset right
42 now. I'm this way because I want to emphasize to you
43 as the Board that it is serious. As you've seen, the
44 meat packing plants down south and the chicken
45 factories are shutting down because of the virus.

46

47 Again, I'm sorry for my raised voice.
48 People that know me know how I am when I get upset or
49 I'm passionate about something, which I am both right

50

1 now. I thank you for the time. I'll hopefully hear
2 back from you guys shortly.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Joel. Appreciate you speaking up for the people. It's
8 definitely a time when we need to consider all the
9 options.

10

11 Thank you for calling in.

12

13 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Tony.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

18

19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is Greg
20 Siekaniec. Hey, Joel, are you still on the line?

21

22 (No response)

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: He must have jumped
25 off. I just wanted to find out a little more about
26 that Federal flyer that he noted. I couldn't
27 understand if he said there were mistakes that had been
28 printed in some Federal flyer as well.

29

30 MR. JACKSON: Well, it wasn't a
31 mistake. It just wasn't -- you know, they should have
32 had a little more information on there. It gave the
33 people -- if you look at it, it gave the people, an
34 average person that reads it, saying, oh, boy,
35 everything is open. In reality it wasn't. The same
36 with the State one.

37

38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you, Joel.

39

40 MR. JACKSON: Thank you.

41

42 OPERATOR: Our next comment comes from
43 Louie Gohmert. Your line is now open.

44

45 MR. GOHMERT: Thank you. Appreciate
46 that. I just want to be a voice that says we've got to
47 open as quickly as possible. The President's instincts
48 on this were right. I would humbly submit that we may
49 not have ever had a government shutdown like this

50

1 because for the first time in our history Americans
2 were willing to put up with it. I don't think they
3 would have in prior decades.
4

5 Anyway, we do need to do something more
6 than just try to put oil in the SPRO. What do you see
7 could be done more to keep energy companies from going
8 out of business? The independents have made a huge
9 difference in making us energy independent and we're
10 going to get back to only having a few world companies
11 if we don't do something.
12

13 Hello?
14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: I heard that comment.
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was that it? I
18 failed to get the commenter's name. Sorry. For the
19 record.
20

21 MR. GOHMERT: Yeah, this is Louie
22 Gohmert.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Louie.
25 Sorry about that. I just missed it when they
26 introduced you. Appreciate your time to call in today.
27 Is there any questions for Louie.
28

29 MR. GOHMERT: Yeah, I was asking --
30 we're about to lose all our independent oil and gas
31 producers and be back to just a handful of the
32 international companies if we don't do something
33 besides just try to add oil to the SPRO. What else
34 have you contemplated might be possible to get us back
35 to energy independence more quickly?
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's a
38 question we'll definitely have to forward on to the
39 appropriate agency.
40

41 Thank you for calling in today.
42

43 MR. GOHMERT: Well, it's a huge part of
44 getting our economy going back. Thank you.
45

46 OPERATOR: We have no additional
47 comments in the queue at this time.
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
50

1 Well, that sounds like that concludes the public
2 comment today. It sounds like the underlying.....
3

4 OPERATOR: Excuse me. Jack has entered
5 the meeting.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Excuse me? Is
8 there another commenter?
9

10 OPERATOR: No, sir, there are no
11 commenter on the line at this moment.
12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I heard
14 somebody speak. So that concludes the public comment
15 period this morning on non-agenda items. Again, this
16 opportunity will be available at the beginning of each
17 day.
18

19 OPERATOR: This is the operator. My
20 apologies for interrupting. We do have one commenter
21 in queue.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
24 take that then. I was just ending the session, but
25 we'll take one more. Thank you.
26

27 OPERATOR: Our last comment comes from
28 Courtenay. Your line is now open.
29

30 MS. CARTY: Thank you, Operator and Mr.
31 Chair. I think we're getting dropped, so I'm glad I
32 was able to get in at the tail end. Courtenay Carty,
33 Curyung Tribal Council. I'm the tribal administrator
34 for the Federally recognized tribe in Dillingham.
35

36 I just wanted to take a moment to get
37 on the record some of the comments that our tribe made
38 during tribal consultation yesterday. I'm not sure if
39 our second chief Gayla Hoseth is on the line, but if
40 she was perhaps we could open her line.
41

42 Reiterating, I guess our tribe's
43 continued request for government-to-government
44 consultation with Federal Subsistence Board on the
45 Pebble issue specifically regarding our request for
46 ANILCA Section 810 analysis to be done for the Pebble
47 project in regards to the 17(b) land easements through
48 BLM that do access the -- or are in the project
49 footprint.
50

1 We do believe that that is a legitimate
2 request and that Federal nexus exists to require the
3 810 analysis. We were on the record at the last
4 Federal Subsistence Board meeting I believe in April a
5 year ago with that same request.

6
7 The rest of my comments I will save for
8 the agenda items.

9
10 Thank you so much.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
13 taking the time to call in today, Courtenay.

14
15 OPERATOR: No additional comments at
16 this time.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
19 Thank you, Operator, for that. That concludes our
20 public comment again this morning. This opportunity
21 will be available again tomorrow for non-agenda items.

22
23 Thank you all.

24
25 We'll move on to old business. It
26 looks like we've got no old business. So I think, Tom,
27 that leads us into the 2020-2022 Subparts C&D proposals
28 and closure reviews, wildlife regulations. Tribal
29 government-to-government ANCSA consultation summary.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: On the present agenda
32 we already had -- I don't believe we need to do that
33 part. I think we're moving right into the proposals.
34 We did have a Wildlife Special Action. I believe it's
35 WSA20-20 where 19 was asked to be brought off the
36 consensus agenda. It would have been Unit 20
37 Southcentral all species. That one I believe it was
38 asked to come off the consensus agenda.

39
40 If any Staff can correct me on that so
41 we make sure that that's added into a matter of record
42 for the Board to discuss.

43
44 MR. MCKEE: Tom, it's Proposal WP20-20
45 and it involves Unit 7, all species.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chris. I
48 just wanted to make sure that everybody knew that that
49 one was in line and that we're ready to go. With that,

50

1 Mr. Chair, I'll turn it over to you. There are some
2 slides. We'll start with Region 1 in Southeast Alaska
3 and WP20-01.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, does one
6 of the Staff members have a page number that would be
7 available in the book we have.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: That Staff member will
10 be coming on and providing the analysis here shortly.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

13
14 MR. C. BROWER: Tom, I can't hear you
15 very good, so speak up a little bit, please.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we're on the
18 announcement of a consensus agenda.

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: What I'm seeing here
21 too, yeah, I have the most recent agenda. So, again,
22 if we would start with -- I just got a note from
23 Suzanne that says we missed the public comment on
24 consensus agenda items.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I guess
27 we can back up one second here and we'll open up the
28 floor for public comment on the consensus agenda.

29
30 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would
31 like to make a public comment, please press *1 from
32 your phone. One moment as I queue up the first
33 question. Our first comment comes from Terry Suminski.
34 Your line is now open.

35
36 MR. SUMINSKI: I'm sorry. I was just
37 getting in the queue for my presentation. I don't have
38 a comment on the agenda, sorry.

39
40 OPERATOR: Our next comment will come
41 from Suzanne Worker. Your line is now open.

42
43 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 It's Suzanne Worker. I lost track of the conversation
45 there. I wasn't sure if you needed someone to read the
46 consensus agenda proposals or not. If you do, I can
47 handle that. Otherwise I'll get off the line.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're going to
50

1 meet here in a few minutes. We were just opening up
2 the floor if there was any public comments on the
3 consensus agenda. We did pull one proposal from there
4 20-20 like Chris stated. So we're just looking at
5 getting started with the consensus agenda proposals
6 this morning and we were looking for any public comment
7 that may be related to that.

8
9 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 I'll get off the line.

11
12 OPERATOR: We have no additional
13 callers. Thank you.

14
15 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
18 Charlie.

19
20 MR. C. BROWER: Is that WP20-20 you
21 were talking about?

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I was just
24 talking about the proposal yesterday that we had pulled
25 off of the consensus agenda.

26
27 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.

30
31 MR. SCHMID: If you recall yesterday, I
32 requested that we pull 20-16/17. That's regarding
33 wolves on Unit 2. To bring it off the consensus and
34 onto the non-consensus agenda. So that would be in
35 addition to what Tom just referenced there, 20-20.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, that's correct,
38 Dave. We also had WP20-16/17 coming off the consensus
39 agenda. So those would be the two that would need
40 discussion. The third was that on the non-consensus
41 agenda we also put on WP20-27 ahead of WP20-26 as Board
42 Member Siekaniec suggested.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, I'm
45 looking at my thing here. It looks like the next thing
46 we do is announce the consensus agenda and then again
47 I've made it available for public comment on that as
48 well. Not hearing anybody jumping in I'll go ahead and
49 turn it over to Suzanne to announce the consensus
50

1 agenda.

2

3 OPERATOR: Suzanne, your line is open.

4

5 MS. WORKER: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. Would you like me just to read through the list
7 of proposals that are currently on the consensus agenda
8 so that we're all on the same page?

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I would.

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. WORKER: Okay. For the record my
14 name is Suzanne Worker and the consensus agenda is
15 listed in your agenda, but we did make a few changes.
16 I'll just list them out. WP20-03, WP20-04, WP20-05,
17 WP20-08, WP20-09, WP20-10, WP20-11, WP20-12, WP20-13,
18 WP20-14, WP20-15, WP20-16/17 was removed from the
19 consensus agenda, WP20-18a, WP20-19, WP20-20 was
20 removed from the consensus agenda, WP20-22a, WP20-23a,
21 WP20-24a, WP20-28/29, WP20-31, WP20-32/33, WP20-34,
22 WP20-35, WP20-39, WP20-48 and WP20-51.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
27 that, Suzanne, getting it in the record. Again I would
28 ask anyone online that wanted to speak to the public
29 comment I'll provide one more opportunity at this time
30 after announcement of the consensus agenda.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
35 That opens the floor for a motion so we can accept the
36 consensus agenda presented by the staff.

37

38 MR. C. BROWER: So moved, Mr. Chair.

39

40 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I
41 second.

42

43 MR. C. BROWER: Can you hear me?

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I heard
46 you, Charlie. Thank you. We've got a first and a
47 second. Any Board discussion.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
2 question.

3
4 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

7
8 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair, this is
9 Charlie.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Charlie.

12
13 MR. C. BROWER: That motion I made to
14 approve the consent agenda proposals taking off
15 WP20-16/17 and WP20-20. That's correct.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. And then
18 we have Rhonda seconded. I'm just making sure. Tom,
19 are you still on?

20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. Usually what we
22 do on the vote to accept the consensus agenda comes
23 after we deal with the non-consensus agenda items.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just looked
26 at my paper again and realized I jumped the gun. So
27 I'd ask the maker of the motion and the second if we
28 could back out our motion and wait until we get to that
29 process. I jumped the gun.

30
31 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

34
35 MR. C. BROWER: With the concurrence of
36 my seconder, I will do that.

37
38 MS. PITKA: I concur. This is Rhonda
39 Pitka.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you two
42 for doing that. I appreciate that. Thank you for the
43 clarity there, Tom. Just a little different over the
44 phone trying to do this without my right-hand man next
45 to me.

46
47 We'll move on to the Board deliberation
48 and action on non-consensus items.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Terry Suminski
2 is up.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. He has
5 the floor. Thank you for that clarity, Tom.

6
7 MR. SUMINSKI: Hello, Mr. Chair. Am I
8 on?

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.

11
12 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you. Mr.
13 Chairman, Board members, and Council Chairs. My name
14 is Terry Suminski with the U.S. Forest Service and I
15 manage the subsistence program for the Tongass National
16 Forest from Sitka.

17
18 The executive summary for Wildlife
19 Proposal 20-01 is on Page 565 of your books and the
20 analysis begins on Page 566. WP20-01 was submitted by
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and it requests
22 that the Federal season for moose in Unit 1C, Berners
23 Bay be rescinded.

24
25 The proponent states that the Federal
26 subsistence moose hunt in Berners Bay amounts to a
27 partial closure to non-Federally qualified users, which
28 conflicts with the Board's Closure Policy. The
29 proponent requests that the Board rescind the Federal
30 moose hunt in Berners Bay because there is no
31 demonstrated conservation concern.

32
33 Prior to this last season Federally
34 qualified subsistence users had not been provided a
35 meaningful priority to hunt moose on the primarily
36 Federal public lands of Berners Bay. There was no
37 Federal season prior to 2019 even though demand for the
38 State draw hunt by Federally qualified subsistence
39 users has been consistently higher than the number of
40 available State permits.

41
42 The Federal Subsistence Board adopted
43 the Federal Berners Bay draw hunt last wildlife cycle
44 based on a compromise on Proposal WP18-11 as
45 recommended by the Southeast Alaska Subsistence
46 Regional Advisory Council. There were nine applicants
47 for two Federal moose tags in 2019. One of those tags
48 was filled.

49
50

1 The OSM conclusion is to oppose this
2 proposal. Rescinding the Federal season for moose in
3 Berners Bay drainages in Unit 1C would remove the
4 subsistence priority for Federally qualified
5 subsistence users to hunt moose there. The priority
6 harvest of Berners Bay moose on Federal public lands by
7 Federally qualified subsistence users is consistent
8 with Title VIII of ANILCA. The Berners Bay moose
9 population would not be impacted by this proposal
10 because the number of permits available would not
11 change.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 Terry. Any questions for Terry regarding this
17 proposal.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
22 Tom, could you call the next order of business, please.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is the public
25 comment stage again for public comments on WP20-01.

26
27 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would
28 like to provide a public comment, please press *1 from
29 your phone.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 OPERATOR: We have no public comments
34 in queue at this time.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next order of
37 business, Tom.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Next order of business
40 would be to open a summary of the written public
41 comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was there any
44 written public comment on this agenda item?

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: The written comments
47 will be done by Katya Wessels or Karen Deatherage.

48
49 OPERATOR: Katya, your line is now
50

1 open. Please speak.
2

3 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. This is Katya
4 Wessels with the Office of Subsistence Management. Can
5 you hear me?
6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, we can, Katya.
8

9 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
10 members of the Board. We received two written public
11 comments both in support of WP20-01. One from the
12 Alaska Board of Game and another from the Ketchikan
13 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.
14

15 The Alaska Board of Game supports
16 WP20-01 and is concerned with the Federal moose hunting
17 regulations from the Berners Bay drainages in Unit 1C.
18 The Alaska Board of Game opposed the creation of this
19 hunt in 2018 for the following reasons: Moose were
20 transplanted to Berners Bay primarily for the benefit
21 of Juneau hunters.
22

23 Juneau hunters have accounted for the
24 overwhelming majority of hunter effort and harvest in
25 Berners Bay including the moose hunt. Federally
26 qualified subsistence users in northern Southeast have
27 virtually no record of hunting or harvesting in Berners
28 Bay.
29

30 Adopting the proposal establishing
31 Federal priorities would disenfranchise Juneau hunters.
32 The Department of Fish and Game currently devotes
33 considerable effort to monitoring the Berners Bay moose
34 population and determining sustainable harvest levels.
35 The funds from State license sales and Federal aid in
36 wildlife restoration grants from all Alaskan hunters
37 are used to accomplish this work. Therefore, all
38 Alaskan hunters have a right to benefit from their
39 expenditures.
40

41 The second comment came from the
42 Ketchikan AC in support of WP20-01 and it says: A
43 biological concern does not currently exist
44 necessitating a subsistence priority. The majority of
45 traditional use comes from the Juneau area. A ferry
46 system is currently in place to provide for
47 opportunity.
48

49 This concludes my presentation of the
50

1 summary of the written public comments for WP20-01.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Katerina. Any questions for Katerina.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
11 We'll move on to the Regional Advisory Council
12 recommendations, Chair or designee.

13

14 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, good morning.
15 Don Hernandez, Chair of the Southeast Regional Council.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
18 have the floor.

19

20 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. The Council
21 opposed this proposal. I'll read our justification
22 here. Also there's a bit of a history that goes along
23 with this, so I will read through that as well.

24

25 The Council had carefully considered
26 the issues surrounding a Berners Bay moose hunt during
27 its fall of 2017 and winter of 2018 meetings. During
28 these meetings Council spent considerable time
29 discussing Proposal 18-11, which requested a rural
30 priority and the Council voted for a Federal preference
31 on a portion of this hunt. Since there is no new
32 information to warrant a reconsideration or lead to a
33 change, Council feels Proposal 20-01 is not necessary
34 as this issue was previously settled.

35

36 The Council added that at its 2017 fall
37 meeting discussion and the Chair's testimony at the
38 following Federal Subsistence Board meeting show the
39 care taken in formulating its recommendation for a 25
40 percent subsistence priority (indiscernible - others
41 talking) -- stated that a 25 percent priority does not
42 unnecessarily restrict other users. Right now all
43 rural residents in Units 1 through 5 have a customary
44 and traditional use in Unit 1C, which includes Berners
45 Bay.

46

47 Council thinks it is perfectly
48 legitimate to afford a priority to rural users that
49 want to hunt in Berners Bay as long as moose is

50

1 available. Council also requested that the previous
2 justification for this proposal from 2017 be
3 incorporated here for a reference.

4
5 Now I'll go back to that 2017 fall
6 meeting just.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don. Don,
9 could I ask you to pause for a second, Don. I'm sorry.

10
11 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I hear somebody
12 in the background there.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Somebody needs
15 to mute their line. It almost sounds like maybe Louie.

16
17 MR. GREEN: Yeah, sorry.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Good
20 thing I recognized your voice. All right. Don, you
21 have the floor again.

22
23 MR. GREEN: I'm one of the top 10 now,
24 right?

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don, you have
27 the floor.

28
29 MR. HERNANDEZ: It's good with such a
30 small community we can recognize each other's voices.
31 That's pretty interesting.

32
33 Thank you, Tony.

34
35 So back to our 2017 fall meeting
36 justification. The Council decided that there needs to
37 be a way to address proponents' concerns, which was to
38 provide a Federal subsistence priority, but this
39 proposal couldn't be implemented to do so and at the
40 same time maintain a management system on this limited
41 population of moose.

42
43 Council felt that they could not
44 support this proposal based on the information analysis
45 given, including constitutionally of how a Federal draw
46 hunt might work with a State draw as well. Well,
47 certain specific analysis this proposal could create a
48 conservation concern because the moose population is so
49 small.

50

1 The Council stated that it would like
2 to continue discussion in order to solve this problem
3 in the future including entertaining a future proposal
4 after learning how best to do this and implement the
5 same without creating a conservation concern. That was
6 our discussion going back to 2017, a little over two
7 years ago.

8
9 So then at our 2018 winter meeting a
10 little over a year ago the topic came up again. After
11 considering biological information, local knowledge and
12 public testimony on the matter, Council voted 11-0 for
13 the following alternative to be presented to the Board
14 at its April meeting. That was in the Berners Bay
15 drainages only one moose permit may be issued per
16 household.

17
18 A household receiving a State permit
19 for Berners Bay drainages moose may not receive a
20 Federal permit. The annual harvest quota will be
21 announced by the U.S. Forest Service, Juneau Ranger
22 District Office in consultation with ADF&G. Federal
23 harvest allocation will be 25 percent rounded up to the
24 next whole number of moose permits.

25
26 The Council's justification was the
27 Council recognizes this is a complex issue, but feels
28 like this alternative would provide for a priority for
29 Federally qualified rural residents hunting moose in
30 Berners Bay.

31
32 The Council further notes this is an
33 option for providing priority access to limited moose
34 resources on Federal public lands in the area. The
35 Council feels that a Federal drawing hunt would be
36 beneficial in meeting subsistence needs, but suggests
37 delaying implementation of this alternative hunt
38 structure until the fall of 2019 so as not to conflict
39 with current State draw hunt.

40
41 That brings us up to the fall 2019
42 season where the permit was implemented and, as Terry
43 Suminski noted, there was participation by Federally
44 qualified users and I believe he said that one moose
45 was harvested in Berners Bay.

46
47 That concludes our Council's actions on
48 this proposal.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
2 Any questions for Don, Southeast Chair.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don,
7 for that presentation. Hearing no questions, I'll move
8 on to tribal/Alaska Native corp comments, Native
9 Liaison.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Orville Lind.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Orville, you
14 on?

15
16 OPERATOR: Orville, your line is open.
17 Please speak.

18
19 MR. LIND: Quyana. Thank you. Can
20 everyone hear me?

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.

23
24 MR. LIND: Okay. Good morning, Mr.
25 Chair. Federal Subsistence Board members. My name is
26 Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the Office of
27 Subsistence Management. During the consultation we
28 held on September 30th there was no comments made on
29 WP20-01.

30
31 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
36 questions for Orville.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
41 We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
42 State Liaison.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator.

45
46 OPERATOR: This is the Operator. May I
47 please have the name of the next person that's supposed
48 to speak.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ben Mulligan or Mark
2 Burch. These two people will need to be available
3 throughout the entire conference.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 OPERATOR: I do not see a Ben Mulligan
8 that has connected. They did dial in earlier, but it
9 looks like they have disconnected. We are waiting for
10 them to redial back in. Please stand by.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Operator.
13 We should take a pause until Mr. Mulligan is online.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Take five.

16
17 MR. MULLIGAN: Hey, guys, this is Ben.
18 Can you hear me?

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There he is.
21 Thank you, Ben.

22
23 MR. MULLIGAN: Sorry about that, guys.
24 If you guys are ready, I can start.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
27 yours.

28
29 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 For the record, my name is Ben Mulligan, serve as
31 Deputy Commissioner for the Alaska Department of Fish
32 and Game. As this is our proposal, we do support
33 repeal of this hunt. I will keep my comments brief as
34 we've laid them out in writing.

35
36 We support the repeal. This hunt is --
37 you know, as you know the history on this we've opposed
38 it since the start, since the C&T determination for 1C
39 was blanketed over the Berners Bay population to today.
40 We don't feel that there's a concern involved and given
41 the unique dynamics of the population, we feel this
42 should be a hunt area that's open to everybody and not
43 I would say bifurcated between a Federal hunt and a
44 State hunt.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
49 questions for the State.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
4 We'll move on to Interagency Staff Committee comments,
5 ISC Chair.

6

7 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. Suzanne
8 Worker.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
11 Suzanne.

12

13 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
14 Suzanne Worker. I'm the Acting Policy Coordinator for
15 the Office of Subsistence Management. In that capacity
16 I serve as the Chair of the Interagency Staff
17 Committee.

18

19 For the purposes of this meeting ISC
20 has a standard comment, which reads: The Interagency
21 Staff Committee found the Staff analysis to be a
22 thorough and accurate evaluation of the proposal and
23 that it provides sufficient basis for the Regional
24 Advisory Council recommendation in Federal Subsistence
25 Board action on the proposal.

26

27 There are several proposals for the
28 non-consensus agenda for which the ISC provided the
29 standard comment. For those comments I will simply
30 state that the ISC provided the standard comment rather
31 than repeating the entire comment each time. For
32 WP20-01, the ISC provided the standard comment.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
37 questions for ISC.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
42 We'll move on to Board discussion with Council Chairs
43 and State Liaison.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
48 That opens up the floor for Board action on this
49 proposal WP20-01.

50

1 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. David Schmid,
2 Forest Service.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.
5 You have the floor.

6
7 MR. SCHMID: I'd like to move to adopt
8 WP20-01 as submitted by Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game. This proposal is shown on Page 565 of the Board
10 book. Following a second I will explain why I intend
11 to oppose my motion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion has
14 been made.

15
16 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I
17 will second that motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Rhonda.

21
22 Go ahead, Dave.

23
24 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
25 realize this is a complex issue, but current Federal
26 regulation provides for a priority use and preference
27 for Federally qualified subsistence users for hunting
28 moose in Berners Bay, which is consistent with Sections
29 802 and 804 of ANILCA.

30
31 Federally qualified subsistence users'
32 need and demand for Berners Bay moose is greater than
33 the number of State permits available annually. The
34 combined Federal 25 percent and State 75 percent draw
35 hunt would continue to provide opportunity for
36 non-Federally qualified moose hunters in Berners Bay
37 while providing for moose conservation.

38
39 This proposal would also provide for
40 priority access to limited moose resources on Federal
41 public lands in the area. Ninety-seven percent of
42 Berners Bay area is Federal public lands.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
47 other Board discussion or deliberation.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
2 We'll call for roll call, Tom.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. This is Tom
5 Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director for OSM.
6 This is on Proposal WP20-01, requests that the Federal
7 Subsistence Board repeal the Federal season for moose
8 in Unit 1C Berners Bay.

9
10 National Park Service, Donald Striker.

11
12 MR. STRIKER: Oppose.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
15 Management, Chad Padgett.

16
17 MR. PADGETT: I support the WP20-01 and
18 if I may take a moment, I'll provide you my rationale.

19
20 Section 815 of ANILCA states that
21 nothing in this Title shall be construed as authorizing
22 a restriction on the taking of fish and wildlife for
23 non-subsistence uses on the public lands other than
24 National Parks and Park Monuments unless necessary for
25 the conservation of healthy population of fish and
26 wildlife for reasons set forth in Section 816. Public
27 safety administration are to ensure the continued
28 viability of such population to continue

29
30 It looks to me, according to Table 2
31 that there are high enough numbers to support close to
32 the maximum numbers of the population. Therefore, RAC
33 position may not be supported by substantial evidence.
34 We should not restrict subsistence uses unless it was
35 necessary for the conservation of a healthy population
36 of the wildlife.

37
38 That's the end of my statement.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad, and
43 for the qualification.

44
45 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
46 Siekaniec.

47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. Yes, I
49 oppose in support of the U.S. Forest Service motion.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: So that's a no?
2
3 MR. SIEKANIEC: That's correct.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.
6
7 U.S. Forest Service David Schmid.
8
9 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I oppose with the
10 justification I gave with the motion.
11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
13
14 Gene Peltola.
15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
17 opposes as stipulated by the Forest Service in their
18 justification in addition to as recommended to
19 Southeast Council giving deference.
20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
22
23 Rhonda Pitka.
24
25 MS. PITKA: I oppose in deference to
26 the Regional Advisory Council and also the
27 justification on Page 581 of the meeting book.
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
30
31 Charlie Brower.
32
33 MR. C. BROWER: I oppose the motion.
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Charlie.
36
37 Last but not least Chairman Anthony
38 Christianson.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
41 deference to the Regional Advisory Council.
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion fails. Thank
44 you, guys. We'll move on to the next one.
45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
47 That brings us to WP20-02.
48
49 MR. SUMINSKI: Am I on, Mr. Chairman?
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. Read off
2 the analysis for WP20-02 Southeast Unit 2 deer. That's
3 you, Terry.

4
5 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 Board members, Council Chairs. My name is Terry
7 Suminski with the U.S. Forest Service and I manage the
8 Subsistence Program for the Tongass National Forest
9 from Sitka.

10
11 Executive summary for Wildlife Proposal
12 20-02 starts on Page 593 of your books and the analysis
13 begins on Page 595. WP20-02 was submitted by the
14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and requests that
15 the reduced deer harvest limit for non-Federally
16 qualified users in Unit 2 be rescinded.

17
18 The proponent contends that the Board
19 does not have the authority to unnecessarily restrict
20 non-Federally qualified users, and that Alaska National
21 Interest Lands Claim Act Section 1314 affirms the
22 States sovereign responsibility and authority for
23 management of fish and wildlife on all lands except as
24 may be provided in Title VIII.

25
26 If adopted, the proposal would return
27 the State deer harvest limit to four bucks, increasing
28 opportunity on Federal public lands for non-Federally
29 qualified users. This would likely increase both the
30 number of non-Federally qualified user days hunted and
31 encounters between Federally qualified and
32 non-Federally qualified users, thereby decreasing
33 harvest opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence
34 users through increased competition. Deer taken by
35 non-Federally qualified users would likely increase,
36 also decreasing harvest opportunity for Federally
37 qualified subsistence users.

38
39 In January of 2020, this Board
40 determined that a request to reconsider WP18-01 did not
41 meet the threshold requirements for further
42 consideration as outlined in regulation.

43
44 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
45 WP20-02. Current data indicate harvest is below the
46 average of the previous ten years, from 2007 to 2016.
47 Harvest peaked in 2015 and then declined in 2016
48 through 2018. Although results from recent deer pellet
49 surveys in Unit 2 show a slight decrease in mean
50

1 pellet-group counts, they are within the high end of
2 the normal range, indicating populations are likely
3 doing well.

4
5 Other factors such as changing weather
6 patterns, reductions in access, changes to deer
7 behavior related to the presence of predators, and
8 competition with non-Federally qualified users may
9 limit harvest success.

10
11 The current harvest limit for
12 non-Federally qualified users affects 13 percent of
13 non-Federally qualified hunters that harvest more than
14 two deer in Unit 2 annually and will likely contribute
15 to greater hunting success for Federally qualified
16 subsistence users through decreased competition.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 I'm available for questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
23 Terry. Any questions for Terry.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
28 We'll move on to summary of public comments, Regional
29 Council Coordinator.

30
31 OPERATOR: This is the Operator. We do
32 have one public comment.

33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, did you say
35 you do have one public comment?

36
37 OPERATOR: Yes, sir. Our first public
38 comment comes from Elizabeth Medicine Crow. Your line
39 is open.

40
41 MS. CROW: Hello, Mr. Chair. Can you
42 hear me?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. You have
45 the floor, Elizabeth.

46
47 MS. CROW: Thank you. I'm calling in
48 on behalf of First Alaskans Institute. We've been
49 paying attention to the work of the Federal Subsistence
50

1 Board along with our advocates for Alaska Natives and
2 tribal hunting and fishing rights. This one really
3 caught my attention. I'm concerned about the
4 prioritization of non-Federal users on a population
5 that's already low. So I'm calling in to oppose this
6 proposal.

7
8 I also wanted to alert you that Joel
9 Jackson, who was on the call earlier, has been having
10 trouble getting onto the call, as did I when I first
11 called in. He wanted to also comment on this proposal,
12 but he can't get back into the line. It keeps dropping
13 him. So I wanted to bring that to your attention as I
14 feel like that's a real impediment to giving his
15 testimony.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
20 that, Elizabeth. Hopefully they'll be able to sign on
21 here. We've been experiencing technical difficulties
22 quite a bit. Hopefully he does get on here before the
23 end. We'll give him an opportunity to speak.

24
25 Any other public comment.

26
27 OPERATOR: We have no additional
28 comments at this time.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
31 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, Chair or
32 designee.

33
34 MR. HERNANDEZ: This is Don Hernandez,
35 Chair of the Southeast RAC.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: We need to back up,
38 guys. We're at the summary of public comments to be
39 provided by Katya Wessels.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, sorry, Tom.

42
43 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'll standby.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry about
46 that, guys. I'm reading two agendas here, so thank
47 you, Tom, for clarity.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair. Members of
50

1 the Board. Can you hear me?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Katya, you
4 have the floor.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. For the
7 record, this is Katya Wessels with Office of
8 Subsistence Management. I will present the summary of
9 written public comments on WP20-02. We received one
10 written public comment in support from the Ketchikan
11 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The Ketchikan AC
12 supports WP20-02 and says we support State managers in
13 their assessment of the deer population and the
14 opportunities it can support.

15

16 This concludes my summary of the
17 written public comments.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Katya. Now we'll move on. Thank you for that, Tom.
23 The floor is yours, Don.

24

25 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Don Hernandez,
26 Chair of the Southeast RAC and I'm online now, correct?

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
29 floor.

30

31 MR. HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.
32 Southeast Council opposed this proposal. The Council
33 generated a proposal for harvest limit restrictions on
34 non-Federally qualified users for deer in Unit 2 in
35 2017 after hearing local testimony and traditional
36 ecological knowledge that people were struggling to get
37 their subsistence needs met.

38

39 At the 2019 regulatory meeting, the
40 Council heard testimony from the Ketchikan Indian
41 Community and Prince of Wales Island residents that
42 Prince of Wales rural residents were still not meeting
43 their subsistence needs.

44

45 The Council looked closely at the data
46 presented in the analysis and felt that out-of-balance
47 buck-to-doe ratio, that stem exclusion inhibiting
48 productive deer habitat and an abundance of road access
49 almost every area on the island and that high wolf and

50

1 bear populations were potentially reasons for the
2 limited number of deer.
3

4 The analysis showed that harvest by
5 non-local hunters averaged less than two deer and the
6 overall harvest is below harvested objective even
7 though there has recently been a reduction of 1,300
8 hunters.
9

10 Council finds that because subsistence
11 users are still not meeting their needs there is a
12 conservation concern for this resource and there is the
13 potential for a dire conservation concern in the future
14 if action is not taken to conserve the population.
15

16 That concludes our comments on this
17 proposal.
18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
20 Any questions for Don.
21

22 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair. Chad Padgett.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, go ahead.
25

26 MR. PADGETT: Don, can you just
27 describe in a little bit more detail what your
28 conservation concerns might be for me.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, thank you for
33 that, Chad. Well, as we noted, there are a number of
34 factors happening here on Prince of Wales Island. A
35 lot of them deal with habitat concerns, extensive
36 roading which provides to access to all areas of the
37 island leaving little refuge for the deer to have
38 places where they're not hunted.
39

40 We feel that there are predator
41 situations here on the island. You're going to be
42 taking that up in another proposal dealing with the
43 wolf management that was taken off of the consensus
44 agenda, so that's part of the discussion.
45

46 Prince of Wales Island is a complex
47 island with many users. A lot of issues dealing with
48 habitat access, predation. It's a very complicated
49 picture and it all just seems to be coming evident to a
50

1 lot of people on the island that the situation is just
2 not that good right now.

3
4 We pointed out to what appears to be
5 things getting a little out of balance with the
6 buck-to-doe ratio. With the hunt effort concentrated
7 on bucks, we feel that there is just a lot of pressure
8 being put on the buck population. People might note
9 that there is a little bit of discrepancy in our stance
10 on this. Sometimes some proposals we say there's not a
11 conservation concern and then other times we kind of
12 acknowledge conservation concerns.

13
14 I think the key point here in that
15 regard is that we see some, as we put in our statement
16 here, some dire conservation concerns in the future if
17 action is not taken now. We don't like the direction
18 things are headed and we're trying to take steps to
19 kind of keep the pressure off I think would be the best
20 description here.

21
22 I guess the one way we thought we saw
23 we could do that without impinging on subsistence
24 users' needs was to place some restrictions on the
25 non-subsistence users. So that was our goal with this
26 proposal.

27
28 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair. Chad again.
29 Don, I just wanted to say thank you for that comment.
30 That's helpful. I really appreciate it.

31
32 MR. HERNANDEZ: You're welcome.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
35 questions for Don.

36
37 OPERATOR: This is the Operator. We do
38 have a public comment in queue.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is that you,
41 Joel?

42
43 MR. JACKSON: Yes, it is.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. You have
46 the floor, Joel.

47
48 MR. JACKSON: Okay. I just wanted to
49 comment on people that may be opposing this emergency
50

1 moose hunt. Sorry, I had my phone on speaker and it
2 don't work well. Could you guys hear most of that?

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You're loud and
5 clear.

6
7 MR. JACKSON: I just wanted to make the
8 comment to those people that are maybe opposing our
9 emergency moose and deer hunt here in Kake. You know,
10 when it comes down and people say, well, the deer
11 numbers are low, the moose numbers are low, subsistence
12 should take priority over everything.

13
14 Like I stated earlier, it's not a
15 subsistence issue. It's an emergency issue and that we
16 may need to use in the near future. So I want to be
17 proactive on getting things into place if things get
18 worse. We've been faced with a lot of tough
19 situations, but I think this is probably unprecedented
20 to anything we've ever experienced and as much as you
21 all have.

22
23 So it's very concerning to us. As I
24 stated before, I don't want our people to be labeled
25 criminals because of some law. I just wanted to make
26 those comments because, you know, subsistence should
27 take precedence over everything else because we're the
28 ones that need it.

29
30 I mean we're the ones that are out
31 there in remote areas without access to roads. We
32 don't have a ferry system anymore. The only way in and
33 out of here is fly by plane, which costs an arm and a
34 leg. It's not like we can just fly stuff in. No. We
35 get a weekly barge, but like I said our suppliers don't
36 have what our stores are ordering.

37
38 I want you guys to consider that very
39 seriously. Again that's our number one priority is
40 providing for our tribal citizens and also providing
41 security. I don't want to be rushing at the last
42 minute trying to get something in place. I want it in
43 place and we want to do it legally.

44
45 I think most, like I stated earlier,
46 most remote villages in Alaska are in the same
47 situation. Our people have never overharvested or
48 overfished anything. We were conservationists way
49 before the word was even invented because we realized a
50

1 long time ago if we overfished or overhunted, they
2 won't be there anymore.

3
4 So this is my comments, my feeling and
5 thank you again for allowing me to comment.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
10 Joel. Any comments or feedback.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I thank you for
15 calling in and testifying today, Joel.

16
17 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Rhonda. Go
20 ahead.

21
22 MS. PITKA: I was wondering is that
23 testimony on 20-02 or testimony on the SAR?

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think that
26 was a combination, but I think he was talking about
27 Berners Bay moose and then his Special Action Request.

28
29 MS. PITKA: Okay. Thank you for that
30 clarification. I appreciate it.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. If there
33 are no further comments, we're on the Tribal/Alaska
34 Native Corporation comments with Orville Lind.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There we go.
37 Orville, you have the floor.

38
39 MR. LIND: Chairman, can you hear me?

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I got you.

42
43 MR. LIND: Okay. Again, thank you,
44 Chairman, Board members, Regional Advisory Council
45 Chairs. My name is Orville Lind. I'm from the Office
46 of Subsistence Management.

47
48 During the consultation session we had
49 one member from the Sealaska Corporation and her
50

1 comments were that she had hoped that someone would
2 clarify the proposals from Southeast. She's confused
3 on a couple of them on the changing of the harvest
4 limit. She also hoped that Prince of Wales Island
5 folks would get to provide input on those proposals.
6

7 She also stated that she was wondering
8 about the vacancies on the Regional Advisory Council
9 for Southeast. She was informed, of course, there were
10 no vacancies at that time. She was wondering why there
11 was limited folks online from Southeast being involved.
12 She was interested in trying to help out getting people
13 involved to come to these meetings. Also interested in
14 having students get themselves involved in the Regional
15 Advisory Council meetings. She also encouraged all
16 agencies to keep contacts up to date.
17

18 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.
19

20 Thank you.
21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
23 questions for Orville.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
28 We'll go to Alaska Department of Fish and Game
29 comments, State Liaison. You have the floor.
30

31 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Department of Fish and
33 Game again. The Department, of course, supports its
34 proposal to repeal the bag limit change. We feel that
35 there is no evidence that hunting by non-Federally
36 qualified hunters has resulted in a biological concern
37 for the Unit 2 deer population or affected subsistence
38 uses by Federally qualified hunters.
39

40 As all of you know, a majority of Unit
41 2, 72 percent, is Federally managed and current Federal
42 regulations provide substantially greater opportunity
43 to Federally qualified deer hunters compared to
44 non-Federally qualified deer hunters.
45

46 This includes an extra 54 days when
47 only Federally qualified users can hunt on Federal
48 land, a higher bag limit of five deer including one doe
49 harvest after October 15th compared to the
50

1 non-Federally qualified hunting bag limit of two
2 antlered deer on Federal land and a season that extends
3 through January when deer are in a low elevation or on
4 the beach and much more vulnerable to hunters.

5
6 In conclusion, we feel that given these
7 factors and the data we presented in our written
8 comments about harvest hunter effort and the recent
9 surveys that we've conducted on this population we are
10 in support of this proposal.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
15 questions for the State.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
20 We'll move on to Interagency Staff Committee.

21
22 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 This is Suzanne Worker. The Interagency Staff
24 Committee agrees with the Southeast Subsistence
25 Regional Advisory Council. The Federally qualified
26 subsistence users are still not meeting their needs in
27 Unit 2 and there's a conservation concern for this
28 resource.

29
30 The ISC also agrees with the Southeast
31 Council and the Federal Subsistence Board that the
32 existing Unit 2 deer regulation will continue to
33 provide opportunity for non-Federally qualified deer
34 hunters on Prince of Wales Island while providing for a
35 subsistence priority and conservation of deer.

36
37 The ISC noted that no substantive
38 information changes have been presented to the Board
39 since the Board's original decision on WP18-01, which
40 resulted in a harvest limit restriction for
41 non-Federally qualified year in Unit 2.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Suzanne. Any questions for Suzanne.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Board
2 discussion with Council Chairs and State Liaison.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
7 discussion, we'll open up the floor for Federal Board
8 action on WP20-02.

9
10 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,
11 Forest Service.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.

14
15 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. I move to
16 adopt Proposal WP20-02 as submitted by Alaska
17 Department of Fish and Game. This proposal is shown on
18 Page 593 of the Board book. Again, following a second,
19 I will explain why I intend to oppose my motion.

20
21 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I'll
22 second.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
25 yours, Dave.

26
27 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. My
28 justification is as follows: The existing regulation
29 provides Federally qualified subsistence users a
30 subsistence priority to this resource on Federal public
31 lands in Unit 2. This proposal is opposed by the
32 Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

33
34 The Board adopted the reduced deer
35 harvest limit for non-Federally qualified users in
36 response to extensive testimony that Federally
37 qualified subsistence users' needs were not being met.
38 Under ANILCA Section 815, the Board's implementation
39 policy, the Board may restrict the taking of fish and
40 wildlife by non-Federally qualified users on Federal
41 public lands if necessary to protect continued
42 subsistence uses of those populations or for the
43 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
44 wildlife.

45
46 The current harvest limit for
47 non-Federally qualified users only affects the few
48 individuals that harvest more than two deer in Unit 2
49 annually and it will likely contribute to greater
50

1 hunting success for Federally qualified subsistence
2 users through decreased competition.

3
4 The existing regulation continues to
5 provide a priority use for Federally qualified
6 subsistence users for deer in Unit 2.

7
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
11 other Board discussion, deliberation.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
16 question.

17
18 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
21 has been called. Do you want to do roll call, Tom,
22 please.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. This is Tom
25 Doolittle, Deputy Assistant Regional Director for OSM.
26 This is on Proposal WP20-02, that the reduced deer
27 harvest limit for non-Federally qualified users in Unit
28 2 be rescinded.

29
30 We'll start with Rhonda Pitka.

31
32 MS. PITKA: I oppose the motion based
33 on the OSM conclusion on Page 608 of the meeting book.
34 Federally qualified subsistence users' needs were not
35 being met.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

40
41 Charlie Brower.

42
43 MR. C. BROWER: I oppose for the same
44 reason. Thank you.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, Charlie.
47 Thank you.

48
49 Bureau of Land Management, Chad Padgett.

50

1 MR. PADGETT: I support the WP20-02 on
2 the basis that the RAC position may not be supported by
3 substantial evidence of a conservation concern. In
4 fact, the statement said that the population may be
5 doing well. So both on that basis as well as Section
6 1314 of ANILCA in conjunction with Title VIII I vote in
7 support of WP20-02.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

12
13 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
14 Siekaniec.

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
17 oppose in deference to the Regional Advisory Council
18 and in support of the U.S. Forest Service.

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

21
22 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

23
24 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. I oppose
25 again for the reasons I shared with my motion.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

28
29 National Park Service, Donald Striker.

30
31 MR. STRIKER: I oppose for reasons
32 already given.

33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

35
36 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

37
38 MR. PELTOLA: BIA opposes based on the
39 Forest Service justification and in deference to the
40 RAC.

41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

43
44 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
47 deference to the RAC.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. It is 7
50

1 nays, 1 yea, so the motion fails. We'll be moving on
2 to Wildlife Proposal 20-06.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, I'm going
5 to call for a 10-minute recess. Please stay on the
6 line. Don't hang up. I am going to call for a
7 10-minute break.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Don, you on?

14
15 MR. STRIKER: Indeed.

16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Cool. Greg?

18
19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, I'm on.

20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Greg. Gene,
22 are you back on?

23
24 DR. CHEN: This is Glenn Chen. Gene
25 just had to step away from his phone for just a sec,
26 but he's here.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Cool. Thanks,
29 Glenn. Are you there, Charlie.

30
31 (No response)

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: So Charlie. How about
34 you, Tony, are you back in?

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I've been here.
37 I never left.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. So we're just
40 waiting on Charlie. Ben Mulligan, are you with us?

41
42 MR. MULLIGAN: The State is here.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Good. We're
45 just waiting on Charlie.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 MR. C. BROWER: I'm back online now.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: 10-4. Thank you very
2 much. We've got everybody back on. Mr. Chair, I will
3 turn it back over to you for WP20-06.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
6 Here we go on WP20-06, Southeast. Please present the
7 proposal.

8
9 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 This is Terry Suminski with the Forest Service. The
11 executive summary for Wildlife Proposal WP20-06 is on
12 Page 631 of your books. The analysis begins on Page
13 632.

14
15 WP20-06 was submitted by the East
16 Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
17 requests reducing the season ending date for deer in
18 Unit 2 from January 31 to December 31.

19
20 The proponent states the season
21 reduction will prevent regulatory confusion for
22 subsistence users while benefitting the Unit 2 deer
23 population. The proponent believes removing January
24 opportunity is not detrimental to subsistence users as
25 they still have a subsistence priority to harvest deer
26 starting on July 24, prior to the beginning of the
27 State season on August 1.

28
29 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
30 WP20-06. If adopted, the proposal would reduce harvest
31 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users.
32 Opportunity to harvest deer in January in Unit 2 under
33 Federal regulations has been available since the 2016
34 regulatory season. The amount of deer available for
35 future seasons would be negligible as reported deer
36 harvest during January has been very low, ranging from
37 12 to 26 deer.

38
39 Reducing the season length is contrary
40 to the continuation of subsistence opportunity for
41 Federally qualified subsistence users. If future
42 harvests increase or winter conditions dramatically
43 reduce deer numbers, the delegated in-season manager
44 can take action accordingly.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 I'm available for questions.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
2 for Terry.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
7 Summary of public comments, Regional Council
8 Coordinator.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chairman. This is
11 Katya Wessels. Can you hear me?

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.
16 Members of the Board. I'm going to present the summary
17 of written public comments for WP20-06. We received
18 one written comment in support from the Ketchikan Fish
19 and Game Advisory Committee.

20
21 The Ketchikan AC supports WP20-06 and
22 says it supports removal of a January hunt due to small
23 amount of harvest, reduced quality of meat and
24 difficulty in distinguishing bucks and does.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 That concludes the summary of the
29 written public comments.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
32 We'll open up the line to any public testimony.

33
34 OPERATOR: As a reminder, to make a
35 public comment please press *1.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 OPERATOR: I'm showing no public
40 comments at this time.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on
43 to Regional Advisory Council recommendation. Don.

44
45 MR. HERNANDEZ: Don Hernandez, Chair of
46 the Southeast Regional Council again. The Council
47 opposed this proposal as well. The Council believes
48 that shortening this deer season would put more
49 pressure on rural hunters to be able to get game in a
50

1 timely manner. Most hunters finish their hunts by
2 Christmas, but there are still some hunting that might
3 need to get a deer in January. A hunter may need that
4 additional month to get his/her subsistence needs met
5 and decreasing the hunt by a month may put undue
6 pressure on individuals.
7

8 The Council knows that not everyone on
9 the island has access to electricity and can use a
10 freezer and during the winter months deer can be hung
11 outside for a long period of time. The Council
12 recommends maintaining the Federal rural priority and,
13 though it recognizes that it is sometimes prudent to
14 align with State regulations, it is not always
15 practical, and there should not be unnecessary
16 restrictions placed on the rural user.
17

18 That concludes our comments on this
19 proposal.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 questions for Don.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
27 Hearing none. We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native
28 corporation comments, Native Liaison. Orville.
29

30 MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Can you
31 hear me?
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gotcha.
34

35 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
36 members. Regional Advisory Council Chairs. During the
37 consultation September 30th we did not have any
38 comments on WP20-06.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 comments, State Liaison.
45

46 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Ben Mulligan for the record. We are in support of
48 WP20-06. The State has a longstanding position of
49 supporting alignment of State and Federal regulations,
50

1 but also in this instance we'd like to point out just
2 given the conditions later in the winter in Southeast,
3 given certain snow events that pushes deer populations
4 down past uplands into the tidal areas, which
5 technically are state lands and those lands after
6 December 31st are closed to hunting. So this would
7 prevent inadvertently making criminals out of folks if
8 they're unknowingly hunting on those State lands.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
13 questions or comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Interagency
18 Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.

19

20 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Suzanne Worker. The ISC offered the standard
22 comment for WP20-06. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25 Board discussion with Council Chairs and State Liaison.
26 Questions or comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Open the floor
31 for Board action.

32

33 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,
34 Forest Service.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.
37 You have the floor.

38

39 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
40 move to adopt Proposal WP20-06 as submitted by the East
41 Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This
42 proposal is shown on Page 631 of the Board book.
43 Following a second, I will explain why I intend to
44 oppose my motion.

45

46 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
49 floor, Dave.

50

1 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. My
2 justification as follows: If adopted, the proposal
3 would reduce harvest opportunity for Federally
4 qualified subsistence users hunting deer on Federal
5 public lands in Unit 2. This proposal is opposed by
6 the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
7

8 Reducing the season length is not
9 necessary for continuation of future subsistence
10 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
11 nor for the conservation of the deer populations in
12 Unit 2. Deer harvests during January has been very
13 minimal, again 12 to 26 deer, and does not appear to be
14 creating a conservation issue across the unit.
15

16 During the 2016 regulatory cycle both
17 the Council and the Board unanimously supported the
18 January season extension and provided thorough
19 justifications on the record in support. Removal of
20 the January season is unnecessarily contradictory to
21 the Board's intent when they adopted the regulation
22 change as recommended by the Council.
23

24 If future harvests increase or winter
25 conditions dramatically reduce deer numbers creating a
26 conservation concern, the delegated in-season manager
27 can reduce the season length accordingly.
28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
32 that. Any discussion.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
37 question.
38

39 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
42 has been called. Roll call, please, Tom.
43

44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 This is Proposal WP20-06. It requests reducing the
46 season ending dates for deer in Unit 2 from January
47 31st to December 31.
48

49 I'll start with Bureau of Land
50

1 Management, Chad Padgett.

2

3 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I oppose
4 this action and that's based on not having the
5 conservation concern as pointed out on Page 643 of the
6 OSM justification and that it would provide additional
7 opportunities for subsistence harvest.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

12

13 National Park Service, Don Striker.

14

15 MR. STRIKER: The Park Service opposes
16 in deference to the RAC and in support of the Forest
17 Service position.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
25 oppose in deference to the Southeast Regional Advisory
26 Council as well as for the reasons stated by the U.S.
27 Forest Service and the continued opportunity for an
28 additional month for subsistence users.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

33

34 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

35

36 MR. SCHMID: This is Dave. I oppose
37 for the reasons I stated when offering my motion.

38

39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda Pitka.

40

41 MS. PITKA: I oppose the motion in
42 deference to the Southeast Regional Advisory Council
43 and based on the justification provided by the Office
44 of Subsistence Management on Page 643.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

49

50

1 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: BIA opposes based on the
4 justification provided by the Forest Service and in
5 recognition of deference to the Southeast RAC.

6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

8

9 Public Member Charlie Brower.

10

11 MR. C. BROWER: Good morning. I oppose
12 for the same reasons as stated by my fellow Council.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

15

16 And last Tony Christianson, Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
19 deference to the RAC.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Unanimous no. Motion
22 fails. If I'm correct on what I see on my sheet, Mr.
23 Chair, it looks like WP20-16/17.

24

25 MR. MCKEE: WP20-07 is next.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, WP20-07.
28 Thank you, Chris, for that.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, thank you, Chris.
31 WP20-07. Terry, you're on deck.

32

33 MR. SUMINSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 This is Terry Suminski with the U.S. Forest Service.
35 The executive summary for Wildlife Proposal WP20-07 is
36 on Page 659 of your books and analysis begins on Page
37 660.

38

39 WP20-07 was submitted by the East
40 Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee and
41 requests a reduction of the Federal harvest limit for
42 deer in Unit 2 from five deer to four.

43

44 The proponent states that deer have
45 been in decline in the unit due to growing predator
46 population and years of increasing harvests by hunters.
47 They also state that in addition to the recent harvest
48 limit reduction on non-Federally qualified users, a
49 harvest reduction to subsistence users is also

50

1 necessary.

2

3

4 Clarification with the proponent over
5 the word deer in the proposed language indicated that
6 they were not seeking to change the hunt to the harvest
7 of any deer, but were wanting to cap the harvest limit
8 at four while retaining the opportunity to harvest a
9 female deer. A modification of which harvest ticket is
10 not required for tagging a female deer would be
11 necessary.

12

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The OSM conclusion is to oppose
WP20-04. If adopted, this proposal would reduce the
harvest limit for Federally qualified subsistence users
hunting deer on Federal public lands in Unit 2. The
percentage of users harvesting five deer is so low that
the restriction would have little effect on increasing
Unit 2 deer numbers. Reducing the harvest limit for
Federally qualified subsistence users in Unit 2 is not
necessary for conservation or for the continuation of
subsistence uses.

The Craig District Ranger has been
delegated authority from the Board to close or reopen
Federal seasons or to adjust harvest and possession
limits for deer in Unit 2 if necessary for
conservation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'm standing by for questions.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
for Terry.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
We'll move to summary of public comments, Council
Coordinator.

MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
For the record, this is Katya Wessels with the Office
of Subsistence Management. I will give you the summary
of the written public comments for WP20-07. We
received one written public comment in support from the
Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee. The
Ketchikan AC supports WP20-07, but does not provide any
justification for their position.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Now
4 I'll open the floor to any public testimony.

5

6 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you'd like
7 to make a public comment push *1.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 OPERATOR: I'm showing no comments in
12 queue at this time.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
16 recommendation. Don.

17

18 MR. HERNANDEZ: This is Don Hernandez,
19 Chair of the Southeast Regional Council. The Council
20 also opposed this proposal. The Council mentions that
21 two proposals, 20-03 and 20-07, both put forward by the
22 East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee, contradict
23 each other in a way since 20-03 proposes to harvest
24 five antlered bucks and 07 proposed to harvest four
25 deer and no more than one may be a doe.

26

27 The Council says that there is no
28 conservation concern at this time and adoption of 20-07
29 will pose unnecessary restrictions on Federally
30 qualified subsistence users, which is not in accordance
31 with Title VIII of ANILCA.

32

33 Council also pointed out that in many
34 communities high harvesters provide food to other
35 people in their communities and unnecessary reduction
36 of the bag limit would make the life of these
37 communities more difficult. These proxy hunters are
38 good providers for others and hunt legally in
39 accordance with Federal regulations. This tradition is
40 part of a customary and traditional life in Southeast
41 Alaska.

42

43 That concludes our comments.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
46 Any questions for Don.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tribal/Alaska
2 Native Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

3
4 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman. Board
5 members, Chair members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison
6 for the Office of Subsistence Management. We do not
7 have any comments on WP20-07.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
12 We'll move on to the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game, State Liaison.

14
15 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Fish and Game. The
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game supports the
18 proposal as we have a longstanding position of
19 supporting any effort to better realign State and
20 Federal regulations.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25 That moves to Interagency Staff Committee comments, ISC
26 Chair.

27
28 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 This is Suzanne Worker. For WP20-07 the ISC provided
30 the standard comment.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
33 Board discussion with Council Chair and State Liaison.
34 Any questions, comments.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No Board
39 discussion with Council Chair. Move on to Federal
40 Subsistence Board action. I open up the floor for
41 Board action.

42
43 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,
44 Forest Service.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
47 floor, Dave.

48
49 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Mr. Chair, I
50

1 move to adopt Proposal WP20-07 as submitted by the East
2 Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee. This
3 proposal is shown on Page 659 of the Board book.
4 Following a second I will explain why I intend to
5 oppose my motion.

6

7 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion has
10 been made and seconded. Dave, you have the floor.

11

12 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. If adopted,
13 the proposal would reduce harvest opportunity for
14 Federally qualified subsistence users hunting deer on
15 Federal public lands in Unit 2. This proposal is
16 opposed by the Southeast Subsistence Regional Advisory
17 Council.

18

19 Reducing the season limit is not
20 necessary for continuation of future subsistence
21 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
22 nor for the conservation of the deer populations in
23 Unit 2.

24

25 While a reduction in harvest limit may
26 appear to make more deer available, the percentage of
27 Federally qualified subsistence users harvesting five
28 deer is so low that the resulting deer population
29 increase would be negligible.

30

31 If future harvest increase or winter
32 conditions dramatically reduce deer numbers creating a
33 conservation concern, again the delegated in-season
34 manager can reduce the season length accordingly.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
39 further deliberation, discussion.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
44 question.

45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Tom.

49

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. This is
2 Proposal WP20-07, requests reducing the Federal harvest
3 limits for deer in Unit 2 from five deer to four deer.
4

5 I'll start with Bureau of Indian
6 Affairs, Gene Peltola.
7

8 MR. PELTOLA: BIA opposes based on
9 justification provided by the Forest Service and also
10 in recognition and deference to the Southeast RAC.
11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
13
14 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
15 Siekaniec.
16

17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
18 oppose in deference to the Southeast Regional Advisory
19 Council and for the reasons provided by the U.S. Forest
20 Service.
21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.
23
24 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
25 Padgett.
26

27 MR. PADGETT: I oppose in support of
28 the Forest Service and in deference to the Southeast
29 RAC. I will point out again that keeping this harvest
30 limit also supports that there is not a conservation
31 concern at this point. Thanks.
32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
34
35 National Park Service, Don Striker.
36

37 MR. STRIKER: Park Service opposes for
38 reasons already stated. Thanks.
39

40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Don. Thank
41 you.
42

43 U.S. Forest Service David Schmid.
44

45 MR. SCHMID: Again, I oppose for the
46 reasons I shared following my motion.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
49
50

1 Rhonda Pitka.

2

3 MS. PITKA: I oppose in deference to
4 the Southeast Regional Advisory Council and based on
5 the justification listed on Page 672. Thank you.

6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

8

9 Charlie Brower.

10

11 MR. C. BROWER: I oppose for the same
12 reason I stated. Thank you.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

15

16 Last is Tony Christianson.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
19 deference to the RAC.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. That was
22 unanimous opposition. The motion fails. Now I believe
23 we can move to WP20-16/17, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. We'll ask
26 for the analysis.

27

28 MS. MAAS: Hi, this is Lisa. Can you
29 hear me?

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
32 Lisa. You have the floor.

33

34 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Members of the Board. My name is Lisa Maas and I'm a
36 wildlife biologist in the Office of Subsistence
37 Management. I'll be presenting a summary of the
38 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-16/17, which begins
39 on Page 267 of your meeting book.

40

41 Hang in there with me because they're a
42 bit long. It's a complex issue. Both Proposal WP20-16
43 and WP20-17 were submitted by the Southeast Alaska
44 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. WP20-16
45 requests extending the sealing period for wolf trapping
46 from within 14 days of harvest to within 30 days of the
47 end of the season and removing language referencing a
48 combined Federal-State harvest quota for wolves in Unit
49 2.

50

1 Wildlife Proposal WP20-17 requests the
2 same sealing period extension and removal of harvest
3 quotas for wolf hunting in Unit 2 as well as increasing
4 the hunting harvest limit from five wolves to no limit.
5

6 The Alaska Board of Game adopted a new
7 harvest management strategy for wolves in Unit 2 in
8 January 2019, resulting in misalignment of State and
9 Federal regulations. The proponent states that their
10 intent is to align State and Federal regulations, to
11 implement the new harvest management strategy under
12 Federal regulations, and to increase harvest
13 opportunity.
14

15 Of note, Unit 2 wolves are part of the
16 Alexander Archipelago subspecies which occupy
17 Southeastern Alaska and coastal British Columbia. In
18 1993 and 2011, the Alexander Archipelago wolf was
19 petitioned to be listed under the Endangered Species
20 Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the
21 listings not to be warranted on both occasions as the
22 range-wide population appeared stable.
23

24 In 1997, the Board of Game and the
25 Federal Subsistence Board adopted harvest guideline
26 levels to manage the Unit 2 wolf population with
27 established annual harvest quotas based on wolf
28 population estimates. Seasons would close early if
29 quotas were expected to be met. Between 2013 and 2018
30 seasons closed early with reported harvest well
31 exceeding quotas in some years.
32

33 In 2018, ADF&G submitted Proposal 43 to
34 the Board of Game to change the harvest management
35 strategy from using harvest management guidelines to
36 meeting population objectives. The Board of Game
37 adopted Proposal 43 in January 2019, establishing the
38 Unit 2 population objective range as 150 to 200 wolves.
39 The Board of Game also extended a State trapping season
40 aligning Federal and State seasons.
41

42 The Southeast Council also submitted
43 Wildlife Special Action Request WSA19-02 which
44 requested the same changes to the sealing period and
45 harvest management as these proposals for the 2019/20
46 regulatory year. In August 2019, the Board approved
47 WSA19-02, stating that the new management strategy
48 should help ensure a sustainable population and
49 encourage better harvest reporting. The Board also
50

1 stated that announcing predetermined season lengths
2 provides predictability to users and renders the
3 in-season sealing requirement unnecessary.
4

5 Before 2013 Unit 2 wolf abundance was
6 uncertain. Since 2013 a method using DNA from fur
7 samples has been used to generate population estimates.
8 Between 2013 and 2018 wolf population estimates have
9 ranged from a low of 89 wolves in 2014 to a high of 231
10 wolves in 2017.
11

12 Human harvest accounts for the vast
13 majority of wolf mortality in Unit 2. However wolves
14 are very resilient to high harvest levels due to their
15 high reproductive potential and ability to disperse
16 long distances.
17

18 The new harvest management strategy
19 consists of four zones as depicted in Figure 2 on Page
20 281. Different zones correspond to different
21 population levels and season lengths. Zone 3 is the
22 desirable zone where the wolf population is within the
23 objective range of 150-200 wolves and a season of up to
24 two months would be announced. The 2019 wolf
25 population estimate is 170 wolves, placing it in Zone 3
26 and resulting in a 2019-20 season opening for two
27 months, from November 15th through January 15th.
28

29 Between 1997 and 2018 total trapper
30 numbers in Unit 2 averaged 14.5 trappers per year.
31 With Unit 2 residents primarily from Klawock and Craig
32 harvesting 89 percent of the wolves on average. Over
33 this time period catch per trapper averaged 3.4 wolves.
34 However, usually just two to three skilled trappers
35 harvest most of the wolves. Harvest primarily occurs
36 on non-Federal land under a combination
37 hunting/trapping license and little harvest occurs
38 before mid-November when only the Federal hunting
39 season is open.
40

41 Since 1997 when the harvest guideline
42 level was initiated annual reported harvest has ranged
43 from 7 to 76 wolves averaging 50 wolves per year and
44 the annual harvest quota was exceeded five times. High
45 unreported harvest rates of 38 to 47 percent have
46 likely resulted in unsustainable harvest in some years.
47

48 The 2019-20 reported harvest was 165
49 wolves, which is the highest harvest ever recorded for
50

1 Unit 2. One reason for such a high harvest was
2 doubling of trapping effort. Over the past 20 years
3 about 15 trappers have sealed wolves in Unit 2 each
4 year, but 32 trappers sealed wolves this past year.
5 The 2019 population estimate may have been
6 substantially higher than the 2018 population estimates
7 used to establish this year's season length.
8

9 Adopting WP20-16/17 would extend the
10 sealing requirement, eliminate the Federal/State
11 harvest quota and increase the hunting harvest limits.
12 Extending the sealing requirement would align Federal
13 requirements, the sealing requirements for the State
14 trapping season and decreases the burden on users by
15 allowing them to seal all of their wolf pelts at one
16 time.
17

18 Eliminating the harvest quota and
19 managing for a population objective provides managers
20 with a quantitative benchmark to gauge success and
21 mitigates disagreement between stakeholders over what
22 is a sustainable wolf population. Additionally,
23 harvest quotas discourage harvest reporting because of
24 the threat of seasons closing early. Announcing season
25 lengths ahead of time provides predictability, allowing
26 trappers to plan and prepare for the season and,
27 importantly, does not discourage harvest reporting.
28

29 Changing the hunting harvest limit to
30 no season increases harvest opportunity for Federally
31 qualified subsistence users from September 1st through
32 November 14th and presents little conservation concerns
33 due to low wolf harvest during this time period. The
34 new management strategy also alleviates concerns about
35 a legal or unreported harvest by basing management on
36 population estimates and objectives rather than on
37 harvest quotas and reported harvest.
38

39 While the new management strategy
40 depends on year-old population estimates to determine
41 season lengths, the harvest guideline level strategy
42 also depended on year-old estimates to announce quotas.
43 One reason a species can be listed under the Endangered
44 Species Act is inadequacy of existing regulatory
45 mechanisms. In response to the 2011 petition, the U.S.
46 Fish and Wildlife Service found wolf harvest
47 regulations in Unit 2 to be inadequate in ensuring
48 sustainable harvest especially since reported harvest
49 well exceeded quotas in 2016 and 2017.
50

1 The Wolf Technical Committee stated
2 that having population objectives through a public
3 process reduces the likelihood of future litigation.
4 While managing season lengths may initially result in
5 more or less wolves harvested than expected, State and
6 Federal managers can fine tune season lengths over time
7 as patterns are established.

8
9 ADF&G states that it will use the
10 experience gained this year when setting future season
11 lengths, including shortening or closing seasons.
12 However, past experiences suggest harvest is more a
13 function of abundance rather than season lengths and is
14 unclear whether the increased numbers of trappers this
15 season was an exception or the new rule.

16
17 The Craig District Ranger has delegated
18 authority to close, reopen or adjust the Federal
19 hunting and trapping season for wolves in Unit 2,
20 including the delegated authority to close Federal
21 lands to non-Federally qualified users. This
22 individual would announce season lengths in
23 coordination with State managers after the population
24 estimate is available.

25
26 Effective wolf management in Unit 2
27 depends upon coordination between State and Federal
28 regulations, managers and importantly users.
29 WP20-16/17 facilitates management and reduces user
30 confusion.

31
32 The OSM conclusion is to support
33 WP20-16/17.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 I'm available for any questions.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. The
40 floor is open for any questions.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
45 Hearing no questions we'll move on to the next agenda
46 item. Summary of public comments, Regional Council
47 Coordinator.

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

1 For the record, this is Katya Wessels with the Office
2 of Subsistence Management. I'm going to present a
3 summary of written public comments for WP20-16/17.
4

5 We received one written public comment
6 in opposition from the Alaskans for Wildlife and any
7 cooperated entities. The Alaskans for Wildlife and any
8 cooperated entities oppose WP20-16/17 and say that it
9 leads to spreading unrestricted wolf take everywhere.
10 The Alaskans for Wildlife say that according to science
11 the value of apex predators, such as wolves, is
12 essential in maintaining ecosystem biodiversity and it
13 is important to preserve wolf populations on public
14 lands.
15

16 They consider these proposals a
17 continuation of war on wolves. They also consider that
18 lifting harvest limits and extending sealing limits are
19 not scientifically justified and not in the interest of
20 public. They say that no science and no national or
21 even Alaskan public cultural norms can possibly support
22 this permissively reckless proposal to expand wolf take
23 without bounds.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 This concludes my presentation of the
28 summary of written public comments.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Katya. Any questions.
32

33 (No comments)
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll open the
36 floor to any public that wants to testify.
37

38 OPERATOR: I'm showing no public
39 comments at this time.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
43 recommendation, Chair.
44

45 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chairman
46 Christianson. Don Hernandez, Chair of the Southeast
47 Regional Advisory Council again. Regional Council
48 supported both of these proposals. These proposals are
49 the result of many years of discussion between Alaska
50

1 Department of Fish and Game, the Council and
2 subsistence users on Prince of Wales Island.
3

4 Council supports these proposals based
5 on information from these sources, with a caveat that
6 the Council wants to see how the management scheme will
7 work and how it will be implemented given that there's
8 a year lapse in DNA sampling and incorporating
9 traditional ecological knowledge.
10

11 It is hoped in future years, that the
12 State and Federal programs will examine the population
13 estimates from the DNA methods, but then will adjust
14 the estimate up or down based on traditional ecological
15 knowledge and reports from local hunters/trappers
16 before setting season lengths. Wolf trapping on POW
17 has been extremely controversial for decades and this
18 proposal appears to be a good move forward in providing
19 opportunities for harvest and protecting the wolf
20 resource.
21

22 There is no conservation concern for
23 the species, biological information in the analysis is
24 well supported, and the Council believes these
25 proposals will be beneficial to subsistence users and
26 non-subsistence users as it clarifies the rules for
27 hunting/trapping and does not restrict anyone.
28

29 The Council thinks the increase in the
30 hunting harvest limit is necessary as it would be
31 unfair to allow someone to trap 20 or more wolves and
32 restrict the allowance for the hunter. Whether hunting
33 or trapping, it should be the same harvest limit. A no
34 limit would not create a conservation concern as it is
35 a small number of people who engage in hunting wolves
36 and the challenge makes it hard for hunters to be
37 successful, making it difficult to hunt too many
38 wolves.
39

40 Based on information presented in the
41 analysis, the Council believes that the science is
42 finally catching up with the traditional ecological
43 knowledge in this area. That concludes our comments on
44 this proposal.
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
47 Any questions for Don.
48

49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
2 We move on to Tribal/Alaska Native corporations.....

3
4 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, can I
5 interrupt?

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

8
9 MS. WORKER: This is Suzanne Worker.
10 The Northwest Arctic Council also took this up. I
11 believe their Council Chair is not online and Zach, the
12 Council Coordinator, was having difficulty with the
13 line. Zach, are you on?

14
15 MR. STEVENSON: Can you hear me?

16
17 MS. WORKER: Yeah, we hear you, Zach.
18 Go ahead.

19
20 MR. STEVENSON: I've been having
21 difficulty with calls cutting in and out. If I get
22 disconnected, I'll try calling back in. Can you please
23 specify which proposal you're covering right now.

24
25 MS. WORKER: Zach, we're on WP20-16/17.

26
27 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Suzanne.

28
29 MS. WORKER: This is one that came off
30 the consensus agenda.

31
32 MR. STEVENSON: I'll be right with you.

33
34 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa. I have the
35 recommendation right in front of me if you'd like me to
36 read it.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: If you would, please.

39
40 MS. MAAS: Sure. The Northwest Arctic
41 Council took no action on WP20-16/17. This proposal
42 was brought to the attention of the Council at the
43 request of the Chair who expressed interest in learning
44 how other regions are addressing predator management.
45 The Council justified its position on the proposal,
46 noting that WP20-16/17 is strictly limited to Unit 2
47 and would not affect the Northwest Arctic Region.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any

50

1 other further questions or discussion.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Orville,
6 that's you.

7

8 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Board
9 members, RAC members. Orville Lind from the Office of
10 Subsistence Management. During the consultation
11 session there were no comments.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
16 We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 Liaison.

18

19 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Our
21 official stance on both of these proposals is to
22 support them to bring State and Federal regulations
23 into alignment. As previously stated, this has been a
24 joint effort to develop this new management plan for
25 wolves in Unit 2 and we appreciate everyone's actions.

26

27 Just a note. If during the discussion
28 phase there's needed details, I have both Ryan Scott
29 and Tom Schumacher, who were involved in the process,
30 who can provide more details.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. If
35 anybody has any questions, there are some Staff
36 available to answer questions through the State.

37

38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
39 Greg.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.
42 You have the floor.

43

44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Ben, thanks for joining
45 us. Maybe between you and the folks that are with you
46 you can give me an idea. Is there going to be a
47 population estimate again for this coming year where
48 you'll be looking at studying a quota similar to what
49 you had done this past season?

50

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair, Mr.
2 Siekaniec. I would like to have either Ryan or Tom
3 come on. I believe they have to hit *1 to be
4 recognized, correct?
5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: That is correct.
7

8 OPERATOR: This is the Operator. We
9 have two people for public comment. Our first public
10 comment comes from Tom Schumacher. Your line is now
11 open.
12

13 MR. SCHUMACHER: Hello. This is Tom
14 Schumacher with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
15 We're replying to the question about whether we'll do a
16 population estimate for Unit 2 wolves. The 2019
17 population estimate has already been done. At this
18 point the data collected are OA lab analysis and then
19 we expect to get results back over the summer and
20 should have a population estimate to reflect a 2019
21 fall population. We'll probably have that estimate by
22 August or September.
23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
25 Greg.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.
28

29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Then just based on that
30 population estimate you would then set again harvest
31 quotas associated with it?
32

33 MR. SCHUMACHER: Yes, that's the plan.
34 We would take that population estimate and probably
35 take into account some other information that we'll
36 also look at gathering over the summer with previous
37 years' harvest. Of course we'll also talk with people
38 in Unit 2.
39

40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
41 one more?
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. You have
44 the floor, Greg.
45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. It seems
47 like we had quite a discussion last time around, the
48 idea of the reporting window being I think 30 days
49 after the season closed and there was a fair amount of
50

1 debate around giving the in-season manager a little
2 more opportunity to put something like a 10 or a 14-day
3 reporting window after the harvest of wolves. I'm just
4 trying to think my way through this how we best manage
5 this to ensure that we don't have some unsustainable
6 case of wolves over the course of a few years.

7
8 To be frank, I'm already getting
9 letters from various NGOs regarding what they see as a
10 pretty substantial overharvest of wolves in this
11 particular area. I think it was as Lisa described.
12 We've been petitioning to list this twice as a distinct
13 population segment. I'm just concerned that this is
14 going to continue to raise that to a level of us being
15 asked again to go through a review and be petitioned.

16
17 So I'm just trying to figure out if
18 there's any kind of adjustment that needs to be made
19 that would give the in-season manager a little bit more
20 authority to facilitate that population harvest when
21 you need to establish it.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa. If I could
26 clarify something.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Lisa.
29 You have the floor.

30
31 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I just want to make
32 sure you understand that the new harvest management
33 strategy there's no quota associated with that. It's
34 just a season length. The Federal in-season manager
35 has delegated authority to close, reopen and adjust
36 that season length.

37
38 Typically they intended to coordinate
39 it with the State, but that doesn't have to necessarily
40 be the case. So if the Federal side thinks, you know,
41 the State season that's going to be announced is too
42 long, they could shorten the Federal season and also
43 close Federal public lands to non-Federally qualified
44 users. Although most of the harvest does occur on
45 non-Federal lands.

46
47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, thank you, Lisa.
48 I probably said that wrong. I thought there was
49 actually a harvest goal, not a quota, but that they'd
50

1 actually set a goal for numbers.

2

3 MS. MAAS: It's not a harvest goal.
4 It's a population goal.

5

6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you, Lisa.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
9 questions or discussions for our State Liaison.

10

11 OPERATOR: I'm sorry. Our next comment
12 is from Ryan Scott.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ryan.
15 You have the floor.

16

17 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 Ryan Scott with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
19 I don't have any additional comments. I was just here
20 to help answer questions. I do want to say I
21 appreciate the clarification on the harvest goal versus
22 a population objective and that being the goal for
23 managing Unit 2 goals.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
26 Thank you. Any further discussion with the State.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. Not
31 hearing any we'll move on to ISC recommendation.

32

33 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
34 ISC provided the standard comment for WP20-16/17.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. Any
37 Board discussion. Thank you, ISC. Deliberation.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
42 I'll open the floor for Board action.

43

44 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,
45 Forest Service.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
48 floor, Dave.

49

50

1 MR. SCHMID: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
2 move to adopt Proposals WP20-16 and WP20-17 as
3 submitted by Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional
4 Advisory Council.

5
6 This combined proposal is shown on Page
7 267 of the Board book. Following a second I will
8 explain why I support my motion.

9
10 MR. PELTOLA: BIA second.

11
12 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.
15 You have the floor.

16
17 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Effective wolf
18 management in Unit 2 depends on coordination between
19 the State and Federal regulations, in-season managers
20 and users, as it's been shared before, where harvest is
21 occurring on. A majority on State lands as well as the
22 Federal users.

23
24 Adopting these proposals aligns Federal
25 and State wolf management strategies, facilitating
26 management and reducing user confusion. Eliminating
27 the combined State/Federal harvest quota under Federal
28 regulations clarifies in-season management as the State
29 no longer uses harvest quotas.

30
31 Extending the sealing requirement
32 decreases the regulatory burden on Federally qualified
33 subsistence users and aligns Federal hunting and
34 trapping sealing requirements with the State trapping
35 requirements, reducing regulatory complexity.

36
37 Changes to Unit 2 wolf harvest
38 management went into effect for the 2019-2020 harvest
39 season following a two-year process and included public
40 meetings and review and endorsement by both State and
41 Federal regulatory bodies, the Alaska Board of Game and
42 the Federal Subsistence Board as well as the Federal
43 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
44 and Fish and Game Advisory Committees.

45
46 The majority of wolves harvested in
47 Unit 2 are taken on State-managed lands, which stresses
48 the need for coordinated management. Again, this
49 proposal is supported by the Southeast Subsistence
50

1 Regional Advisory Council and as was previously stated
2 the in-season manager has the ability to close or
3 manage the harvest.

4
5 A reduced or closed season, I would
6 share, is among the options that will be considered
7 after looking at the population estimates this summer.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 more discussion or deliberation.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
17 question.

18
19 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Tom.

22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: This particular
24 wildlife proposal WP20-16 and its sister proposal
25 WP20-17 requests for hunting and trapping to extend
26 from 14 days at the end of harvest to 30 days of the
27 end of the season to hunt and trap wolves. There's
28 also a part of this that for wolf hunting the five wolf
29 limit would be changed to no limit.

30
31 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

32
33 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to support
34 based on the Forest Service justification and in
35 recognition and deference to the Southeast RAC.

36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

38
39 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
40 Siekaniec.

41
42 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
43 oppose. I do not believe that we have given the
44 in-season manager the adequate tools in order to be
45 able to make adjustments during the season although I
46 do applaud the idea that we're trying to get aligned
47 with State regulations as best we can.

48
49 I'm also somewhat concerned that
50

1 changing to the no limit could put us in a fairly
2 quickly unsustainable population scenario.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

7

8 National Park Service, Don Striker.

9

10 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports in
11 deference to the Regional Advisory Council. Thank you.

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

14

15 Rhonda Pitka.

16

17 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
18 the Regional Advisory Council and also based on OSM
19 justification beginning on Page 287. Thank you.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

22

23 Charlie Brower.

24

25 MR. C. BROWER: I support Southeast
26 recommendation to support it. Thank you.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

29

30 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

31

32 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support. Again,
33 given the reasons I shared following my motion.

34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
36 Dave.

37

38 Bureau of Land Management, Chad

39 Padgett.

40

41 MR. PADGETT: I support both for the
42 reasons stated by the Forest Service and in deference
43 to the RAC.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
46 Chad.

47

48 Last, Chairman Anthony Christianson.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
2 deference to the RAC.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tony. The
5 motion passes, seven yeas, one nay. Thank you,
6 gentlemen and gentle lady.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
9 That concludes our morning here, guys. Got through a
10 few of these proposals. I appreciate us being able to
11 clip through this in what we've got going on here.
12 We'll try to all get back in about an hour and a half
13 from now for lunch.

14
15 MR. C. BROWER: 1:30?

16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: 1:00 or 1:30?

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: 1:30.

20
21 MR. C. BROWER: Okay, 1:30.

22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. 1330 it is.
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good afternoon. This
31 is Tom Doolittle everybody. I'm going to do a quick
32 check to see who's online. Gene Peltola, are you with
33 us?

34
35 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, roger, 10-4.

36
37 THE COURT: Good to hear your voice,
38 Gene. Don Striker, are you with us?

39
40 MR. STRIKER: Yes, I am. Good
41 afternoon.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good afternoon, Don.
44 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.

45
46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Still on, take five.

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Sounds good.
49 Rhonda Pitka. Are you with us, Rhonda?

50

1 (No response)
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chad Padgett from BLM,
4 are you with us?
5
6 MR. PADGETT: I am here.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, Chad. Good
9 to hear your voice. Charlie Brower, are you with us?
10
11 (No response)
12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: David Schmid.....
14
15 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I'm
16 here.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Rhonda, great.
19 Glad you're here. Fantastic. Forest Service, David
20 Schmid online.
21
22 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I'm on. Thanks.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks, Dave. Chairman
25 Christianson. Tony, are you on?
26
27 (No response)
28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We're still
30 waiting for Charlie Brower and Tony to get online here.
31 While we're waiting for Tony and Charlie I was going to
32 see if our State partner Ben Mulligan was on.
33
34 MR. MULLIGAN: Hi, Tom. We're here.
35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Good.
37 Afternoons seem to be better than mornings for
38 connectivity. Katya Wessels, are you on?
39
40 MS. WESSELS: I'm here, Tom.
41
42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chris McKee and Lisa,
43 are you guys on deck here?
44
45 MR. MCKEE: I'm here. Can you hear me,
46 Tom?
47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, very well, Chris.
49 It sounds good. Greg Encelewski, are you on?
50

1 (No response)

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We're missing
4 Greg from Southcentral RAC. I'll see if DeAnna Perry
5 is on to see what his status is.

6

7 MS. PERRY: Hi, Tom. This is DeAnna.
8 I believe Greg Encelewski is on. It might take him a
9 moment to chime in.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you very
12 much. That's wonderful. Good to hear your voice,
13 DeAnna. Orville Lind.

14

15 (No response)

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Still waiting on
18 Orville to connect. Suzanne Worker.

19

20 MS. WORKER: I'm on, Tom.

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Good to hear
23 your voice. So we need Charlie and Orville from what I
24 can see right now. Greg's lined up, so we should be
25 pretty good.

26

27 MS. PERRY: Tom, this is DeAnna. It
28 seems like Greg is having an issue getting past the
29 operator, so if we could ask the operator to double
30 check his line for us. Thank you.

31

32 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.

33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, can we make
35 sure that Mr. Encelewski gets in. Oh, Charlie, you're
36 on board. Good to hear your voice. Operator, I'm
37 trying to see if we have Greg Encelewski in.

38

39 OPERATOR: We have Orville on. I'm
40 still waiting to hear back from another operator that
41 may have answered Greg's call.

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you very
44 much.

45

46 MS. PERRY: Tom, this is DeAnna Perry
47 again. Greg Encelewski is on. He can hear you fine,
48 but for whatever reason he's not able to speak. If the
49 Board wishes to move on, I can go ahead and provide the

50

1 verbal Council recommendations if we can't get Greg's
2 line open.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Mr. Encelewski,
7 that would be fine. Then we can move forward.

8

9 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.
10 Greg's line is now open.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, good.

13

14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: This is Greg. Can you
15 hear me now?

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. Perfect.

18

19 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm on. I
20 couldn't get out of it. Thank you.

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you. All
23 right. It looks like we have the full complement of
24 the Board. I'm just double checking with you, Charlie,
25 whether you're online.

26

27 MR. C. BROWER: I am online. Thank
28 you.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Mr. Chair,
31 I'm turning it back to you. We have all the folks and
32 hopefully people that are online know that they can see
33 where the progress of the Board meeting is by calling
34 1-800-478-1456 or 907-786-3888 or visit our website at
35 www.doi.gov/subsistence/board or our Facebook page,
36 which is www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska

37

38 Mr. Chair, I'll turn it over to you.
39 We're at Southcentral proposals WP20-18b.

40

41 (No response)

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tony, are you on?

44

45 (No response)

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: I just texted the Chair
48 to see whether he's on. Orville, if you could also
49 check for me, that would be great.

50

1 MR. LIND: Roger. I'll do that.

2

3 (Pause)

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: At this time, as we're
6 waiting for Tony, Rhonda Pitka has been designated as
7 Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair. We still have
8 quorum. So in the essence of time, Rhonda, if it's
9 okay with you and the remainder of the Board, to start
10 on Special Action WP20-18b. Does that meet with the
11 approval of the Board?

12

13 MS. PITKA: That's fine by me. This is
14 Rhonda. I would ask for a quick roll call though.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Greg Siekaniec.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yes, I'm here, Tom.

19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Don Striker.

21

22 MR. STRIKER: Yes, please proceed.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Gene Peltola.

25

26 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, please proceed.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda Pitka. I know
29 you're there, Rhonda.

30

31 MS. PITKA: Yes.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chad Padgett.

34

35 MR. PADGETT: I am here.

36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Charlie Brower.

38

39 MR. C. BROWER: Here.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: And Dave Schmid.

42

43 MR. SCHMID: I'm here. Thanks.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Rhonda, you
46 have the floor on WP20-18b.

47

48 VICE CHAIR PITKA: Okay. I'd like to
49 start with the analysis on WP20-18b. Thank you.

50

1 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Members of the Board. My name is Chris McKee and I'm
3 the Wildlife Division Supervisor at OSM and I'll be
4 giving an overview of Wildlife Proposal WP20-18b. The
5 analysis for Proposal WP20-18b can be found on Page 687
6 of your Board book.

7
8 It was submitted by Michael Adams of
9 Cooper Landing and requests that a goat season be
10 established in Unit 7 with a harvest limit of one goat
11 by Federal registration permit, with a quota of two
12 goats, a season of August 10 to November 14, and a
13 prohibition on the taking of nannies with kids.

14
15 The proponent also requests that the
16 Seward District Ranger be given authority to close the
17 season when the harvest quota is reached, and that a
18 hunter be eligible for a permit three years after
19 harvesting a billy goat, and five years after
20 harvesting a nanny.

21
22 The proponent states that mountain goat
23 populations have increased and that establishing a
24 Federal subsistence season in Unit 7 will provide for a
25 reasonable subsistence opportunity for Cooper Landing
26 residents. Mountain goats typically occur throughout
27 the eastern Kenai Peninsula in isolated areas with
28 little interchange with other populations.

29
30 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
31 has monitored goat populations on the Kenai Peninsula
32 through aerial surveys since the 1970s. The Peninsula
33 is divided into 17 count areas in Unit 6 with one count
34 area number 352 being divided up between Units 7 and
35 15. A map of these count units can be found on Map 1
36 on Page 692 of the analysis. Goat harvest is allowed
37 to occur in any count area with fewer than 50 goats and
38 ADF&G attempts to survey each count area every three
39 years.

40
41 Mountain goat populations have
42 decreased from the 100-s to 2006, but have rebounded in
43 recent years to numbers not seen since the 1990s. Each
44 goat population varies with some increasing, some
45 stable and others decreasing. You can take a look at
46 this on Table 1, which can be found on Page 694 through
47 695 of the analysis.

48
49 Predation by wolves, severe winters,
50

1 heat stress during warm summer days and human
2 disturbance can all affect goat survival and
3 recruitment. There has never been a Federal
4 subsistence season for mountain goats in Unit 7. The
5 majority of Federal public lands in Unit 7 are Forest
6 Service lands. It should be noted that Park Service
7 Lands and Kenai Fjords National Park are closed to
8 subsistence.

9
10 Mountain goats are susceptible to
11 overharvest in localized areas due to groups site
12 fidelity, their low reproductive rate, and the
13 difficulty of hunters being able to distinguish between
14 males and females.

15
16 Currently there are two seasons for
17 goats in Unit 7 under State regulations and early
18 season August 10 through October 15, which requires
19 obtaining a drawing permit and a late season running
20 from November 1st to November 14th, which is by
21 registration permit.

22
23 This late season is only offered if not
24 all quotas are filled during the early drawing hunt
25 season. The number of permits issued annually is
26 dependant on a number of factors including harvest
27 rates, sex and age structure of the harvest, population
28 size and trends, ease of access and habitat.

29
30 From 2009 to 2018 approximately 355
31 mountain goats were harvested with an annual harvest of
32 33 goats during the drawing hunt and two goats during
33 the registration hunt. You can see this on tables 2
34 and 3 on Pages 697 and 698 of the analysis.

35
36 The majority of the harvest occurs in
37 September and since 2009 the majority of mountain goats
38 have been taken by Alaska residents living outside of
39 Unit 7. Rural residents from Unit 7 took approximately
40 1 percent of the harvest from 2009 to 2018 as evidenced
41 on Table 4 on Page 698 of the analysis. From 1980 to
42 1990 only four of 961 goat hunters or 0.4 percent
43 listed Cooper Landing as their mailing address and of
44 those only two goats were harvested.

45
46 If WP20-18b is adopted, it would
47 establish a Federal subsistence season for mountain
48 goats in Unit 7. Mountain Goat populations are small
49 and vulnerable and even at optimal population levels
50

1 the harvest of even a few extra mountain goats could
2 result in a population decline. For these reasons
3 mountain goat populations have to be closely monitored.
4

5 If adopted, this proposal would provide
6 additional opportunity for Federally qualified
7 subsistence users in Unit 7. Providing this
8 opportunity is consistent with Section 804 of ANILCA,
9 which allows for the priority consumptive use of fish
10 and wildlife populations by rural Alaskans. The Seward
11 District Ranger would have to work with ADF&G to manage
12 and monitor the goat harvest in Unit 7.
13

14 Drawing hunts versus registration hunts
15 will allow for better harvest management by controlling
16 the number of hunters in the field and delegating
17 authority to the Seward District Ranger would allow for
18 hunt management flexibility through in-season
19 adjustments and a more timely response to changes in
20 the population, hunting conditions and hunter access.
21

22 The OSM conclusion is to support
23 Proposal WP20-18b with modification to establish a
24 drawing hunt for mountain goat in Unit 7 and delegate
25 authority to the Seward District Ranger to close the
26 season, set any needed sex restrictions, set harvest
27 quotas, the number of permits to be issued, and permit
28 conditions.
29

30 I should also state that the
31 requirement of setting harvest quotas was left out of
32 the analysis in error, so I just wanted to be sure the
33 Board was made aware of the fact that we are delegating
34 authority to the manager to set these harvest quotas.
35 Though not explicitly stated in our modification, OSM
36 is not recommending limiting eligibility after a
37 successful harvest of a billy or nanny goat as
38 requested by the proponent as it is not a relevant
39 criteria for implementing a priority under Section 804
40 of ANILCA.
41

42 With that, that ends my overview of the
43 analysis. I'd be happy to answer any questions.
44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Does anybody have
48 questions on the analysis.
49
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Madame Chair.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

4

5 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question. So
6 you said there's more outside hunters than the Cooper
7 Landing residents, is that right?

8

9 MR. MCKEE: Correct, yes.

10

11 MR. C. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Madame Chair, this is
14 Greg.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, Greg.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Chris, you
19 probably said it, but say it again. What page is the
20 OSM modified motion on or the recommendation on?

21

22 MR. MCKEE: I'll say it again because I
23 did say a lot there when I stated our conclusion.
24 We're supporting it with modification to establish a
25 drawing hunt for mountain goats in Unit 7 and delegate
26 authority to the Seward District Ranger to close the
27 season, set any needed sex restrictions, set harvest
28 quotas, the number of permits to be issued, and permit
29 conditions.

30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. What page was
32 that on? I'm just trying to get my bearings.

33

34 MR. MCKEE: The conclusion can be found
35 on Page 699 of the Board book.

36

37 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Are
40 there any other questions.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Hearing none. I'd
45 like to go with summary of public comments. Thank you.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 This is Katya Wessels with OSM. We have not received
49 any written public comments on Proposal WP20-18b.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Ms.
4 Wessels. At this time I'd like to open the floor to
5 public testimony on WP20-18b.

6

7 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you'd like
8 to make a public comment please press *1 from your
9 phone. We have one public comment. It comes from
10 Willow Hetrick. Your line is open.

11

12 MS. HETRICK: Hi. Good afternoon
13 Chairman, Board and the Regional Advisory Council
14 members from Southcentral. My name is Willow Hetrick.
15 I am the executive director of Chugach Regional
16 Resources Commission. We are an intertribal
17 organization serving seven tribes in the Chugach Region
18 including Port Graham, Nanwalek, Chenega and Tatitlek.
19 We also serve Qutekcak Native Tribe in Seward, Cordova,
20 which is the Eyak, and also Valdez Native Tribe.

21

22 I am testifying today on behalf of the
23 Chugach Regional Resources Commission with permission
24 from our board chairman Mr. Patrick Norman, who is also
25 the chief of the Port Graham Village Council, to
26 support the Federal Subsistence Board amending Proposal
27 20-18b to include residents of Port Graham, Nanwalek,
28 Chenega and Tatitlek to participate in the Federal draw
29 hunt for goats in all of Unit 7.

30

31 This provides additional opportunity to
32 those existing for Port Graham and Nanwalek, in
33 particular in the Brown Mountain hunt area. However,
34 we would like to suggest additional amendments for your
35 consideration.

36

37 The first is that we strongly urge the
38 Federal Subsistence Board to align with current State
39 of Alaska hunting timeframes as follows: The hunt
40 commencing August 10th through August 15th with a
41 break, recommencing November 1st through November 14th
42 to reduce conflict with enforcement. This will allow
43 the goat population to also have a break during
44 critical mating times as designed by the State of
45 Alaska system.

46

47 The second is per the State of Alaska
48 Department of Fish and Game comments. Unit 7 currently
49 contains 19 different hunt areas. Since 2011 the Fish

50

1 and Game has managed goat hunting on the Kenai
2 Peninsula through a lot of drawing -- a combination of
3 drawing and registration hunts. Limiting hunts to
4 those 19 different areas based on population
5 availability. This allows for the subpopulation within
6 an area because only a few animals may be harvested
7 from each subpopulation without causing a decline.
8

9 As stated in your packet, due to the
10 low population numbers as determined by minimum counts,
11 eight of these areas were closed in 2019 and we feel
12 that it's very important to exercise the Department's
13 ability to close certain subunits. Opening all of Unit
14 7 could negatively impact and affect other hunters
15 because managers would take a more cautious management
16 approach, including limiting total number of permits
17 issued in Unit 7.
18

19 We concur with this conclusion by the
20 Department and recommend that the Federal Subsistence
21 Board mimic hunting subunits as outlined by the
22 Department. Furthermore, we suggest limiting qualified
23 subsistence users in the communities of Cooper Landing,
24 Hope and Ninilchik to those State of Alaska subunits on
25 the Kenai Peninsula only where their communities are
26 located and not within DG347, DG351, DG352, DG363,
27 DG364, DG365, DG362 and DG361 to reduce conflict
28 potential with residents of Port Graham and Nanwalek.
29 We also request to limit those communities to not be
30 able to hunt in subunits east of the Seward Highway to
31 reduce conflict with Chenega and Tatitlek.
32

33 The third is that we strongly suggest
34 the Federal Subsistence Board have restrictions placed
35 on the hunter based on the sex harvested to mimic those
36 of the State to disinsentivize the hunter from
37 harvesting a nanny as they are crucial to the success
38 of population and Game Management Unit 7 for reasons I
39 don't need to state.
40

41 As written and further amended
42 currently, Chugach Regional Resources Commission cannot
43 support WP20-18b. There is insufficient harvestable
44 surplus, the potential for an increase in competition
45 for our coastal roadless residents in Port Graham,
46 Nanwalek, Chenega and Tatitlek coupled with a
47 historically low goat population in Unit 7.
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Ms.
2 Hetrick for your comments.

3
4 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
5 comes from Michael Adams. Your line is open.

6
7 MR. ADAMS: Mr. Chair and Members of
8 the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my
9 support for this proposal. Restrictive hunting
10 regulations have all but eliminated Unit 7 goat hunting
11 opportunity for rural residents in Cooper Landing.

12
13 The goat population is healthy enough
14 to support hunting pressure from nonrural users from
15 other communities with the existing draw hunts offered
16 by the State, yet no meaningful priority currently
17 exists for subsistence harvest. Rural use is small and
18 can be successfully integrated into management practice
19 while allowing for a meaningful rural preference.

20
21 I do support the proposal as amended,
22 although I would prefer the hunt not be a drawing hunt.
23 I do understand the concerns outlined by the Office of
24 Subsistence Management, but the Seward Ranger District
25 has brought authority to manage the hunt for
26 conservation purposes.

27
28 Thank you for your time and I would
29 like to encourage the Board to vote in favor of
30 Proposal 20-18b.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Mr.
33 Adams, for your comments. Do we have any further
34 public comments.

35
36 MR. C. BROWER: Madame Chair, I have a
37 question for Mr. Adams.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, Charlie.

40
41 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question. When
42 you refer rural, are those Federally recognized
43 qualified users or rural means anyone living there in
44 that rural designated area?

45
46 MR. ADAMS: The community of Cooper
47 Landing has been recognized as having a subsistence
48 priority and the proposal was initially written for
49 Cooper Landing residents, but during the customary and
50

1 traditional use portion it has been broadened to
2 include residents of the communities of Chenega Bay,
3 Hope, Nanwalek, Ninilchik, Port Graham, Seldovia and
4 Tatitlek. So I would support all eligible users from
5 those communities being able to participate in the
6 hunt.

7

8 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

9

10 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
11 much. Do we have any further public comment.

12

13 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
14 public comment.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
17 much. Not hearing any. I'd like to go to Regional
18 Council recommendation.

19

20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair,
21 Rhonda, this is Greg Encelewski, Chairman of
22 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Our
23 recommendation is to support the proposal with
24 modifications to include the OSM modifications but also
25 include the proposed restrictions on nanny and billy
26 goat harvest as proposed in the original proposal and
27 to have these restrictions in regulation.

28

29 I believe that was a unanimous support
30 by our Council.

31

32 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Mr.
33 Encelewski.

34

35 MR. ENCELEWSKI: You're welcome.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: I'd like to go to
38 the Tribal/Alaska Native corporation comments. Orville
39 Lind.

40

41 MR. LIND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Board members, RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native
43 Liaison for Office of Subsistence Management. During
44 the consultation session held on September 23rd we had
45 no comments on Wildlife Proposal 20-18b.

46

47 Thank you, Madame Chair.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you, Mr.

50

1 Lind. Now we're at Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 comments.

3
4 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you. This is Ben
5 Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. As you
6 may have seen in your packet, we were originally
7 opposed to the concept of the unit-wide open hunt for
8 mountain goats in Unit 7, but it looks like given the
9 modifications that we're almost there.

10
11 As you heard previously, we would
12 prefer to also see the alignment of the season dates
13 and the hunt areas take place given the nature of
14 mountain goat populations and their susceptibility and
15 need for careful management to prevent overharvest.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
20 much, Mr. Mulligan. Now we are at Interagency Staff
21 Committee comments.

22
23 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 Interagency Staff Committee agrees with the
25 Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council that
26 establishing a Federal subsistence goat season in Unit
27 7 would provide additional opportunity for Federally
28 qualified subsistence users.

29
30 The ISC agrees with OSM's conclusion to
31 support Proposal WP20-18b with modification to
32 establish a Federal drawing permit for goat and
33 delegate authority to the Seward District Ranger to
34 close the season, set any needed sex restrictions, set
35 the number of permits to be issued, and establish
36 permit conditions via delegation of authority letter
37 only.

38
39 Due to the small size of the goat
40 populations, habitat limitations, susceptibility to
41 over hunting, and the intensive State management, the
42 Federal manager would need to work closely with the
43 State to monitor harvest under both State and Federal
44 hunts if this proposal is adopted by the Board.

45
46 The ISC asked for legal counsel
47 clarification related to the proponent's and the
48 Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council's
49 request to limit eligibility following a successful
50

1 hunt. The proposal specifies that a hunter be
2 ineligible for a permit until three years after
3 harvesting a billy goat, and five years after
4 harvesting a nanny. Legal counsel responded as follows:

5
6 Per ANILCA Section 804, subsistence
7 uses can be restricted only when it is necessary to
8 restrict the taking of populations of fish and wildlife
9 on such lands for subsistence uses in order to protect
10 the continued viability of such populations, or to
11 continue such uses. Even where this threshold is met,
12 any restrictions on subsistence uses must apply the
13 following priority criteria:

14
15 Number one, customary and direct
16 dependence upon the population as the mainstay of
17 livelihood; two, local residency; and three, the
18 availability of alternative resources.

19
20 Since past permit drawing and/or
21 hunting success is not a relevant criteria for
22 implementing a priority, a rule that attempted to
23 restrict subsistence uses on that basis would violate
24 Section 804.

25
26 The ISC concluded that the component of
27 the proposal that restricts subsistence use is not
28 permitted under ANILCA Section 804.

29
30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
33 much. I appreciate the comments. Now we're at Board
34 discussion with Council Chairs and State Liaison. I'd
35 like to open the floor for Board discussion.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair. This is
38 BIA. Clarifying question for OSM.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Absolutely. Go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 So when Mr. McKee was giving a presentation and it
45 highlighted something for us here at BIA. If you look
46 on Page 699 of the Board book, it stipulates the
47 modified regulation should read, and it says: 1 goat by
48 Federal drawing permit. Nannies accompanied by kids may
49 not be taken. The harvest quota is up to two goats.

50

1 Although when it's mentioned about the
2 delegation of authority it stipulated that the
3 in-season manager among other things would set the
4 harvest quota. Does it mean that the delegation of
5 authority to the District Ranger could establish a
6 quota beyond the two that's written in the regulation
7 or just within the two limitation?
8

9 MR. MCKEE: I can respond. I think the
10 purpose of our modification, the intent of OSM was to
11 allow as much flexibility for the in-season manager to
12 manage these populations. So there on our part was not
13 to add the quotas under the delegation of authority
14 instead of in regulation. So that's a good question.
15 Just given to how highly managed these populations need
16 to be, we want to give maximum flexibility to the
17 in-season manager. I hope that clarifies it.
18

19 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair, I'll follow
20 up. If that is the case, if the in-season manager
21 could only determine the quota up to two goats, then do
22 we want to have that stricken from the delegation
23 letter potentially because there's a cap on the amount
24 of quota or let it remain a delegation because I think
25 that may cause more confusion.
26

27 In addition too, I hear the State
28 mention earlier that they were concerned about
29 potential overharvest. So if we remove that from the
30 delegation, it might be clear to all. Hence the
31 regulation would cap the harvest quota at two.
32

33 MR. MCKEE: We'll be happy to go along
34 with whatever the Board thinks is best. I would like
35 to add one matter. The Federal manager would have
36 broad discretion under his delegation of authority as
37 how best to manage this hunt. The Federal lands that
38 are relevant to the proposal are all Federal public
39 lands in the Chugach National Forest in Unit 7 within
40 the Seward Ranger District.
41

42 So the managers can also limit the hunt
43 to specific count areas if he feels that's appropriate
44 under management. So the manager has the ability to
45 limit the area anywhere within the Federal public lands
46 within Unit 7. So it's not like he's stuck with only
47 managing in all of Unit 7. He can limit it to specific
48 count areas if he feels that's necessary under his
49 authority as an in-season manager.
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Madame Chair. I do
2 appreciate that explanation, but I fail to see where
3 that addresses a quota of two. I understand the
4 in-season manager has the discretion to geographically
5 address a harvest, but it still leaves in question the
6 total number of the quota. That will be in conflict
7 with the regulation.

8

9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10

11 I'll end with that comment.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: Member Peltola is right and
14 it would need to either be in the delegation of
15 authority or in the actual regulation. Usually in the
16 past we've taken a lot of those specific numbers out of
17 regulation because if something changes with the
18 available quota or if the population increases, then
19 the manager is kind of stuck with a quota of up to two
20 goats. So not having any regulation would allow more
21 flexibility to respond to changes in the population.
22 An increase or a decrease.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Did that address
25 your concern, Member Peltola?

26

27 MR. PELTOLA: Yes and no. Because,
28 one, if it is pulled from regulation, we wouldn't have
29 the conflict with the delegation letter. If it remains
30 in regulation, it still does create a conflict. Having
31 it in regulation also addressed potential concerns from
32 those who may be worried about a potential overharvest.
33 So I guess it would need to be appropriately addressed
34 by the agency making a motion, whether it be retained
35 in regulation or the delegation.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
38 much for those comments. Is there any further Board
39 discussion.

40

41 MR. C. BROWER: Madame Chair.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, sir.

44

45 MR. C. BROWER: When we're approving
46 this, where does the modification come in to include
47 the other villages that were named throughout the
48 presentation or the request? Are they in the
49 modification already or when someone makes a motion to
50

1 include those other villages?

2

3 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair, I can answer
4 that question.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes, please.
7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: So there were two proposals
10 put in there relevant to this unit and species, so we
11 had this proposal that wanted to establish an actual
12 hunt and then there was a previous proposal WP20-18a
13 that requested the establishment of a customary and
14 traditional use determination. That is on your
15 consensus agenda. That was supported with
16 modification. So that modification language is Unit 7
17 Brown Mountain hunt area.

18

19 The C&T is residents of Nanwalek and
20 Port Graham. For Unit 17 remainder, rural residents of
21 Chenega Bay, Cooper Landing, Hope, Nanwalek, Ninilchik,
22 Port Graham, Seldovia and Tatitlek. So that's on the
23 consensus agenda. Assuming it stays on there then that
24 will be adopted with those modifications. So I hope
25 that answers the question.

26

27 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. Just one
28 more question. So this additional two for this
29 proposal is for Cooper Landing only when you have
30 non-residents harvesting over 160 compared to two. Is
31 that what's being said here?

32

33 MR. MCKEE: I'm not certain I
34 understand the question, Charlie.

35

36 MR. C. BROWER: I mean Alaska residents
37 not in Unit 7 usually gets about 140, 180 and residents
38 in Unit 7 barely gets one. So there seems to be a
39 pretty good high number difference. I mean I'm just
40 looking at the paper.

41

42 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, so the opportunity
43 for Federally qualified subsistence users in terms of
44 the amount they've been able to harvest in the past has
45 been fairly limited. Currently there is no existing
46 hunt under Federal regulations. So these two proposals
47 are establishing a C&T and a hunt for mountain goats in
48 this area.

49

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Is there any
4 further Board discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Hearing no further
9 Board discussion, we're at Federal Subsistence Board
10 action for WP20-18b.

11

12 MR. SCHMID: Madame Chair. Dave
13 Schmid, Forest Service.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

16

17 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I move to
18 adopt WP20-18b with OSM modification to establish a
19 Federal drawing permit for goat and delegate authority
20 to the Seward District Ranger to close the season, set
21 any needed sex restrictions and determine the number of
22 permits to be issued and establish permit conditions
23 via delegation of authority letter only and would ask
24 for clarification to remove the two goats from the
25 regulation.

26

27 This proposal is shown on 687 of the
28 Board book. Following a second I will explain why I
29 will support the modified proposal.

30

31 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: The motion has
34 been seconded by Member Brower.

35

36 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Establishing a
37 Federal subsistence goat season in Unit 7 would provide
38 additional opportunity for Federally qualified
39 subsistence users. Providing this opportunity is
40 consistent with Section 804 of the Alaska National
41 Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which calls
42 for the priority consumptive use of fish and wildlife
43 populations by rural Alaska residents.

44

45 This subsistence opportunity is
46 supported by the Southcentral Subsistence Regional
47 Advisory Council. Due to the small size of the goat
48 populations, habitat limitations and susceptibility to
49 overhunting, the Federal manager would need to work

50

1 closely with the State to monitor harvest under both
2 State and Federal hunts.

3
4 Establishing a Federal drawing permit
5 hunt would allow for better harvest monitoring while
6 delegating authority to the Seward District Ranger will
7 allow for hunt management flexibility through in-season
8 adjustments and a more timely response to changes in
9 population status, hunting conditions or hunter access
10 while maximizing harvest opportunities for Federally
11 qualified subsistence users.

12
13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
16 much.

17
18 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. The
21 question has been called.

22
23 MR. MCKEE: Madame Chair. This is
24 Chris.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Yes.

27
28 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just want to step
29 in here to get some clarification on the motion that
30 was made by the Forest Service. I didn't notice whether
31 they wanted to include being able to delegate authority
32 to the Federal in-season manager to determine quotas.
33 I know they took it out of regulation, but there
34 wouldn't be any method for the manager to make quota
35 determinations if it's not also included in the
36 delegation. So just asking for some clarification
37 there.

38
39 MR. SCHMID: Yes. Madame Chair. This
40 is Dave Schmid. You are correct. When I inserted
41 taking out of regulation. So, yes, that should be
42 taken out, the quota.

43
44 MR. MCKEE: No, I mean if it's not in
45 regulation, it would need to be delegated to the
46 Federal manager to determine quota.

47
48 MR. SCHMID: Correct.

49
50

1 MR. MCKEE: Okay. Thank you.

2

3 MR. SCHMID: Yes. Correct. Sorry.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Also right now I just
6 had a text that Rhonda has lost connection, but I
7 believe, Tony, you're back online as Chair?

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm here
10 again. I've been in half of the discussion. Thank
11 Rhonda for being able to fill in. If she's back on,
12 I'd just let her finish. If not, I'm ready to
13 continue.

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll give it a couple
16 minutes for Rhonda to get back on if that's okay, Tony.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
19 fine. I think she's doing a fine job.

20

21 MR. C. BROWER: Oh, Rhonda got lost?

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Charlie.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Tom, while we're
28 waiting, this is Greg. Can I ask a question.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, go ahead, Greg.

31

32 MR. SIEKANIEC: I'm still after the
33 last discussion about quotas maybe just a little bit
34 confused. It's specifically going to say in the letter
35 of delegation that the quotas may be set by the
36 in-season manager? I think that's what I'm hearing
37 from Mr. Schmid.

38

39 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Greg.

40

41 MR. SIEKANIEC: And then what I didn't
42 hear was any discussion about nannies with kids in the
43 actual regulation. Is that something that was supposed
44 to be in there as well?

45

46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Greg, this is Tom. My
47 understanding would be now the regulation would --
48 other than the letter of delegation authority, would be
49 one goat by Federal drawing permit. Nannies

50

1 accompanied by kids may not be taken.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Okay.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: And the season dates
6 would be August 10 through November 14.

7

8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 OPERATOR: Rhonda has rejoined.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Board Member Pitka has
13 rejoined.

14

15 MS. PITKA: Yes. Thank you. I
16 apologize. I'm here.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda. They just
19 finished Board discussion.

20

21 MR. C. BROWER: Question. Mr. Chair or
22 Madame Chair.

23

24 MS. PITKA: Yes, what was your
25 question?

26

27 MR. C. BROWER: On the motion.

28

29 MS. PITKA: Yes. Sorry, I was cut off,
30 so I didn't know where we were at. Okay. May we have
31 a roll call vote, please.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Madame
34 Chair. This is to support the OSM with modification on
35 Proposal WP20-18b to establish a Federal drawing permit
36 for goat and delegate authority to the Seward District
37 Ranger to close the season, set any needed sex
38 restrictions, provide for a quota, the number of
39 permits to be issued and permit conditions via
40 delegation of authority letter only. The regulation
41 would be clarified by stating Unit 7 goat, one goat by
42 Federal drawing permit. Nannies accompanied by kids
43 may not be taken. The season dates would be August 10
44 through November 14.

45

46 I'm going to start with BLM, Chad
47 Padgett.

48

49 MR. PADGETT: Tom, can you come back to

50

1 me. I'm just rolling something around in my head,
2 please.
3

4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.
6

7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
8 support in deference to the Southeast Regional Advisory
9 Council and the U.S. Forest Service in its very
10 detailed justification and accompanied by the customary
11 and traditional use that had been expressed in the
12 public comment.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.
17

18 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
19

20 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports, echoing
21 justification provided by the Forest Service in their
22 motion.
23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: National Park Service,
25 Don Striker.
26

27 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
28 supports for the reasons previously given.
29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
31 Don.
32

33 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
34

35 MR. SCHMID: Yes, we support for the
36 justification I shared with the motion.
37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda Pitka.
39

40 MS. PITKA: I support for the
41 justification provided by the Forest Service.
42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much.
44

45 Charlie Brower.
46

47 MR. C. BROWER: I support with the
48 modifications as recommended by the Southcentral RAC.
49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
2 Charlie.

3
4 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
5 Padgett.

6
7 MR. PADGETT: I support as modified.
8 Thank you.

9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad. Last,
11 Tony Christianson, Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
14 deference.

15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Thank you.
17 That's WP20-18b passed with modification of some
18 clarifications relative to quota and assuring that
19 nannies accompanied by kids may not be taken and season
20 dates by one goat by Federal drawing permit.

21
22 Mr. Chair. The next one would be
23 WP20-20.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
26 Thank you, Tom. I appreciate you guys picking it up
27 while I was cut off. I lost service there. Thank you,
28 Rhonda, for doing a great job there. I appreciate
29 that.

30
31 We'll move on to 20-20. We'll call for
32 the Staff analysis.

33
34 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa. Can you hear
35 me?

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.
38

39 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Lisa
41 Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis
42 for Wildlife Proposal WP20-20, which begins on Page 356
43 of your meeting books.

44
45 Wildlife Proposal WP20-20 was submitted
46 by Robert Gieringer and requests that hunting and
47 trapping in Unit 7 be prohibited within one mile of
48 roads and trails, and that trap sites be marked with
49 brightly colored tape. The proponent states that
50

1 serious injuries to pets have occurred near popular
2 trails, and that trail use is increasing due to an
3 expanding human population.

4
5 Cooper Landing has a history of
6 conflicts between local residents and trappers
7 primarily over pets getting caught in traps. In 2014,
8 the Federal Subsistence Board rejected Proposal
9 WP14-01, which requested requiring trapper
10 identification tags statewide and it was opposed by all
11 10 Councils.

12
13 In 2015, the Alaska Board of Game
14 rejected Proposal 180, which proposed prohibiting
15 trapping within 250 yards of public roads and trails in
16 the Cooper Landing area. The Board of Game noted
17 concerns about the enforcability of such a proposal and
18 stated trappers and local residents need to work
19 together to find a mutually agreeable solution or
20 compromise.

21
22 In 2016, the Board of Game rejected
23 Proposal 80, which proposed prohibiting trapping along
24 roads and trails in urban areas. Twenty-six ACs
25 opposed the proposal and the Board of Game commented
26 this type of restriction would be better handled
27 through city or borough ordinances.

28
29 Wildlife Proposal WP20-08, which is
30 currently on the consensus agenda, requests
31 implementing a statewide requirement that traps and
32 snares be marked with either the trapper's name or
33 State identification number.

34
35 Adopting Proposal WP20-20 would
36 decrease opportunity for Federally qualified
37 subsistence users because they would have to spend more
38 time accessing trapping/hunting areas and in marking
39 traps.

40
41 Adopting this proposal would result in
42 misalignment of Federal and State regulations and in
43 Federal regulations being more restrictive than State
44 regulations.

45
46 Federally qualified subsistence users
47 can trap on Federal public lands under State
48 regulation. They could avoid the Federal restrictions
49 by simply trapping under State regulations. Therefore,
50

1 the Federal restrictions proposed by WP20-20 would be
2 ineffective.

3
4 Marking trap sites with flagging tape
5 could have the unintended consequence of drawing
6 people's attention to the area, resulting in their
7 investigation of the trap site.

8
9 User conflicts between recreationists
10 and trappers in the Cooper Landing area would likely be
11 better addressed in other than Federal Subsistence
12 Board, such as city ordinance, Federal land managers or
13 the State Board of Game.

14
15 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
16 WP20-20.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 I'm available for questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm here. It
23 just takes me a second to unmute the phone. Thank you
24 for that. We'll move on to the next part, which is any
25 questions for Lisa.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
30 Summary of public comments, Regional Council
31 Coordinator.

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels
35 with OSM. We had not received any written public
36 comments for Proposal WP20-20.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
41 Katya. At this time we'll open up the line to public
42 testimony on this proposal.

43
44 OPERATOR: All lines are currently open
45 for public comment.

46
47 MS. TEMPLE: Hello. Am I on?

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, you are.

50

1 MS. TEMPLE: Good afternoon, everybody.
2 I did speak this morning. This is Lorraine Temple. I
3 live in Cooper Landing and I have a home in Homer as
4 well. I was the one advocating rediscussing WP20-20 on
5 my behalf. However, there was a consortium of people
6 that met in November, community members, that got
7 together to discuss this issue.

8
9 It comes out of a very emotional place
10 of over years hearing neighbors, community members just
11 very nervous, scared to go out and walk their dogs.
12 They had all year prior. I mean very, like just over
13 the top. The anxiety and stress was gripping in our
14 community. I feel I can probably speak for other small
15 communities as well in Unit 7.

16
17 The truth is -- and I brought this up
18 this morning -- that there's .4 percent of the Alaska
19 population that has trapping licenses. That leaves
20 99.6 percent of the population that does need to, you
21 know, recreate under this very oppressive type of
22 regulations.

23
24 I say oppressive in that the traps are
25 able to be set right next to trails. There have been
26 dogs that have been maimed and killed within six feet
27 of a very highly used trail. I think responsible
28 trappers wouldn't do that. I do have trapper friends
29 and they are also appalled by that.

30
31 So this issue when talking with my
32 trapper friends in our community and we're trying to
33 figure out what can we do and this buffer. Again, I
34 brought this up this morning how other communities have
35 instituted, you know, Yakutat and Juneau and Anchorage,
36 these very healthy buffers. The Board of Game suggests
37 that we go to our city, our municipality.
38 Unfortunately Cooper Landing isn't a municipality. We
39 don't have a city. I suppose the next step would be to
40 go to the Borough.

41
42 I have been in contact with the Seward
43 Ranger District, with the Forest Service. Further
44 dialogue does need to happen. I think we're at a
45 tipping point now where there are enough interested
46 people and enough willingness to work in coordination
47 with our fellow trappers and the recreational users to
48 make this a workable -- you know, come up with
49 something that works for both sides.
50

1 I think the most obvious, the best
2 recommendation is the quarter-mile buffer. I know
3 WP20-20 suggests a mile. I think that is extreme
4 myself and I know that is probably asking for too much.
5 We are looking at compromises and we're also not
6 looking to take away from trappers the amount of land
7 to trap.

8
9 When I was reading through all this and
10 it said it's going to decrease the area that trappers
11 can trap in. I'm thinking to myself, my God, there's
12 the entire backcountry. What recreational users are
13 looking for to be a safe area is very finite, very
14 small in comparison to the huge backcountry that's
15 available for trappers to do their trapping in.

16
17 The enforcement issue. That was
18 another negative or reason why the proposal didn't
19 pass, how do they enforce it. I've also heard this
20 more recently. That is an issue. I will say and let
21 you know that Cooper Landing -- actually we put upon
22 ourselves to have signs put up just asking please keep
23 this areas -- and the areas we're asking for were
24 rather small -- please keep this trap free in this
25 area. Just in these small areas. It was brought to my
26 attention this was not enforceable.

27
28 What I think our hope and aspiration is
29 is that with enough years and time of sort of
30 self-establishing, self-regulating, self-imposing, you
31 know, small areas that we can just -- kind of like a
32 dog park in a big city, you know. There's a little
33 small area you can keep the dog and let them run around
34 and please don't trap in that area. It should become a
35 little more established, a little more established,
36 until we can finally get together with the Board of
37 Game, the Alaska Trapping Association.

38
39 The Alaska Trapping Association
40 actually came out and put up their own signs along some
41 of the areas that we were looking at to be safe trail
42 areas and asked politely -- the Trapping Association
43 the sign said please don't trap in this area and pet
44 owners please keep your dogs on leashes. That was
45 great. That was a step in the right direction to come
46 into a good common goal here.

47
48 The outset of this is that I do hope
49 there can be some further dialogue. I would encourage
50

1 and ask for a quarter mile buffer zone from our trails.
2 I think that's much more reasonable. A mile from
3 permanent homes. That seems to be a standard. Five
4 hundred yards would be good. A mile would be better.
5

6 To look at these things more critically
7 in the light of this changing face of Alaska, the
8 subsistence trapping that's done in Unit 7 I don't see
9 it as being a necessity for food or for clothing, the
10 traditional uses such as that. I know it's something
11 that is in favor for some people. They do like to trap
12 and I get that. People like to do things I don't like
13 to do and I do things people don't like to do, so I get
14 it.
15

16 With this increasing desire to recreate
17 safely and truly wanting to establish more of a winter
18 business, a winter destination down on the Kenai
19 Peninsula that it is contrary economically as people
20 are afraid if they pull out on the roadside that their
21 dog might go off the roadside to go pee and get
22 trapped.
23

24 It's just time. It really is time for
25 change on all this. I know I can speak for everybody
26 in Unit 7. I've had a few other communities calling me
27 and say, hey, you know, this isn't just for Cooper
28 Landing. This is for everybody down there. I would
29 put that out there too to the Board to consider this
30 very strongly so we can have a safer area to recreate.
31

32 Thanks so much for your time.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
35 Thank you for that. Any questions from the Board.
36

37 (No comments)
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate
40 your public comment and calling in on this proposal.
41 Definitely appreciate that you've taken the time to do
42 that.
43

44 MS. TEMPLE: Thank you.
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
47 public testimony on 20-20.
48

49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
2 Hearing no more. We'll go to the Regional Advisory
3 Council recommendations, Chair or designee.
4

5 MR. ENCELEWSKI: The Council felt that
6 this proposal would make regulations more complex,
7 would be difficult to enforce, and users trapping under
8 State regulations do not have such restrictions.
9 Although the Council appreciates an attempt to
10 de-conflict pet owners and trappers, it felt this
11 proposal was over the top. It specifically noted that
12 smaller buffers are more consistent with what is
13 normally done and effective, marked traps would be more
14 susceptible to disturbance by people and that it
15 wouldn't stop illegal trapping.
16

17 We know it's a social issue, but we
18 oppose it.
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
21 Greg. Any questions for Greg.
22

23 (No comments)
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
26 from the Board. We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native
27 corporation comments. Orville.
28

29 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Can you
30 hear me?
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.
33

34 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Board members,
35 RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of
36 Subsistence Management. During the consultation
37 session we did not have any comments.
38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments,
43 State Liaison.
44

45 MR. MULLIGAN: Hello. Ben Mulligan for
46 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We are neutral
47 on this proposal.
48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
50

1 questions for the State from the Board.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.

6 We'll open up the floor for Board discussion with

7 Council Chairs or the State Liaison.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Rhonda.

14

15 MS. WORKER: This is Suzanne. I would

16 just like to add that the ISC provided the standard

17 comment for WP20-20.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, yeah.

20 Thank you. My eyeballs are fading here. I appreciate

21 that.

22

23 MS. WORKER: No worries. Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. Hearing

26 no Board discussion with Council Chairs or State

27 Liaison. We'll move on to Federal Board action on

28 20-20.

29

30 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,

31 Forest Service.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.

34 You have the floor.

35

36 MR. SCHMID: While I also appreciate

37 the efforts to de-conflict between pet owners and

38 trappers, I'm going to move to adopt Proposal WP20-20

39 as submitted by Robert Gieringer of Cooper Landing.

40 This proposal is shown on Page 356 of the Board book.

41 Following a second, I will explain why I intend to

42 oppose my motion.

43

44 MR. PADGETT: Second. This is Chad.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion has been

47 made and second. You have the floor, Dave.

48

49 MR. SCHMID: Adoption of Proposal

50

1 WP20-20 would decrease hunting and trapping opportunity
2 for Federally qualified subsistence users. Marking
3 traps with brightly-colored tape could result in
4 attracting more people to the trap and possibly pets.
5

6 The mixture of Federal and non-Federal
7 lands bordering roads and trails would create user
8 confusion over where hunting and trapping could occur
9 and preclude achieving the proponent's intent of
10 reducing user conflicts.
11

12 Federal regulations would become more
13 restrictive than State regulations, violating the rural
14 subsistence priority mandated by ANILCA. All users
15 would still be able to hunt and trap without
16 restrictions under State regulations, further
17 decreasing this proposal's effectiveness.
18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Dave. Any other Board discussion.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
27 Board discussion. We'll call for the question.
28

29 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
32 has been called. We'll do a roll call vote on this,
33 Tom. Thank you.
34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. This is
36 Proposal WP20-20. Request that hunting and trapping in
37 Unit 7 be prohibited within one mile of roads and
38 trails and that traps be marked with brightly-colored
39 tape.
40

41 We'll start out with U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.
43

44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
45 oppose in deference to the Southcentral Regional
46 Advisory Council and the justification provided by the
47 U.S. Forest Service. I also do not believe it is
48 appropriate to implement ineffective regulations as
49 noted by Lisa Maas, Staff of OSM.
50

1 However I do sense the need for these
2 types of discussions to be had in local community-type
3 areas, especially with, as I agree, the changing face
4 of Alaska's recreational user, but I don't believe the
5 Federal Subsistence Board would provide an effective
6 means of satisfying that.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
11 Greg.

12

13 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
14 Padgett.

15

16 MR. PADGETT: I oppose as well for the
17 reasons already stated and in deference to the RAC. In
18 addition, I'd like to also encourage that the
19 communities get together and work these kind of things
20 out as Greg stated.

21

22 Thanks.

23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
25 Chad.

26

27 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
30 opposes based on justification provided by the Forest
31 Service in addition to the recommendation from the
32 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. In addition,
33 we also echo similar concerns expressed by the Fish and
34 Wildlife Service.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
37 Gene.

38

39 Rhonda Pitka.

40

41 MS. PITKA: Yes, I oppose in deference
42 to the Regional Advisory Council and I do understand
43 the need for further discussions in the communities.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
46 Rhonda.

47

48 Charlie Brower.

49

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: I oppose. Likewise as
2 stated. Thank you.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Charlie.
5 Thank you.

6
7 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

8
9 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I oppose for the
10 reasons I shared with my motion and also would invite
11 the communities to invite the Seward District Ranger,
12 the Forest Service, there into any of their
13 collaborative efforts that may help de-conflict some of
14 these conflicts there.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you much, Dave,
19 on that.

20
21 National Park Service, Don Striker.

22
23 MR. STRIKER: Park Service is opposed
24 for reasons already given. I will say that I really
25 appreciate the public comment on this topic. The Park
26 Service is very sensitive to the non-consumptive user
27 concerns and very well aware of the changing economics
28 of outdoor use.

29
30 But I just flat think that this
31 wouldn't work largely because of the differing State
32 regulations. I guess my recommendation would be that
33 user communities start by working jointly with the
34 Forest Service and the State on a joint regulation that
35 may actually prove to be more effective.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you much, Don.

40
41 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
44 deference to the RAC.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: You oppose. Okay.
47 Thank you, Chair. The motion failed. That moves us on
48 to WP20-22b.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. We'll call
2 on the analyst to present that to us. Thank you.

3
4 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Board. Again for the record my name is
6 Chris McKee and I'll be presenting an overview of
7 Proposal WP20-22b, which can be found on Page 712 of
8 your meeting materials book.

9
10 Wildlife Proposal WP20-22b was
11 submitted by the Ninilchik Traditional Council and
12 requests that an August 10 to October 10 caribou season
13 be established in Unit 15 with a harvest limit of one
14 caribou by Federal registration permit. The proponent
15 also requests that the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
16 Manager be given authority to open and close the season
17 in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and
18 Game and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska
19 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

20
21 The proponent states that the requested
22 changes will provide opportunity for rural residents
23 Unit 15 to engage in subsistence caribou hunting and
24 provide for a meaningful subsistence preference.

25
26 Endemic woodland populations of caribou
27 existed on the Kenai Peninsula but were nearly
28 extirpated by 1912 due to a combination of overhunting
29 and habitat loss due to human-caused fires.

30
31 Four caribou populations currently
32 occur on the Kenai Peninsula. The Kenai Mountain Herd,
33 which is in primarily Unit 7, and will not be further
34 discussed for purposes of this analysis.

35
36 The Kenai Lowlands Caribou Herd, which
37 is near Soldotna, Kenai and Sterling in Units 15A and
38 15B. The population is slow growing and consisted of
39 only 91 animals as of 2018, which is below the State
40 management objective of 150 caribou.

41
42 The Killey River Caribou Herd in the
43 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, primarily in the Funny
44 and Killey River drainages north to Skilak Lake in Unit
45 15B. It consisted of 413 animals as of 2018, which is
46 within the State management goal of 400 to 500 caribou.
47 Avalanches between 2001 and 2004 killed at least 191
48 caribou, most of the mortalities being cows and calves.

49
50

1 Then the Fox River Caribou Herd has the
2 smallest range between the Tustumena Glacier and the
3 upper Fox River and Truly Creek. In 2017 a minimum of
4 59 caribou were counted from this herd and in 2018 zero
5 caribou were counted and it's thought that these
6 animals most likely joined the Killey River Caribou
7 Herd.

8
9 Habitat limitations, predation and the
10 effects of climate change such as snow availability and
11 depth, icy conditions and the advance of treeline have
12 allowed a harvest under State regulations from only two
13 of the three available caribou populations in Unit 15
14 in recent years. That is the Killey and Fox River
15 Herds.

16
17 There's never been a Federal
18 subsistence season for caribou in Unit 15 and the
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has managed caribou
20 hunting using a drawing hunt. Only the Killey River
21 Caribou Herd has a viable population that currently can
22 sustain a hunt from 2014 to 2018 an average of 24 bull
23 caribou have been harvested annually.

24
25 Rural residents have taken
26 approximately 3 percent of the harvest from 1995 to
27 2018. Nonrural residents living in Unit 15 account for
28 most of the harvest, about 59 percent, followed by
29 Alaska residents living outside of Unit 15 at 27
30 percent and nonresidents at 10 percent.

31
32 If no caribou were observed during the
33 2018 survey of the Fox River Caribou Herd, no hunt
34 should occur for conservation concerns until this herd
35 reaches 80 caribou. Because of the relatively unstable
36 and fluctuating caribou populations in Unit 15 any
37 Federal permits issued should fall within the same
38 regulatory framework established by the State for those
39 hunts to prevent overharvest.

40
41 Establishing a Federal subsistence
42 caribou hunt in Unit 15 will provide an additional
43 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users.
44 Providing this opportunity is consistent with Section
45 804 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
46 Act, which allows for a priority consumptive use of
47 fish and wildlife populations by rural Alaska
48 residents.

49
50

1 Since the demand for caribou is greater
2 than the harvestable surplus a drawing permit is
3 recommended so that harvest is limited by restricting
4 the number of permits issued thus minimizing the threat
5 of overharvest. Delegating authority to the Kenai
6 National Wildlife Refuge Manager will allow for hunt
7 management flexibility through in-season adjustments
8 and a more timely response to changes in population
9 status, hunting conditions, or hunter access while
10 maximizing harvest opportunities for Federally
11 qualified subsistence users.

12
13 The OSM conclusion, which can be found
14 on Pages 725 and 726 of your Board book, is to support
15 Proposal WP20-22b with modification to establish a
16 Federal drawing permit hunt for caribou in Unit 15,
17 with a season of August 10th to September 20th,
18 establish three new hunt areas and delegate authority
19 to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager to close
20 the season, set the harvest quota, and set any needed
21 permit conditions.

22
23 With that that's the end of my
24 analysis.

25
26 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Chris, for that. Any questions for Chris from the
32 Board.

33
34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
35 Greg.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
38 have the floor.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Chris, would setting
41 permit conditions mean that they could set either cow
42 or bull harvest?

43
44 MR. MCKEE: No, that has more to do
45 with some things like a reporting period or how long
46 they have to report to the manager after harvest in the
47 field. For something like that I think you're talking
48 more of setting sex restrictions.

49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right. So would that
2 then need to be stated in the delegation letter?

3
4 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, if that's something
5 you wanted included, yes, that would need to be
6 explicitly stated in the delegation letter.

7
8 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Thank you.

9
10 MR. MCKEE: I should also note that as
11 part of our modification I didn't explicitly state
12 during my presentation that we shortened the proposed
13 season dates from August 10th to October 10th to August
14 10th to September 20th because most of the harvest has
15 previously occurred before September 20th and also to
16 reduce the stress to bulls from hunting activity during
17 the rut which begins around mid September.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
20 further questions for Chris.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
25 We'll move on to summary of public comment, Regional
26 Council Coordinator.

27
28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 For the record this is Katya Wessels with the Office of
30 Subsistence Management and we did not receive any
31 written public comments for the Proposal WP20-22b.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. We
36 will move on to public testimony. Operator, please
37 make their line available.

38
39 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
40 one standing by.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
44 recommendation.

45
46 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Tony, this is Greg
47 Encelewski, Chair of Southcentral. We supported this
48 proposal as the original proposal. The Council stated
49 that there needs to be opportunity for harvest by
50

1 Federally qualified subsistence users and to date the
2 majority of harvest has been by non-Federally qualified
3 users.

4
5 The Council noted that caribou
6 populations move around and that they didn't want
7 restrictions as to where Federally qualified
8 subsistence users could hunt. In addition, the Council
9 noted that evidence supporting the recommendation would
10 be beneficial to subsistence users without necessarily
11 placing restricting other users.

12
13 That was our support and
14 recommendation.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Greg. So that's different than what was presented by
18 the ISC here in that there was dates established, Greg?

19
20 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, they added a
21 whole bunch on there, all kinds of stuff. We supported
22 it as originally. We didn't agree to the add-ons that
23 came later. So the RAC supported the original
24 proposal.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there any
27 questions from the Board for Greg.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
32 Tribal/Alaska Native corporation comments. Orville.

33
34 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for Office of Subsistence
36 Management. During the consultation on September 23rd
37 we did have a request from the Seldovia tribe just to
38 review the wildlife proposals and we'd done so and
39 there was no further comments after the proposals were
40 reviewed.

41
42 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Orville. Any questions from the Board for Orville.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.

50

1 We'll move on to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
2 comment, State Liaison.

3

4 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game. The Department is neutral on the eligibility
7 and requirements for the Federal Subsistence Program,
8 however, as written, the Department is opposed to the
9 proposal.

10

11 If the Board does choose to enact a
12 Federal season, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
13 recommends the modifications that the hunt should be
14 limited to the boundaries of the Killey River and Fox
15 River Herds since these are the only animals available
16 for harvest under State regulations and the season
17 dates should align with the current State season dates
18 of August 10th through September 20th.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
23 Mulligan. Any questions for the State from the Board.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
28 We'll move on to Interagency Staff Committee comments,
29 ISC Chair.

30

31 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 This is Suzanne Worker. The Interagency Staff
33 Committee (ISC) agrees that creating this Federal hunt
34 will provide a new meaningful preference for Federally
35 qualified users by ensuring an allocation of caribou
36 permits to qualified rural users.

37

38 The ISC agrees with OSM's modification
39 for WP20-22b. The three primary Kenai caribou herds in
40 Unit 15 are small, vulnerable to overharvest and slow
41 growing. Consequentially, they require conservative
42 and careful management.

43

44 The modification by OSM to align
45 Federal season dates and hunt management boundaries
46 with the State framework is appropriate to reduce
47 regulatory confusion and ensure successful
48 administration of a hunt with limited permits that will
49 be co-administered by Federal and State offices.

50

1 To avoid overharvest, proactive,
2 frequent and timely coordination between Federal and
3 State agencies will be crucial, along with timely
4 harvest reporting from permitted hunters. To increase
5 the season length beyond September 20th, as requested
6 by the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory
7 Council, could further stress these small populations
8 by disturbing bulls during the critical rut period,
9 which initiates in mid-September.

10

11 Creation of Federal hunt areas that
12 align with State boundaries is imperative to reduce
13 regulatory confusion and to ensure that caribou are
14 harvested from only those populations that have a
15 harvestable surplus. The ISC concurs with OSM that
16 only the Killey River Herd has a population that can
17 currently sustain harvest. Harvest from the Kenai
18 Lowlands and Fox River Herds should remain closed until
19 minimum population objectives are met.

20

21 The Federal Manager will have authority
22 to modify seasons, quotas, etcetera, via special action
23 if necessary to improve hunting opportunities or
24 restrict harvest when quotas are met. The recent Kenai
25 fires may have caused negative impacts to caribou
26 habitat and create yet another factor that managers
27 need to consider in setting future harvest quotas.

28

29 If proposals WP20-23b and WP20-24b are
30 passed by the Board, there will be three new Federal
31 hunts established that will all require significant
32 time and coordination commitments by the Kenai National
33 Wildlife Refuge staff to administer. Reducing
34 regulatory complexity between Federal and State hunts
35 to ensure successful implementation may be important to
36 consider when evaluating this proposal.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
41 questions for ISC from the Board.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
46 We'll move on to Board discussion with Council Chairs
47 and State Liaison. At this time would the Board like
48 to ask any questions?

49

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
4 We'll open up the floor for Federal Board action
5 20-22b.

6

7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
8 Siekaniec with Fish and Wildlife Service.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
11 have the floor.

12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
14 move to adopt Proposal WP20-22b as modified by Office
15 of Subsistence Management.

16

17 The Office of Subsistence Management
18 modified the proposal shown on Page 726 of the Board
19 book. Following a second I will explain why I intend
20 to support my motion.

21

22 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.

25

26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Establishing a Federal
27 subsistence caribou season in Unit 15 in support of the
28 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council request will
29 provide additional opportunity for qualified
30 subsistence users to harvest a caribou and is
31 consistent with Alaska National Interest Lands
32 Conservation Act Section 804.

33

34 Given the small and relatively unstable
35 and fluctuating caribou herd sizes, variable permit
36 numbers and vulnerability to overharvest it is
37 important for a Federal draw hunt to fully align with
38 State harvest seasons and hunt area boundaries as
39 identified in this modification.

40

41 A modified closure date of September 20
42 will align with the State closure date and is necessary
43 to reduce stress on bulls during the rut which begins
44 in mid September. As most caribou are harvested before
45 September 20, this should not reduce success rates, as
46 was also mentioned in the ISC comment.

47

48 Delegating the authority to the Kenai
49 National Wildlife Refuge manager to close the season,

50

1 set the harvest quota and set any needed permit
2 conditions will provide the flexibility to close
3 seasons early if needed. The delegation of authority
4 letter should be modified to include that the in-season
5 manager has the authority to set sex restrictions
6 relative to harvest.

7
8 This was mentioned by OSM and I believe
9 I brought up earlier in discussions with Chris. In the
10 overview of the proposal I would like to see the
11 administrative change made so the manager has the
12 flexibility to restrict sex of caribou harvest when
13 needed.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Greg. The floor is open for discussion. Board
19 members.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
24 further discussion. We'll call for roll call, Tom.
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 We are looking at Wildlife Proposal 20-22b and this
29 proposal with modification as proposed by Board Member
30 Siekaniec is to establish the Federal drawing permit
31 hunt for caribou in Unit 15 with a season of August 10
32 through September 20th, establish three new hunt areas
33 and delegate authority to the Kenai National Wildlife
34 Refuge Manager to close the season, set harvest quota,
35 set sex restrictions and set any needed permit
36 conditions via delegation of authority letter only.

37
38 To be clear this is Unit 15 caribou and
39 that's Unit 15B within Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
40 and Wilderness Areas, one caribou by Federal drawing
41 permit, August 10 through September 20th and Unit 15C
42 north of Fox River and east of Windy Lake, one caribou
43 by Federal drawing permit. Unit 15 remainder there is
44 no Federal open season.

45
46 Rhonda Pitka.

47
48 MS. PITKA: I support WP20-22b in
49 deference to the Southcentral Alaska Regional Advisory
50

1 Council and based on -- hello?
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Just for clarification,
4 Board Member Pitka, are you supporting the proposal as
5 I read?
6
7 MS. PITKA: Can you hear me?
8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. Board Member
10 Pitka.....
11
12 MS. PITKA: Yes, I'm supporting the
13 proposal.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: As modified by OSM and
16 as presented by.....
17
18 MS. PITKA: Yes.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE:Board Member
21 Siekaniec?
22
23 MS. PITKA: Yes.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.
26
27 National Park Service, Donald Striker.
28
29 MR. STRIKER: Park Service also
30 supports the OSM modified proposal in deference to the
31 Regional Advisory Council and for the reasons well
32 articulated by Greg and Fish and Wildlife Service.
33 Thank you.
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Striker.
36
37 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
38 Padgett.
39
40 MR. PADGETT: I support as modified and
41 in deference to the RAC.
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
44
45 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
46 Siekaniec.
47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support as I had
49 stated.
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
2 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
5 supports the proposal as modified by the Fish and
6 Wildlife Service and utilize their justification.

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

9
10 Charlie Brower.

11
12 MR. C. BROWER: I support with OSM
13 conclusion with modification and Southcentral
14 recommendation for support.

15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
17 Charlie.

18
19 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

20
21 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support as modified
22 with OSM modification and presented by the Fish and
23 Wildlife Service. It's based on the justification
24 provided and in deference to the Southcentral RAC.
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
28 Dave.

29
30 And last, Chairman Anthony
31 Christianson.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
34 modified by OSM ISC to provide an opportunity for rural
35 subsistence users to subsist on the caribou in the
36 area. Even though the Regional Advisory Council hasn't
37 voted on this, I think it still provides a meaningful
38 opportunity and something for us to look at in the
39 future if it does need to be modified to fit the needs
40 of the Regional Advisory Council. So I support the
41 proposal to provide an opportunity.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
44 Chairman Christianson. The motion passes unanimously.
45 We move on to Wildlife Proposal 20-23b.

46
47 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair, can we take
48 a nature break real quick.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Let's
2 take a five-minute break.

3
4 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm staying on.
7 Just a five-minute break.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome back
14 from the break. Which one, Tom?

15
16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. We're on
17 Wildlife Proposal 20-23b.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
20 We'll call up the lead analyst and author for 23b,
21 stabilize Unit 15 goat.

22
23 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24 Members of the Board. Again for the record my name is
25 Chris McKee and I'll be presenting an overview of
26 Proposal WP20-23b. The analysis for WP20-23b begins on
27 Page 737 of your meeting materials book.

28
29 Wildlife Proposal WP20-23b was
30 submitted by the Ninilchik Traditional Council and
31 requests that an August 10th to November 14 goat season
32 be established in Unit 15, with a harvest limit of one
33 goat by Federal registration permit. The proponent also
34 requests that the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
35 Manager be given authority to open and close the season
36 in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and
37 Game and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska
38 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

39
40 The proponent states that these changes
41 will provide a meaningful opportunity for rural
42 residents in Unit 15 to engage in goat hunting and
43 provide for a meaningful subsistence preference.

44
45 As mentioned before, goat populations
46 occur in small isolated populations with little overlap
47 with other populations. Predation by wolves, extreme
48 climatic conditions and warm summer days, human-caused
49 disturbance such as helicopter flights and overhunting
50

1 can have a significant impact on goat populations.

2

3 ADF&G has monitored goat populations of
4 hunting on the Kenai Peninsula since the 1970s and each
5 goat population is managed separately. Unit 15 is
6 divided up into 15 active count and hunt areas. Three
7 count areas are closed to hunting and one count area
8 number 352, as previously mentioned, is divided up
9 between Unit 7 and 15. Also as previously mentioned no
10 goat hunting is allowed in Kenai Fjords National Park.

11

12 Mountain goat populations decreased
13 from the 1990s to 2006 and then recently increased to
14 numbers not seen since the 1990s. However not all goat
15 populations have increased. A few are declining, some
16 are stable, while some have stabilized at low numbers.

17

18 Unit 15 is comprised of about 47
19 percent Federal public lands, most of which occurs
20 within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. There has
21 never been a Federal subsistence season for goat in
22 Unit 15. ADF&G has managed goat hunting on the Kenai
23 Peninsula through a combination of drawing and
24 registration hunts.

25

26 Since 2001 the State has had an early
27 drawing hunt from August 10 to October 15 followed by a
28 later registration hunt from November 1st to November
29 14th. The late registration hunts are designed to fill
30 any quotas not filled by the earlier season drawing
31 hunts.

32

33 Past harvest rates, sex and age
34 structure of the harvest, population size and trends,
35 age of the survey data, ease of access, weather
36 severity are some of the factors used to determine the
37 number of annual permits issued each year. Goat
38 populations in Unit 15 are small and vulnerable, and
39 even at optimal population levels, the harvest of even
40 a few extra goats could result in a conservation
41 concern.

42

43 From 2009 to 2018, approximately 62
44 percent of goats were taken during the early season
45 using drawing permits and 38 percent were taken during
46 the later season using registration permits. A majority
47 of the goats harvested in Unit 15 from 2009 to 2018
48 were taken from Unit 15C.

49

50

1 The average annual harvest increased
2 from 35 animals between 2009 to 2013 to 51 animals from
3 2014 to 2018. Again September is typically the month
4 when the greatest harvest occurs. From 2009 to 2018
5 rural residents took approximately 4-6 percent of the
6 goat harvest. During the same time period nonrural
7 residents living in Unit 15 took between 50 and 54
8 percent of the harvest followed by Alaska residents not
9 living in Unit 15 with 20-26 percent of the harvest.
10 Finally nonresidents with 16-24 percent of the harvest.

11
12 This proposal if adopted would provide
13 additional hunting opportunity for goats in Unit 15 for
14 Federally qualified subsistence users. Providing this
15 opportunity for subsistence harvest of goats is
16 consistent with Section 804 of ANILCA, which calls for
17 a priority consumptive use of fish and wildlife
18 populations by rural Alaska resident. The Kenai
19 National Wildlife manager would need to work closely
20 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to monitor
21 the harvest under both the State and Federal
22 subsistence regulations.

23
24 The OSM conclusion, which can be found
25 on Pages 751-752 of the Board book is to support
26 Proposal WP20-23b with modification to establish a
27 Federal drawing permit for goats in Unit 15 and
28 delegate authority to the Kenai National Wildlife
29 Manager to close the season, set harvest quotas, set
30 any needed sex restrictions and set any needed permit
31 conditions.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 That concludes my overview of the
36 analysis.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Chris. Any questions for Chris from the Board.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
44 We'll move on. Summary of public comment, Regional
45 Council Coordinator.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Katya Wessels, are you
48 online?

49
50

1 OPERATOR: If you're online, please
2 press *1.
3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Katya.
5
6 OPERATOR: Her line is currently open.
7
8 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
9 Deatherage. Did Katya share the written comments?
10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No. Could you
12 please do that. Thank you.
13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry?
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's where
17 we're at right now is the summary of public comments.
18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: WP20-23?
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: 23b, yes.
22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. This is
24 Karen Deatherage with the Office of Subsistence
25 Management. Greetings, Mr. Chair. Members of the
26 Board. There were no written public comments for
27 WP20-23b.
28
29 Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
32 this time we'll open it up to anybody online, any
33 public that wants to speak to this proposal. Now is
34 your opportunity.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 OPERATOR: Katya Wessels, your line is
39 open.
40
41 MS. WESSELS: I do not need to speak at
42 this moment. My presentation has already been
43 presented by Ms. Deatherage. Thank you.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Katya. Hearing no open lines for the public to
47 testify. We'll go to the Regional Advisory Council
48 recommendation, Chair or designee.
49
50

1 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
2 This is Greg Encelewski, the Southcentral Chair. We
3 supported WP20-23b with modification to prohibit the
4 take of nannies with kids and the take of kids, and to
5 make a hunter ineligible to get a permit for three
6 years if a billy is harvested and for five years if a
7 nanny is harvested and have this restriction in
8 regulation. The Council stated that a drawing permit
9 was too restrictive and wanted to ensure that Federally
10 qualified users would have an opportunity to harvest
11 this limited resource.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Greg. Any questions for Greg.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
19 We'll go on to Tribal/Alaska Native corporation
20 comments. Orville.

21
22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Board
23 members and RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison
24 for Office of Subsistence Management. There were no
25 comments on WP20-23b.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Orville. We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish
31 and Game comment, State Liaison Ben Mulligan.

32
33 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

35
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
37 neutral on the eligibility requirements set down for
38 the Federal subsistence program in this proposal.
39 However, we are opposed to opening a unit-wide hunt for
40 mountain goats in Unit 15 due to conservation concerns.

41
42
43 We would support the portion of the
44 proposal that seeks to establish seasons and harvest
45 limits with modification to establish a drawing hunt
46 instead of a registration hunt in Unit 15. The
47 proposed bag limit of one goat should not be modified
48 furthermore due to our conservation concerns.

49
50

1 We support modifying the proposal to
2 clarify the following that there should be some sort of
3 quota set up here in the proposal. It would prohibit
4 taking a nanny with kids. Permits allocated within the
5 current state hunt areas and that the areas in which
6 tags will be issued each year should be determined in
7 consultation with ADF&G the previous September/October
8 to the permit year.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
13 Mulligan. Any questions for the State.

14
15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
16 Greg.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
19 have the floor.

20
21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hey, Ben. Generally do
22 you try and get a collection of a biological sample
23 from a harvested animal because of the concerns on goat
24 and sheep populations in Kenai?

25
26 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair.
27 Member Siekaniec. We do have them come in to get
28 sealed, but I'd have to double check to see if we're
29 taking genetics off of those. I just don't know it off
30 the top of my head.

31
32 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right. The Refuge
33 Manager can certainly work that out if we get there.
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
37 additional comments or questions from the Board to the
38 State.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any additional
43 Board discussion with the Council Chairs and State
44 Liaison.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none at
49 this time we'll move to open the floor for Federal
50

1 Subsistence Board action on WP20-23b.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. This is
4 Tom. Can we back up to ISC comments.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: How did I miss
7 that one again. ISC comments.

8

9 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry about
12 that.

13

14 MS. WORKER: The Interagency Staff
15 Committee supports establishing a Federal goat season
16 in Unit 15 to provide a new priority opportunity for
17 Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest goats
18 on Federal public lands.

19

20 Goat populations in Unit 15 are small,
21 unstable, and vulnerable, and even at optimal
22 population levels, the harvest of even a few extra
23 goats could result in a conservation concern. The State
24 harvest framework and permit regulations are
25 subsequently complex and conservative to ensure the
26 risk of over harvest is minimized. Only a few animals
27 may be harvested from each subpopulation without
28 causing a decline. The number of permits allocated per
29 hunt, and the harvest quotas for each unit, are dynamic
30 and based on the survey counts and the previous year's
31 harvest.

32

33 Providing a delegation of authority
34 letter to the Kenai National Wildlife manager to set
35 the season, harvest quota, sex restrictions and any
36 needed permit conditions is appropriate, given the need
37 for close coordination with the State to ensure goat
38 populations in various hunt sub-units are not over
39 harvested.

40

41 Successful implementation of the
42 Federal hunt will require the in season manager to
43 follow the same hunt framework established by the
44 State. As stressed in the OSM analysis, and by the
45 Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the
46 Federal drawing hunts should not be issued for any goat
47 in the population, but be specific to local
48 populations, as is done by the State. The Board may
49 consider adding this adherence to the State hunt

50

1 framework to the Federal regulation or delegation of
2 authority letter to ensure this important
3 characteristic of the hunt is followed.

4
5 The State currently has two potential
6 harvest seasons, August 10 to October 15 and November 1
7 to 14. The gap between seasons allows the State to
8 determine if the harvest quotas have been met or if
9 additional opportunity may be afforded to certain hunt
10 units via registration hunts. Adding this requirement
11 to Federal regulation or the delegation of authority
12 letter, to align with State season dates, may be
13 appropriate to reduce regulatory confusion and ensure
14 this critical coordination aspect is not overlooked.

15
16 The ISC asked for legal counsel
17 clarification related to the Southcentral Council's
18 request to limit eligibility following a successful
19 hunt. The Southcentral Council's recommendation
20 specifies that a hunter be ineligible for a permit
21 until three years after harvesting a billy goat, and
22 five years after harvesting a nanny.

23
24 Legal counsel responded as follows:
25 Per ANILCA Section 804, subsistence uses can be
26 restricted only when it is necessary to restrict the
27 taking of populations of fish and wildlife on such
28 lands for subsistence uses in order to protect the
29 continued viability of such populations, or to continue
30 such uses.

31
32 Even where this threshold is met, any
33 restrictions on subsistence uses must apply the
34 following priority criteria:
35 customary and direct dependence upon the population as
36 the mainstay of livelihood; local residency; and the
37 availability of alternative resources.

38
39 Since past permit drawing and/or
40 hunting success is not a relevant criteria for
41 implementing a priority, a rule that attempted to
42 restrict subsistence uses on that basis would violate
43 Section 804. The ISC concluded that this component of
44 the proposal that restricts subsistence use is not
45 permitted under ANILCA Section 804.

46
47 If this proposal, and proposals
48 WP20-22b and WP20-24b are passed by the Board, there
49 will be three new Federal hunts established in Unit 15.

50

1 Each hunt will require significant time and
2 coordination commitments by the Kenai National Wildlife
3 staff to administer. Reducing regulatory complexity
4 between Federal and State hunts, to ensure successful
5 implementation, may be important to consider when
6 evaluating this proposal.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, ISC.
11 I apologize. It's just the way it looks on my deal. I
12 keep missing it. Any questions for the ISC committee
13 comments.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none
18 from the Board. We'll go through Board discussion with
19 Council Chair and State Liaison.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
24 We'll turn it over to you, Tom, to do Federal Board
25 action. I open the floor for a motion on this
26 proposal.

27

28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
29 Siekaniec with Fish and Wildlife Service.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
32 the floor, Greg.

33

34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
35 move to adopt Proposal WP20-23b with modification to
36 establish a Federal drawing permit for goats in Unit 15
37 and delegate authority to the Kenai National Wildlife
38 Manager to close the season, set the harvest quota and
39 set any needed permit conditions via delegation of
40 authority letter only. Kids and nannies accompanied by
41 kids may not be taken.

42

43 The modified regulation should read as
44 follows: Unit 15 goat. One goat by Federal drawing
45 permit. Kids and nannies accompanied by kids may not
46 be taken August 10 to November 14.

47

48 The original proposal regulation
49 language is shown on Page 741 of the Board book.

50

1 Following a second, I will explain why I support my
2 motion.

3

4

MR. C. BROWER: Second.

5

6

MR. SIEKANIEC: Establishing a Federal
7 subsistence goat season in Unit 15 in support of the
8 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council request will
9 provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified
10 subsistence users to harvest a goat and it's consistent
11 with Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
12 Section 804.

13

14

15

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17

18

19

Modifying the proposal to prohibit take
of kids and nannies with kids is responsive to the
request made by the Southcentral Regional Advisory
Council and helps further align this regulation with
State regulations.

20

21

22

23

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25

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27

Managing sustainable harvest of goats
in Unit 15 is very complicated as pointed out in the
Office of Subsistence Management analysis. Given the
small and fluctuating discreet goat populations,
limited permits and vulnerability to overharvest, it is
important for a Federal draw hunt to align with State
harvest seasons and subunit hunt boundaries.

28

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38

The need to allocate permits by
subunits is necessary as each subunit essentially has a
discreet population. Establishing a Federal drawing
permit will allow for better harvest monitoring,
minimize regulatory confusion and provide the best
opportunities for collaborative harvest management and
enforcement. It is important the Kenai National
Wildlife Refuge Manager align the Federal draw permit
system with the existing State management framework in
order to reduce the potential to overharvest.

39

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48

Delegating authority to the Kenai
Manager provides the management flexibility to close
the season, set the harvest quota and set any needed
permit conditions. This flexibility will allow for
in-season adjustments and a more timely response to
changes in population status, hunting conditions or
hunting access. This delegation is also appropriate
and necessary to allow for close alignment and
coordination with the State.

49

50

Federal drawing permits issued by the

1 in-season manager should contain a request, not a
2 mandate but a request, that harvested goats should be
3 made available to Refuge staff for collecting
4 biological data. This data will be critical and
5 important to goat management in establishing quotas in
6 the future.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Greg, for that. Any more discussion.

12

13 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. This is Chris.
14 Can I ask for a point of clarification from Greg.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chris, you
17 have the floor.

18

19 MR. MCKEE: Yes, Greg, I heard your
20 motion. I wanted to make sure. Did you intend to
21 include setting any needed sex restrictions to be
22 included in the delegation of authority?

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: I thought we did that
25 in the regulation by way of the kids or nannies with
26 kids may not be harvested.

27

28 MR. MCKEE: Well, yeah, but it's kids
29 and nannies accompanied by kids, correct?

30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Correct.

32

33 MR. MCKEE: I just wanted to be sure
34 that we include those sex restrictions in there because
35 that only prohibits the harvest of nannies with kids.

36

37 MR. SIEKANIEC: No, you're correct.
38 Kids and nannies accompanied by kids may not be taken.

39

40 MR. MCKEE: Right. But what I'm
41 meaning is that if you don't set sex restrictions in
42 the delegation of authority, it won't prohibit the
43 harvest of just nannies.

44

45 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, thank you for
46 that. We'll include it.

47

48 MR. MCKEE: Thank you.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: It would be delegating
2 authority to the Kenai Manager to provide the
3 management flexibility to close the season, set the
4 harvest quota, set sex restrictions and set any needed
5 permit conditions.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Is Greg
10 restructuring his motion?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think he just
13 added some clarification there to include the sex
14 restriction into the delegation letter just to be
15 reflective of the original motion and its intent. I
16 think it still holds the same. It's just a point of
17 clarification.

18
19 MR. C. BROWER: Okay. I was just
20 curious. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
23 questions, discussions, deliberation.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
30 has been called. Tom, will you do a roll call on 23b,
31 please.

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet. This is a
34 vote on Wildlife Proposal 20-23b. This is for one goat
35 by Federal drawing permit. Kids and nannies accompanied
36 by kids cannot be taken. This is also to establish a
37 Federal drawing permit for goats in Unit 15 and
38 delegate authority to the Kenai National Wildlife
39 Refuge Manager to close the season, set harvest quota,
40 set any needed sex restrictions and set any needed
41 permit conditions via delegation of authority letter
42 only. The season would be August 10 through November
43 14. One goat by Federal drawing permit.

44
45 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

46
47 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support WP20-23b
48 with the OSM modification that was presented and
49 clarified by the Fish and Wildlife Service. I support
50

1 that in deference to the request from the Southcentral
2 RAC.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
5
6 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
7 Padgett.

8
9 MR. PADGETT: I support in deference to
10 the RAC and in support of the modified version. Thank
11 you.

12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
14
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

16
17 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
18 votes to support with the justification as articulated
19 by the Fish and Wildlife Service and in addition to
20 recognizing the Southcentral Regional Advisory
21 Council's desire to establish a harvest.

22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
24 Gene.

25
26 Rhonda Pitka.

27
28 MS. PITKA: I support as modified with
29 the justification provided by the Fish and Wildlife
30 Service. Thank you.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks, Rhonda.

33
34 Charlie Brower.

35
36 MR. C. BROWER: I support with the
37 modification by OSM and the Regional Council.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

40
41 National Park Service, Don Striker.

42
43 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports for
44 the reasons given by my colleagues. Thank you.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
47 Don.

48
49 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
50

1 Siekaniec.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
4 support in deference to the Southcentral Regional
5 Advisory Council and the justification of the modified
6 proposal I provided.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
9 Greg.

10

11 And last is Chairman Tony Christianson.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
14 deference to the RAC. Thank you.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. Motion
17 passes with modification. That moves us on to Wildlife
18 Proposal 20-24b. I'll go ahead and call on the
19 author/analyst.

20

21 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Members of the Board. Again for the record my name is
23 Chris McKee and I'll be giving an overview of Proposal
24 WP20-24b which begins on Page 765 of your meeting
25 materials book.

26

27 It was submitted by the Ninilchik
28 Traditional Council and requests that a sheep season of
29 August 10th to November 14th be established in Unit 15,
30 with a harvest limit of one sheep by Federal
31 registration permit.

32

33 The proponent also requests that the
34 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager be given
35 authority to open and close the season in consultation
36 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
37 Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional
38 Advisory Council.

39

40 The proponent states that the requested
41 changes would provide opportunity for rural residents
42 of Ninilchik to engage in subsistence sheep hunting and
43 provide a meaningful subsistence preference.

44

45 To note there's never been a Federal
46 subsistence season for sheep in Unit 15. Sheep are
47 found mostly in five sub-populations within Unit 15;
48 the Resurrection Trail, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge,
49 Grant Lake, Cooper Mountain and Crescent Lake.

50

1 ADF&G currently manages the sheep
2 population in Unit 15 and tries to sample each of the
3 14 count areas every three years and maintain viable
4 sheep populations of at least 50 sheep. Harvest of
5 sheep sub-populations is suspended if they fall below
6 50 animals.

7
8 Annual sheep surveys conducted from
9 1968 to the late 1990s indicate that there was between
10 1,000 to 2,000 sheep on the Kenai Peninsula. From 1997
11 to 2008 sheep population in Units 15 and 7 declined
12 from 1,545 to 658. Overall, there's been an 80 percent
13 decline since the 1960s. Currently there are only
14 about 500 sheep left on the Kenai Peninsula based on
15 minimum count data.

16
17 Climate change, which can affect the
18 alpine habitat, severe winter conditions with deep snow
19 and icing events and competition with caribou are some
20 of the factors that have contributed to the declines in
21 populations.

22
23 Sheep are susceptible to overharvest by
24 sport and subsistence hunters in local areas and thus
25 there is need to closely manage harvest for those
26 populations that are easily accessible. Harvesting
27 mature rams is often the most conservative strategy,
28 especially after population declines. Since 1989 full
29 curl management has been in place for most of Unit 15
30 for the general hunt and the drawing hunts.

31
32 From 1992 to 2007 an average of 14
33 sheep have been taken annually from 2008 to 2018 an
34 average of four sheep have been taken annually. In
35 2018 only one sheep was harvested. Rural residents
36 account for about 2 percent of the total sheep
37 harvested since 1992. Nonrural residents in Unit 15
38 take about 66 percent. Alaska residents living outside
39 of the unit account for 23 percent and nonresidents
40 account for 9 percent.

41
42 Establishing a Federal subsistence hunt
43 would provide additional opportunity for Federally
44 qualified users and providing for this opportunity is
45 consistent with Section 804 of ANILCA which calls for a
46 priority consumptive use of fish and wildlife
47 populations by rural Alaska residents.

48
49 Establishing a drawing permit would
50

1 restrict the number of permits, thus minimizing the
2 potential for overharvest. While delegating authority
3 to the Kenai Peninsula Refuge Manager would allow for
4 greater hunt management flexibility through in-season
5 adjustments and a more timely response to changes in
6 population status, hunting conditions, or hunter access
7 while maximizing harvest opportunities for subsistence
8 users.

9

10 As mentioned from some of these other
11 hunts, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager would
12 need to work closely with ADF&G to monitor the harvest
13 under both State and Federal subsistence regulations.

14

15 The OSM conclusion, which can be found
16 on Page 778 of the Board book, is to support Proposal
17 WP20-24b with with modification to establish a Federal
18 drawing permit hunt for sheep in Unit 15 with a harvest
19 limit of one sheep, and delegate authority to the Kenai
20 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to close the season,
21 set the harvest quota, set any needed sex restrictions,
22 and set any needed permit conditions via delegation of
23 authority letter only.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 That concludes my presentation on this
28 analysis.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Chris. Appreciate that. Any questions for Chris.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
36 Hearing none from the Board. We'll go to summary of
37 public comments, Regional Council Coordinator.

38

39 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 For the record, Katya Wessels with OSM. We received no
41 written public comments for WP20-24b.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
46 this time I'll open the floor to the public. Anybody
47 on the line that would like to speak to this proposal.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
2 public testimony online. We'll move on to Regional
3 Advisory Council recommendation, Chair or designee.
4 Greg.

5
6 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Through the Chair.
7 Our Regional Council Southcentral we supported with
8 OSM's modification. The Council stated that a Federal
9 priority needs to be established, providing an
10 opportunity for Federally qualified users to harvest a
11 sheep that does not exist at this time. With the
12 declining population, it is important to set aside this
13 priority before restrictions in harvest occur.
14 Delegated authority will allow flexibility in how the
15 hunt is managed and give the land manager the ability
16 to close the hunt if needed for conservation or other
17 reasons.

18
19 That concludes my report.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Greg. Any questions from the Board for Greg.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
27 We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native corporation
28 comments, Native Liaison. Orville.

29
30 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
31 members, RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
32 Office of Subsistence Management. During the
33 consultation session there were no comments made on
34 WP20-24b.

35
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, State
40 Liaison. Ben Mulligan.

41
42 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, sir. For the
43 record the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is
44 neutral on the eligibility requirements for the
45 proposed hunt. However, we do oppose the portion of
46 the proposal that seeks to open a nanny sheep hunt.

47
48 If the proposal is adopted, Alaska
49 Department of Fish and Game would support a
50

1 modification to restrict the bag limit to one full curl
2 ram with season dates that align with the State, which
3 is August 10th to September 20th.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
8 Any questions from the Board for the State.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Interagency
13 Staff Committee. I didn't forget you guys this time.

14

15 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
16 Interagency Staff Committee supports establishing a
17 Federal sheep season in Unit 15 to provide a priority
18 opportunity for Federally qualified subsistence users
19 to harvest sheep on Federal public lands.

20

21 To implement this proposal and avoid
22 overharvest, proactive, frequent and timely
23 coordination between State and Federal agencies will be
24 crucial, along with timely harvest reporting from
25 permitted hunters. Subsequently, aligning with the
26 State hunt framework (full curl rams only) and seasons
27 (August 10th to September 20th) may be important for
28 the Board to consider.

29

30 Almost all of Unit 15 is currently open
31 to sheep hunting for 40 days with a free State harvest
32 ticket available to all user groups. Annual harvest
33 from 2010 to 2018 has ranged from 1 to 8 full curl
34 rams. Only the small area in Unit 15A is a State draw
35 hunt and it has not produced a legal ram in 8 years.

36

37 Allowing an any sheep hunt that could
38 extend to November 14 would create an additional
39 harvest opportunity afforded only to Federally
40 qualified users. However, allowing the take of sheep
41 that are not full curl may have negative impacts to
42 these vulnerable populations.

43

44 Overharvest could occur with an any
45 sheep harvest, even with an established quota, tight
46 reporting requirements and the in-season manager's
47 ability to close the season. Management of small and
48 vulnerable populations often focus on full curl
49 management to maximize conservation measures while

50

1 allowing limited take.

2

3

4 The Unit 15 sheep populations are
5 vulnerable due to several factors: 1) populations are
6 small and declining; 2) habitat limitations due to
7 climate change are impacting their limited range; 3)
8 recent 2019 fire impacts are unknown; and 4)
9 populations are susceptible to over hunting.

10

11 The vulnerability and uncertainty of
12 the Kenai sheep populations warrants conservative and
13 careful harvest management, especially with dual
14 administration of harvest from Federal and State
15 agencies.

16

17 Adopting the State framework to
18 initiate this Federal hunt would reduce regulatory
19 confusion and allow nuances surrounding the
20 administration of the hunt by Federal and State
21 entities to be resolved. Future proposals or in-season
22 special actions to increase season lengths or permit
23 any sheep harvest limits could be implemented over time
24 if sheep populations improve. The current 40-day season
25 provides a reasonable harvest time, and most hunters do
26 not want to hunt near the rut period as the meat is
27 undesirable.

28

29 If this proposal and proposals WP20-22b
30 and WP 20-23b are passed by the Board, there will be
31 three new Federal hunts established in Unit 15. Each
32 hunt will require significant time and coordination
33 commitments by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge staff
34 to administer. Reducing regulatory complexity between
35 Federal and State Hunts, to ensure successful
36 implementation, may be important to consider when
37 evaluating this proposal.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
42 questions from the Board to the ISC.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
47 We'll move to Board discussion with Council Chairs and
48 State Liaison. The floor is open for the Board if they
49 wish to discuss Proposal WP20-24b.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
2 Siekaniec with Fish and Wildlife Service.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
5 the floor.

6
7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. I would
8 like to move to adopt Proposal WP20-24b with
9 modification to establish a Federal drawing permit hunt
10 for sheep in Unit 15 with a harvest limit of one ram
11 with 3/4 curl horn or larger, a season of August 10th
12 to September 20 and delegate authority to the Kenai
13 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to close the season,
14 set the harvest quota, set any needed sex restrictions,
15 and set any needed permit conditions via delegation of
16 authority letter only.

17
18 The original proposal language is
19 located on Page 768 of the Board meeting book. The
20 modified regulation should read: One ram with 3/4 curl
21 horn or larger by Federal drawing permit, dates of
22 August 10 to September 20.

23
24 Following a second, I will explain why
25 I support my motion.

26
27 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

28
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Establishing a Federal
30 subsistence sheep season in Unit 15 in support of the
31 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council request will
32 provide additional opportunity for Federally qualified
33 subsistence users to harvest the sheep and it's
34 consistent with Section 804 of the Alaska National
35 Interest Lands Conservation Act.

36
37 Populations of sheep are of concern on
38 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and require very
39 conservative harvest management. To minimize regulatory
40 confusion and provide the best opportunities for
41 collaborative harvest management and enforcement it is
42 important the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager
43 align the Federal draw permit system with the existing
44 State management framework in order to reduce the
45 potential for overharvest.

46
47 Modifying the language to allow only
48 3/4 curl ram or larger will allow take of sheep while
49 minimizing the possible take of ewes. Ewes could be
50

1 harvested if the regulation allows for the take of any
2 sheep or any ram. Often young rams and ewes look
3 similar and the 3/4 horn should eliminate potential
4 accidental take of ewes.
5

6 The take of any ewes to provide major
7 impacts given the steady decline of this population.
8 Allowing for harvest of 3/4 ram provides a priority to
9 Federally qualified users as the State will only allow
10 the take of one full curl ram.
11

12 Aligning season dates with the State is
13 necessary to maximize conservation potential for sheep
14 populations that have been in steady decline since the
15 late 1990s. Extending the season beyond September 20
16 at the request of the Southcentral Council would
17 increase potential stress to animals entering in the
18 rut and misalignment with State seasons could lead to
19 overharvest of these vulnerable populations.
20

21 Harvest of animals that are in rut or
22 approaching rut is generally not practiced as the meat
23 is found undesirable. Adopting the State season will
24 also reduce regulatory confusion and provide the best
25 opportunity for collaborative harvest management and
26 enforcement.
27

28 Delegating the authority to the Kenai
29 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to close the season,
30 set the harvest quota, set sex restrictions and set any
31 needed permit conditions will provide the flexibility
32 to close seasons early if needed and reduce the
33 potential for overharvest.
34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
38

39 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. This is Chris.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead.
42

43 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I just need to add a
44 point of clarification. If the Board is going to adopt
45 the motion as just read out by Greg, you can't set it
46 at 3/4 curl harvest limit and still have sex
47 restrictions in the delegation letter. Once it's said
48 in the regulation, the Manager can't change it. So
49 you'd either want to keep it as 3/4 curl the
50

1 regulations and take it out of the delegation letter or
2 leave it as any sheep and allow the Manager to make
3 that determination from season to season.

4
5 I just wanted to clarify that. Once
6 it's in the regulation the Manager can't do anything
7 about that curl limit.

8
9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
10 Greg.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Greg.
13 You have the floor.

14
15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Chris. It
16 seems like we're having a similar discussion we had
17 last time when we went the other direction. I am
18 perfectly willing to remove the sex restrictions from
19 the delegation letter since we are authorizing a 3/4
20 horn ram or larger.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. MCKEE: Thanks, Greg.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
27 discussion around this. Any other clarification.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
34 has been called. Roll call, Tom.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Through the Chair.
37 This is Proposal WP20-24b. Adopt as modified by OSM to
38 establish a Federal drawing permit hunt for sheep in
39 Unit 15 for the harvest of one ram with 3/4 curl horn
40 or larger, a season of August 10 to September 20 and
41 delegate authority to the Kenai National Wildlife
42 Refuge Manager to close the season, set the harvest
43 quota and set any needed permit conditions via
44 delegation of authority letter only.

45
46 I'll start with National Park Service,
47 Don Striker.

48
49 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports the
50

1 modified proposal in deference to the RAC and for all
2 the reasons so well articulated by Fish and Wildlife
3 Service. Thanks, Greg.

4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.
6
7 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
8 Padgett.

9
10 MR. PADGETT: I support in deference to
11 the RAC as well as the modifications made by the Fish
12 and Wildlife Service.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
15 Chad.

16
17 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

18
19 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
20 votes to support the proposal as modified by the Fish
21 and Wildlife Service and recognizing the desire of the
22 Southcentral RAC to establish a harvest.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
25 Gene.

26
27 Rhonda Pitka.

28
29 MS. PITKA: I support. I support the
30 modification as stated by Fish and Wildlife Service.
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

34
35 Charlie Brower.

36
37 MR. C. BROWER: I support WP20-24b as
38 modified by Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you.

39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

41
42 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

43
44 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I support WP20-24b
45 as modified and justified by the Fish and Wildlife
46 Service and in deference to the request of the
47 Southcentral RAC. Thanks.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, David.

50

1 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
2 Siekaniec.

3
4 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. Yes, I
5 support WP20-24b in deference to the Southcentral RAC
6 and as modified in my justification. Thank you.

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

9
10 Chairman Tony Christianson.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support
13 as modified for the reasons stated.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tony. The
16 motion carries unanimously. That's one ram with 3/4
17 horn or larger by Federal drawing permit August 10
18 through September 20. Thank you.

19
20 Mr. Chair, we go Wildlife Closure
21 20-03.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There we are.
24 WCR20-03. We'll call on the Staff to present that to
25 us.

26
27 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Members of the Board. Again for the record my name is
29 Chris McKee with OSM. I'll be presenting a summary of
30 the analysis for WCR20-03, which can be found on Page
31 791 of your meeting materials booklet.

32
33 Wildlife Closure Review WCR20-03
34 pertains to the closure to moose hunting on Federal
35 public lands in Unit 7 for that portion draining into
36 Kings Bay. Currently it is closed to the taking of
37 moose except by residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek.

38
39 In 2014, the Board adopted Proposal
40 WP14-11 to limit those eligible to hunt moose in Unit
41 7, that portion that drains into Kings Bay only to the
42 residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek because of a high
43 potential of the very small harvestable surplus of
44 moose and a large number of subsistence hunters with
45 C&T determination. This closure review was last
46 reviewed in 2014.

47
48 The amount of moose habitat in the
49 Kings Bay area consists of marginal habitat located in
50

1 very limited narrow riparian areas along the Kings
2 River and Nellie Juan River. The small area of moose
3 habitat at Kings Bay is isolated with only one
4 accessible route for moose to enter the area across the
5 mountains from Paradise Lakes or Nellie Juan Lake areas
6 and then down the Nellie Juan River, a distance of some
7 15 to 20 miles over difficult terrain. Interchange of
8 moose with other areas is therefore likely minimal.

9
10 Viability of this moose population is
11 low due to the small population, low productivity,
12 limited safe calving habitat, the presence of black and
13 brown bears, severe winters and deep snow and steep
14 terrain, which limits easy movement in and out of the
15 area.

16
17 The average minimum count of moose in
18 the Nellie Juan and Kings Bay since 1996 is
19 approximately 10 animals. In 2014, the last time a
20 survey was conducted, no moose were counted in the
21 Kings Bay drainage. The survey conditions during that
22 time were excellent.

23
24 In 2019, no moose were captured on four
25 trail cameras deployed in the Kings Bay area by the
26 U.S. Forest Service. Harvest data indicate that no
27 moose were harvested from this area between 1997 to
28 2000.

29
30 In 2000 to 2008, a total of five moose
31 with the average of 0 to 2 moose per year were reported
32 harvested under State regulations within the Nellie
33 Juan River drainage area and the Kings River drainage.
34 This harvest was by non-Federally qualified users,
35 which typically access the area by aircraft. No moose
36 were harvested in the Nellie Juan drainage from 2010 to
37 2017.

38
39 Moose population has been at low
40 density and there are no indications that there has
41 been any increases to justify rescinding the closure.
42 No moose were seen during the 2014 survey and the
43 Southcentral Council supported maintaining the closure
44 or the status quo.

45
46 Therefore, the OSM conclusion, which
47 can be found on Page 797 of your board book is to
48 maintain the status quo for Closure Review WCR20-03.

49
50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 That concludes my presentation.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Chris. Appreciate that. Any questions from the Board
7 for Chris on the presentation of the closure.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
12 We'll move on. Public comments from Regional Council
13 Coordinator.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 For the record, Katya Wessels. We had not received any
17 written public comments for WCR20-03. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Katya. At this time, Operator, is there anybody on the
21 line? The floor is open for public testimony.

22

23 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing
24 that no one is queued up.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 Operator. We'll move on. Regional Advisory Council
28 recommendation, Chair.

29

30 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Tony, through the
31 Chair. This is Greg with Southcentral. Our
32 recommendation is maintain status quo. The Council
33 voted to maintain the status quo with the
34 recommendation for a survey to be completed by the U.S.
35 Forest Service. The Council voiced a conservation
36 concern and the Council would not support a harvest
37 based on the data provided.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Greg. Any questions from the Board for Greg.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
47 Tribal/Alaska Native corporation comments, Native
48 Liaison. Orville.

49

50

1 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
2 members, RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison,
3 Office of Subsistence Management. There were no
4 comments made on WCR20-03.

5
6 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Orville. We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish
10 and Game comments, State Liaison. Ben Mulligan.

11
12 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair. This is Mark
13 Burch with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
14 Department has no comments. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Mark. Interagency Staff Committee comment, ISC Chair.

18
19 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 This is Suzanne Worker. The ISC offered the standard
21 comment for WCR20-03. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 We'll open the floor for any Board discussion with the
25 Council Chairs or the State Liaison.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
30 At this time I'll open up the floor and entertain the
31 motion.

32
33 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid,
34 Forest Service.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
37 floor, Dave.

38
39 MR. SCHMID: I move to maintain the
40 status quo for WCR20-03. This proposal is shown on
41 Page 791 of the board book. Following a second, I will
42 explain why I intend to support my motion.

43
44 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

45
46 MS. PITKA: Seconded by Rhonda Pitka.

47
48 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Based on
49 surveys, the moose population has been at a low density

50

1 and there are no indications that there have been any
2 increases in the moose population to justify rescinding
3 the current closure. Moose habitat in the kind Bay
4 area is limited and consists of narrow riparian areas
5 along the Kings River and Nellie Juan River. Severe
6 winters with deep snow are common in this area and
7 probably contribute to a high mortality rate and the
8 relatively low moose densities.

9
10 The Southcentral Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council supported maintaining the closure and
12 the continuation of the current closure to moose
13 hunting in Kings Bay portion of Unit 7 is necessary for
14 the conservation of this wildlife resource.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Dave. Any further discussion by the Board.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
24 I'll call for the question.

25
26 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The question
29 has been called. Tom, roll call, please.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32 This is for Closure Review WCR20-03, closure to moose
33 hunting in Unit 7 draining into Kings Bay except by
34 residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek and to maintain
35 the status quo.

36
37 I'll start with National Park Service,
38 Chad Striker. I mean Don Striker, excuse me.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. PADGETT: That would be a good one.
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. STRIKER: The Park Service supports
46 the motion to maintain the status quo in deference to
47 the Southcentral RAC and for the reasons articulated by
48 Mr. Schmid.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Don. Thank
2 you. Sorry to hybridize you with BLM.

3
4 BLM, Chad Padgett.

5
6 MR. PADGETT: At least you didn't say
7 Striker Padgett.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 MR. STRIKER: I was wondering if I got
12 your vote too.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. PADGETT: I move to support status
17 quo. Thank you.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

20
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
22 Siekaniec.

23
24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
25 support maintaining the closure in deference to the
26 Southeast Regional Advisory Council and as articulated
27 by the U.S. Forest Service.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

32
33 U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

34
35 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I support the motion
36 as I shared with my justification and also that we'll
37 do some work here at the request, looks like of the
38 RAC, to continue trying to get a survey in to that part
39 of the world.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet, Dave.

44
45 Rhonda Pitka.

46
47 MS. PITKA: I support maintaining the
48 status quo based on the justification on Page 797.
49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
2 Rhonda.
3
4 Charlie Brower.
5
6 MR. C. BROWER: I support to maintain
7 status quo for WCR20-03.
8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
10
11 Gene Peltola, BIA.
12
13 MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes to support
14 maintaining the status quo as articulated by the Forest
15 Service and showing deference to the Southcentral RAC
16 with regard to the take.
17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
19
20 And Chairman Tony Christianson.
21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chairman.
25 The motion carries unanimously to maintain the status
26 quo on that closure.
27
28 That moves us on to WCR20-41. Mr.
29 Chair.
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
32 Thank you very much for that, Tom. We'll move on to
33 that and we'll call on the Staff to go ahead and do the
34 analysis of that.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Members of the Board. Again my name is Chris McKee
40 with OSM. I'll present a summary of the analysis of
41 Closure Review WCR20-41, which can be found on Page 801
42 of your meeting materials book.
43
44 Wildlife closure, WCR20-41 pertains to
45 moose hunting in unit 6C, both the State and Federal
46 regulations use a drawing permit for moose in this
47 area. The quota is determined by the U.S. Forest
48 Service in consultation with the Alaska Department of
49 Fish and Game.
50

1 The antlerless moose season, which is
2 from September 1st to October 31st, is for one
3 antlerless moose by drawing permit only. Federal
4 harvest allocation is 100 percent of the antlerless
5 moose permit. The bull moose season from September 1st
6 to December 31st is for one bull by Federal drawing
7 permit only.

8
9 The Federal allocation is for 75
10 percent of the bull permits. In Unit 6C only one moose
11 permit may be issued per household and a household
12 receiving a State permit for Unit 6C moose permit may
13 not receive a Federal permit.

14
15 Federal lands are closed to the harvest
16 of moose except by Federally qualified users with a
17 Federal permit for Unit 6C moose. Moose populations in
18 Unit 6C west of the Copper River have ranged between
19 296 to 677 animals from 2005 to 2017. Population
20 estimates since 2011 have been above the moose
21 management objective of 600 to 800 moose with a minimum
22 bull count ratio of 25 bulls to 100 cows. Bull/cow
23 ratio during the last composition count on December
24 2nd, 2013 was 49 bulls per hundred cows.

25
26 Because of the relatively easy access
27 to Unit 6C, especially by road and airboat, the demand
28 for moose exceeds the number of moose that can be
29 harvested with hunter success often approaching 100
30 percent for permit holders. Harvest on Federal public
31 lands in Unit 6C has averaged 65 moose per year, 42
32 percent of which are cows, between 2007 to 2016.

33
34 Harvest in 2017 was 88 moose, of which
35 38 percent were antlerless. Over 90 percent of the
36 moose taken in Unit 6C are by residents of Cordova.
37 Current regulations for moose in Unit 6C were generated
38 with great community support and has worked well since
39 adopted in this current form by the Federal Subsistence
40 Board in 2002.

41
42 Moose populations are stable in this
43 area at over 600 animals since 2011. The bull/cow
44 ratio is above the recommendation of 25 bulls per 100
45 cows, but is based on one data point collected in 2013.
46 Opening Federal public lands in Unit 6C would likely
47 reduce the opportunity for Federally qualified
48 residents to harvest moose in Unit 6C.

49
50

1 Retaining the closure on Federal public
2 lands in Unit 6C to non-Federally qualified users would
3 maintain Federal subsistence priority and allow for the
4 continuation of Federal subsistence uses on Federal
5 public lands.

6
7 The OSM conclusion, which can be found
8 on Page 810 of your Board book, is to maintain the
9 status quo for WCR20-41.

10

11 Thank you Mr. Chair.

12

13 That concludes my presentation.

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, are we still
16 on?

17

18 (No response)

19

20 MR. SIEKANIEC: Must be telling you
21 it's quitting time.

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Ha, must be. Without
24 the Chair, Rhonda, would you like to take over at this
25 point.

26

27 MS. PITKA: Yes. Yes, I would. No,
28 I'm joking.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: The next in line should
31 be Katya for the summary of written public comments.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you. Katya,
34 would you please submit written public comments.

35

36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 This is Katya Wessels with OSM. We did not receive any
38 written public comments for Wildlife Closure Review
39 WCR20-41.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR PITKA: Thank you very
44 much for that summary. Next would be -- I'm sorry I
45 cannot find my card.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm back on
48 here, Rhonda. Sorry about that guys.

49

50

1 MS. PITKA: Oh, perfect.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Where did we
4 end up? Sorry about that, guys. My call got dropped.

5

6 MS. PITKA: We were at 20-41, Unit 6C
7 moose. We just did public comment and none submitted.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
10 you, Rhonda, for doing that. I appreciate the
11 transition there. Regional Advisory Council
12 recommendations, Chair or designee.

13

14 MR. ENCELEWSKI: Tony, this is Greg,
15 Southcentral. We maintained a status quo on the
16 present closure.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Greg.

20

21 MR. LIND: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tribal/Alaska
24 Native corporations comments, Native Liaison. Yes, go
25 ahead.

26

27 MR. LIND: Yeah, I think you missed
28 open for the public testimony, unless I missed it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I thought
31 Rhonda said there was none. Was there any public.....

32

33 MS. PITKA: No, there was no public
34 testimony from -- there was no public comments
35 submitted to Katya.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, none.
38 Okay. So open the floor to any public testimony if
39 anybody online would like to speak to this proposal.

40

41 (No comments)

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
43 We heard from the Regional Advisory Council. Thank
44 you, Greg. We'll move to Orville Lind, Tribal/Alaska
45 Native corporation comments, Native Liaison. Orville,
46 you have the floor.

47

48 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
49 members, RAC Chairs. During the consultation session

50

1 there were no comments made on WCR20-41. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
5 Orville. We'll move on. Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game comments, State Liaison.

7
8 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
9 is Mark Burch. The State has no comments. Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
12 Interagency Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.

13
14 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 This is Suzanne Worker. The ISC provided the standard
16 comment for WCR20-41.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
19 Board discussion with Council Chair and State Liaison.

20
21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
25 We'll open the floor for Federal Board action.

26
27 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, David Schmid,
28 Forest Service.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
31 floor.

32
33 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I move to
34 maintain status quo for WCR20-41. This proposal is
35 shown on page 801 of the Board book. Following a
36 second I will explain why I intend to support my
37 motion.

38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Second.

40
41 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. Retaining the
42 closure of Federal public lands to moose hunters
43 without a valid Federal permit for Unit 6C moose would
44 maintain the Federal subsistence priority and continue
45 subsistence uses on Federal public land.

46
47 The dual management system between the
48 U.S. Forest Service, Cordova Ranger District, and ADF&G
49 for moose in Unit 6C currently meets the long term
50

1 needs of local users in Cordova, maximizes the hunting
2 opportunity and encompasses the population biology and
3 variable access in Unit 6.

4
5 The Southcentral Subsistence Regional
6 Advisory Council supports maintaining the status quo as
7 this hunt continues to provide an important opportunity
8 for Federally qualified subsistence users in Cordova.

9
10 Thanks.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Dave. Any Board discussion, deliberation?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
18 I'll call for the question.

19
20 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question.
23 We'll move to roll call, Tom.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 This will pertain to Closure Review WCR20-41, which
27 reviews the closure to moose hunting in Unit 6C from
28 November 1 through December 31, except by Federally
29 qualified subsistence users. This vote is whether or
30 not to maintain the status quo.

31
32 I'll start with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
33 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

34
35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
36 support the motion in deference to the Southcentral
37 Regional Advisory Council and the justification
38 provided by the United States Forest Service and I'd
39 like to note the cooperative moose management plan to
40 ensure that a Federal subsistence priority still
41 exists.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much,
46 Greg.

47
48 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
49 Padgett.

50

1 MR. PADGETT: I vote to support
2 WCR20-41 to maintain the status quo in deference to the
3 RAC and the Forest Service presentation. Thank you.

4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
6
7 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
10 votes to support to maintain the status quo as
11 recommended by the Southcentral Regional Advisory
12 Council.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.
15
16 National Park Service, Don Striker.

17
18 MR. STRIKER: Forest Service votes to
19 support the motion to maintain status quo for the
20 reasons articulated by my colleagues. Thank you, Tom.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet, Don.
23
24 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

25
26 MR. SCHMID: Yes. Again I support
27 maintaining the status quo for the reasons I shared and
28 also in deference to the Southcentral Subsistence
29 Regional Advisory Council.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
32
33 Rhonda Pitka.

34
35 MS. PITKA: I support maintaining the
36 status quo in deference to the Regional Advisory
37 Council and as stated on the justification on page 810
38 in the meeting book. Thank you.

39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
41
42 Charlie Brower.

43
44 MR. BROWER: I support to maintain
45 status quo for WCR20-41. Thank you.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet, Charlie.
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 Last but not least Tony Christianson.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
4 deference to the RAC.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you very much.
7 Chair, the motion carries unanimously. That will move
8 us on to Kodiak/Aleutian proposals. That one will be
9 Wildlife Proposal 20-25.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
12 So that brings us to 20-25. We'll call on Staff to go
13 ahead and present us with the information.

14

15 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
16 is Lisa. Can you hear me okay?

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear.
19 Thank you. You have the floor.

20

21 MS. MAAS: All right. For the record,
22 my name is Lisa Maas and I'll be presenting a summary
23 of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-25, which
24 begins on page 814 of your meeting book.

25

26 Proposal WC20-25 was submitted by the
27 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council and requests
28 that Federal public lands in Unit 10, Unimak Island
29 only, be open for a limited bull caribou hunt by
30 Federal registration permit from August 15 through
31 October 15, for the residents of False Pass only and
32 that the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge manager be
33 allowed to determine the annual harvest quota.

34

35 The proponent would like to provide
36 opportunity for False Pass residents to harvest from
37 the Unimak Caribou Herd as other caribou herds are
38 inaccessible.

39

40 Between 2009 and 2017, caribou hunting
41 on Unimak island was closed under State and Federal
42 regulations because of conservation concerns. In 2018
43 the Board approved Special Action 18-01, opening a
44 limited fall caribou hunt on Unimak island for False
45 Pass residents only. In 2019 the Board approved
46 Special Action WSA19-05, which also opened a limited
47 hunt for False Pass residents.

48

49 The population of the Unimak Caribou

50

1 Herd has fluctuated over the previous decades, peaking
2 at about 3,300 caribou in 1975. In 2013, the herd had
3 declined to 192 caribou. Since then the herd has been
4 slowly increasing. In 2018 the population estimate was
5 413 caribou.

6
7 The Unimak Caribou Herd experienced
8 extremely low bull/cow ratios between 2008 and 2014,
9 averaging 9 bulls per 100 cows over this time period.
10 The bull/cow ratio recovered to 33 bulls per 100 cows
11 in 2016 and was very high in 2017 at 80 bulls per 100
12 cows. Between 2005 and 2012, fall calf/cow ratios were
13 very low, averaging only 6 calves per 100 cows.
14 Calf/cow ratio improved substantially in 2016 and 2017
15 averaging 42 calves per 100 cows.

16
17 Between 1997 and 2008, annual reported
18 harvest averaged 12 caribou and those were harvested by
19 nonlocal residents. No reported harvest occurred
20 between 2009-2017 when the hunt was closed. In 2018,
21 during the limited Federal hunt, three bulls were
22 harvested.

23
24 False Pass residents have expressed
25 concern over the Unimak Island caribou closure and say
26 that the lack of hunting opportunity is one of the
27 reasons people have left the island. One alternative
28 considered was to keep the hunt closed until the
29 caribou population increased and the bull/cow ratio was
30 above 35 bulls per 100 cows for three consecutive
31 years.

32
33 This alternative was not chosen because
34 the limited harvest is unlikely to be a conservation
35 concern and the Izembek Refuge Manager will be able to
36 set the harvest quota and close the season as needed.

37
38 Adopting this proposal would provide
39 False Pass residents with a meaningful opportunity to
40 transfer cultural knowledge and traditional hunting
41 practices between generations. The in-season manager
42 would have management flexibility to adjust hunt
43 parameters, including the harvest quota, based on the
44 health and status of the herd. However the proposed
45 season would extend into the rut, which could disrupt
46 breeding and cause additional stress to the animals.
47 Mature bulls are also not palatable during the rut.

48
49 The OSM conclusion is to support
50

1 WP20-25 with modification to change the season dates
2 and to delegate authority to the Izembek Refuge Manager
3 to set the harvest quota, sex restrictions and permit
4 conditions and to close the season via delegation of
5 authority only.

6
7 Shifting the season dates earlier in
8 the year reduces the potential of disturbing caribou
9 during the rut and is in line with the Kodiak/Aleutian
10 Council's recommendation. Just to clarify, the season
11 dates would be August 1st to September 30th. So it's
12 just shifting the season 15 days earlier to avoid the
13 rut.

14
15 Also of note this proposal should have
16 been on the consensus agenda since the State changed
17 their position; however, the delegated authority and
18 the Council's recommendation could also use some
19 clarification.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 I'm available for questions.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
26 questions from the Board for the Staff. Thank you for
27 that good presentation.

28
29 (No comments)

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
31 questions from the Board. Summary of public comments
32 received.

33
34 MR. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 This is Katya Wessels with OSM. We did not receive any
36 written public comments for WP20-25. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Katya. At this time, Operator, open up any lines if
40 there's any public comment. Anybody that would like to
41 speak to this proposal now is your time.

42
43 (No comments)

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
45 We'll go to Regional Advisory Council recommendation,
46 Chair or designee.

47
48 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 This is Della Trumble, the Chair of Kodiak/Aleutians.

50

1 At the meeting last month, the Kodiak/Aleutian RAC
2 approved this proposal. They strongly support a
3 subsistence priority for the community of False Pass.
4 The issue setting the dates to August 1st to September
5 30th was recommended to align those dates with the Unit
6 9D, which is the August 1st to September 30th. The
7 Council approved that.

8
9 However, I have to say that when I got
10 to Cold Bay and ran into Tommy Hoblet, who is a
11 resident of False Pass, and a subsistence user, he
12 stated that last year because of the weather that they
13 weren't able to harvest any caribou. The one thing
14 when we talked about these dates he said the August 1st
15 is a good date because they get a couple weeks earlier
16 of good weather. He, however, would want to keep the
17 August to October 15th because it allows them just a
18 little bit more time to hopefully harvest the caribou.

19
20
21 In Unit 9D, the caribou season opens
22 August 1st to September 30th and then it closes
23 September 30th, but it opens November 15th to March
24 31st. Unit 10 does not reopen. It's only open for
25 that period of time.

26
27 So deferring to the subsistence users
28 in False Pass, I strongly believe our council who
29 supports the subsistence priority on Unimak would agree
30 that if we could make those changes to August 1st and
31 stay with October 15th, we would like to see that.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
36 questions from the Board.

37
38 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Charlie.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie,
41 you have the floor.

42
43 MR. C. BROWER: Can you give me the
44 month, the season. Did you say August 15 to October
45 15?

46
47 MS. TRUMBLE: This is Della. It would
48 be August 1st to October 15th, not September 30th.

49
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So Della, just
4 for the record, right now at this time, you're saying
5 that you feel the Council would strongly support
6 extending that season two weeks, which is different
7 than the original proposal we have before us?

8

9 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes, I believe they would
10 because they would defer to the subsistence users in
11 False Pass. We've always strongly supported caribou
12 harvesting in False Pass for subsistence users.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. any
15 questions for Della from the Board.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. This is
18 Tom. I'd like to interject.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, go
21 ahead.

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, I think it's
24 really important that the Board separates Della's
25 comment, which is extremely well intended to have the
26 August 1st through October 15th season. But again,
27 what the Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory
28 Council recommended that stays on the record is that
29 August 1 through September 30th. Just a point of
30 clarification as part of the decision process.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom,
35 for that. Any other discussion by the Board.

36

37 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question. Go
40 ahead, Charlie.

41

42 MR. C. BROWER: No, I thought it was a
43 motion. Sorry.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No motion yet,
48 Charlie. We're still at Council Chair. Any other
49 questions for the Regional Advisory Council Chair.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
4 We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
5 comments, Native Liaison. Orville Lind.

6

7 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
8 members, RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for
9 the Office of Subsistence Management. During the
10 consultation session we had no comments although I did
11 share some information to False Pass residents and they
12 were actually supposed to call and listen in on all the
13 Kodiak/Aleutian wildlife proposals, but they never did.
14 So there was no comment made on WP20-25.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Orville. We will move on to Alaska Department of Fish
20 and Game comments, State Liaison.

21

22 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 For the record, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
24 is neutral on the proposal and will consult with the
25 Refuge Manager to determine the harvest quota.

26

27 And, if I may, I will put in one more
28 comment that looking at the subsistence needs of those
29 citizens and looking at -- I know it's not maybe quite
30 as close, but it's still available. The hunting
31 availability on the Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd on
32 Federal public lands where there is no conservation
33 concern is also an option and I know our biologists
34 commented on with that population there could be
35 additional harvest.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
40 questions for the State from the Board.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
45 Interagency Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.

46

47 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
48 ISC provided the standard comment for WP20-25.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Board discussion with Council Chair, State Liaison.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. BIA.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead. You
7 have the floor, Gene.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: My understanding in order
10 for a Board member to show deference with regard to
11 take the RAC, we would act upon the modified dates,
12 which are August 1st to September 30th, as voted upon
13 by the Regional Advisory Council.

14
15 It's also my understanding that if the
16 agency making the motion would modify that to include
17 the October 15th date, then we could vote on that.
18 Short of a modified motion, then the other option to
19 extend beyond September 30th, which the Kodiak/Aleutian
20 RAC voted on, would be a special action request.

21
22 Is my thought process correct?

23
24 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. This is Ken.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think you
27 are. Go ahead. Who is this?

28
29 MR. LORD: Ken Lord.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, hey, Ken,
32 go ahead. You have the floor.

33
34 MR. LORD: Yeah, Gene is correct. The
35 deference would be accorded to the motion voted on by
36 the Regional Advisory Council. That doesn't preclude
37 the Board from going ahead and acting on the October
38 15th date if it so chooses.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
41 that clarification, Ken.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Ken.
44 Appreciate it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
47 Gene. So under Board discussion we're currently at --
48 I think we all want to support as is. Just a date is
49 the discussion at this point, whether it's the 30th of
50

1 September or October 15th as changed by the Regional
2 Advisory Council Chair. So further discussion as far
3 as this motion goes.

4
5 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. This is
6 Greg.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg. Go
9 ahead.

10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Would you modify the
12 original motion or the modified motion of OSM?

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think here,
15 Greg, we would be still looking at modifying the
16 proposed regulation and then we would make a motion on
17 that. So we have the Regional Advisory Council who
18 voted on the date of the 30th, but the Council Chair,
19 who said they'd like to give deference to the rural
20 subsistence user, stated two weeks, basically 15
21 additional days, probably would help them in fulfilling
22 their need due to the weather impacts that they have.

23
24 So we're kind of here now seeing a
25 change in that, but it hasn't been supported by a vote
26 of the full Council, just brought forward by the
27 Council Chair. I hope that helps clarify. That's what
28 I understand it is right now.

29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I don't
33 think that we would have a problem modifying the motion
34 or making a motion that would reflect that, but then I
35 don't think we're giving the deference to the RAC, which
36 was the date of the 30th. But I think in lieu of
37 recent information it's up to the Board to make that
38 determination at this time.

39
40 At this time I will open up the floor
41 if there is no further Board discussion to Federal
42 Board action on this proposal.

43
44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg with
45 the Fish and Wildlife Service.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
48 have the floor.

49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. I would
2 move to adopt Proposal WP20-25 as modified by Office of
3 Subsistence Management in the addendum. The proposed
4 language is shown on Page 834 of the Board book.
5 Following a second I will provide justification for why
6 I intend to support my motion.

7

8 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: This action supports
11 the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council desire to
12 establish a Federal subsistence hunt for residents of
13 False Pass to harvest caribou on Unimak island. The
14 Regional Advisory Council requesting a change of season
15 dates provides more opportunity earlier in the season
16 and that's reduced potential disturbance to caribou
17 during the rut.

18

19 The requested season also aligns the
20 State season for Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd,
21 further reducing regulatory confusion. Restricting
22 harvest to only False Pass residents in accordance with
23 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act 804 is
24 appropriate given the current low population of the
25 Unimak Caribou Herd.

26

27 The successful implementation of the
28 2018 and 2019 hunt that afforded potential harvest of a
29 limited number of bull caribou was appreciated by False
30 Pass residents and allowed them to continue their
31 customary and traditional practices.

32

33 Delegating the authority to Izembek
34 National Wildlife Refuge Manager to set harvest quotas
35 and any needed sex restrictions, close the season and
36 set permit conditions should allow for regulatory
37 flexibility to in-season adjustment and a more timely
38 response to changes in population status, hunting
39 conditions or hunter access while maximizing harvest
40 opportunities to Federally qualified subsistence users.

41

42 Currently the population is slowly
43 increasing, but remains below State's objective.
44 Consequently, the harvest needs to be closely monitored
45 so as not to overharvest. If pre-hunt population data
46 is acquired that indicates a declining population,
47 there should be consultation between the Refuge,
48 Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory Council, False Pass
49 residents and the State to modify the allowable harvest

50

1 or close the season.

2

3 Thank you Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Greg. Any further board discussion.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
11 question.

12

13 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Tom,
16 please. Thank you.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: The vote is on Wildlife
19 Proposal 20-25, modified by OSM to change the season
20 dates and to delegate authority to the Izembek National
21 Wildlife Refuge Manager, set the harvest quota and any
22 needed sex restrictions, close the season and set any
23 needed permit conditions via delegation of authority
24 letter only.

25

26 The regulation would be in Unit 10
27 caribou. It would be one bull by Federal registration
28 permit. Federal lands are closed to the taking of
29 caribou except by residents of False Pass and the
30 season date in this particular regulation is August 1
31 through September 30th.

32

33 BIA, Gene Peltola.

34

35 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
36 supports adoption of WP20-25 as articulated by the Fish
37 and Wildlife Service and in addition to showing
38 deference to the Kodiak/Aleutian Regional Advisory
39 Council with regard to take.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

42

43 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

44

45 MR. SCHMID: Yes, the Forest Service
46 supports with modification and based on the
47 justification as provided by the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service and in deference to the RAC.

49

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
2
3 National Park Service, Don Striker.
4
5 MR. STRIKER: Park service supports
6 this modified proposal in deference to the
7 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
8 for the reasons detailed by my colleagues. Thank you.
9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.
11
12 Rhonda Pitka.
13
14 MS. PITKA: I support Proposal 20-25
15 with modification in deference to the Regional Advisory
16 Council and as stated by the other supporters. Thank
17 you.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
20
21 Public Member Charlie Brower.
22
23 MR. C. BROWER: I support WP20-25 with
24 modification, recommendation from the Kodiak/Aleutian
25 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendation.
26 Thank you.
27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
29
30 BLM, Chad Padgett.
31
32 MR. PADGETT: I support as previously
33 stated by my colleagues.
34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
36
37 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
38 Siekaniec.
39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
41 support in deference to the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
42 Advisory Council and the justification that I provided.
43 I do recognize Della's perspective that has been
44 brought into the discussion of possibly adding a couple
45 of weeks and would look forward to entertaining that in
46 the future. Thank you, Della.
47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you too, Greg.
49 And last but not least, Tony Christian, Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support
2 in deference to the RAC.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. The vote is
5 unanimous to pass that particular motion on WP20-25.

6
7 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair. This is
8 Della. May I make a comment?

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Della, you
11 have the floor.

12
13 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you very much. And
14 thank all of you. I guess I'll take some
15 responsibility for this. We tried to get ahold of
16 False Pass during the meeting so I could talk to Tommy
17 to see if he agreed with what we were recommending.
18 Unfortunately sometimes it's hard to get ahold of
19 people in the community and the phones don't work very
20 well over there.

21
22 One thing that struck my mind in
23 listening to this discussion, especially Greg when you
24 were going through this, his rationale at the time isn't
25 so much as a date. It's October 15th because sometimes
26 they fish through September, so it gave them a little
27 bit more time. But I'll work this with our Council
28 because we will definitely want to do something for the
29 community as we do strongly support the subsistence
30 users on Unimak.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 that, Della. Again, I think Greg stated, you know,
36 there's an opportunity as well to do the Special Action
37 Request. If we do need that additional time later in
38 the season, they could file for that sooner. It might
39 be something we could entertain prior to that season,
40 you know, if there's a longer fishing season or some
41 other issue that creates a problem for them being able
42 to meet their subsistence needs.

43
44 I appreciate your efforts.

45
46 Thank you, Della.

47
48 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That brings us
2 now I think five minutes to 5:00. At this time I think
3 I'm going to look for calling to recess it today.
4 Before I recess it though I wanted to entertain a topic
5 we've heard loud and clear both yesterday in the tribal
6 consultation meeting and the public comment at the
7 start of the meeting both yesterday and this morning
8 about the food security issue that rural Alaskans are
9 facing right now.

10

11 We do have a few Special Action
12 Requests that have been coming into the office as of
13 recently reflecting all the hardships that are
14 happening out in rural Alaska. I know the pressure is
15 going to be on the Staff.

16

17 With us having a Board meeting this
18 week, it might behoove us to have a discussion about
19 providing some direction so that we can -- to let the
20 public know we hear the situation that is happening on
21 the ground and that us, as a Board, is doing our
22 diligence to make sure that we could expedite the
23 process and make sure that we can truly react to
24 on-the-ground needs of rural Alaskans as it pertains to
25 food security and the opportunity to subsist.

26

27 I'd like to open the floor at this time
28 before I recess for the day on food for thought because
29 I would like to say I think it's a topic that we could
30 add to the end of the agenda so we could give some
31 direction to the Staff on how we intend to fulfill that
32 need.

33

34 So I open the floor at this time.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Tony, this is Greg.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, go
39 ahead.

40

41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Tony, thanks for
42 bringing that up or bringing that forward. I think it
43 is very appropriate that we have a discussion and I
44 think we need to get ourselves oriented in working with
45 the Office of Subsistence Management and the local
46 areas where these Special Action Requests are coming
47 from and start having our land managers start to engage
48 in the dialogue and the discussion with the
49 communities, the users, the State of Alaska and start

50

1 to put together the analysis that would be needed.

2

3 Whether it becomes an action to take
4 through a delegated letter or it becomes a Board
5 action, we still need to have the analysis done and the
6 consideration given. I think we really need to set an
7 expectation that these need to start happening.
8 Just my thought.

9

10 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

11

12 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair. This is Chad
13 Padgett.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Chad.
16 You have the floor.

17

18 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I agree it's
19 a very important discussion to have. Thank you for
20 taking a few minutes to go over this. I don't know if
21 it's an appropriate question for Ken or if it's more of
22 a policy call. It would be really good to clarify what
23 authorities we may have in regards to this legally
24 between the State, FEMA and the Board. I think that
25 would help guide the discussion at least so that we
26 know we're within our legal parameters.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. This is Ken.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ken.
33 You have the floor.

34

35 MR. LORD: We've already had that
36 discussion with FEMA and have been told there's nothing
37 the Federal Subsistence Board can do would interfere
38 with FEMA's efforts under the Stafford Act. So that's
39 not a problem and they don't need to be consulted.

40

41 They did suggest that we coordinate
42 with -- I'm blanking on the name of the group, but
43 there is another response team that was put together to
44 address food security issues where the State of Alaska
45 has the lead. And the Secretary's Office will take an
46 interest in this issue and whether or not it's
47 appropriate to try to address these issues through the
48 Federal Subsistence Board, but we've not gotten any
49 guidance down, but there is definitely -- at least

50

1 they're taking a hard look at it. We're trying to work
2 with Steve Wackowski to work through that. Greg and
3 others have been on the calls as well.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. BIA.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.
8 You have the floor, Gene.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: So far I've heard
11 delegations of authority. I've heard coordinating with
12 FEMA. So obviously before the Board could have a fully
13 informed discussion about delegations, including which
14 regions have delegations and which do not for mammals
15 and/or fish.

16

17 I think there needs to be a broader
18 discussion to bring all the Board members up to speed
19 on why FEMA was mentioned, what that has to do with the
20 delegation, because some Board members may have had
21 more exposure than others and we can't have a
22 fully-engaged informed discussion unless everybody is
23 brought up to the same page.

24

25 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair. I'd suggest
26 bringing Steve Wackowski into that discussion when the
27 Board has it. This all came down through the
28 Secretary's Office. I'm just responding, not the one
29 raising the issues.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

32

33 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Yeah, I
34 understand that, but I'm just saying that in order for
35 us to have an informed discussion by the Federal
36 Subsistence Board everybody needs to be on the same
37 page before we have that informed discussion.

38

39 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave here.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Dave.

42

43 MR. SCHMID: Thank you for bringing
44 this up, Mr. Chair. Certainly I know our staff and
45 folks have been engaged with Kake and other villages
46 and areas here and requesting. Whatever we can do I
47 think it's appropriate this week here during the Board
48 meeting if we can get fully informed and figure out
49 what our authorities are and what kind of analysis we

50

1 need. But anything we can do to streamline the request
2 I think without overburdening Staff is going to be
3 important.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
8 that, Dave.

9
10 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair. Don with the
11 Park Service.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead. You
14 have the floor.

15
16 MR. STRIKER: I really appreciate that
17 you identified that theme. I had written down some
18 other themes too from our conversations yesterday.
19 Certainly I think regs in conflict with ANILCA was
20 another one. I think we did some good work to resolve
21 that yesterday.

22
23 I may say in addition to this topic
24 that you currently brought up we might also want to
25 have a brief conversation about the SRC membership and
26 sort of the back story with the FACA process and so on
27 and so forth just to see whether or not we want to try
28 to take any action as a Board for all the concerns that
29 were expressed with the reduced RAC participation.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
34 that, Mr. Striker. That was a very good topic to bring
35 up because that's what's probably number two on the
36 list of security during this week was the lack of
37 appointments. So thank you.

38
39 Any other Board member would like to
40 comment or make a discussion.

41
42 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

45
46 MR. C. BROWER: I think it's just
47 starting, you know. We don't know how long this thing
48 is going to last. As stated earlier by the folks that
49 are testifying that things are getting worse as we're
50

1 coming along. I agree with everyone that we should be
2 looking into this matter seriously.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. The
7 floor is still open. Any other Board would like to
8 make a comment.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Hearing
13 none. I'm going to just add okay without -- I think I
14 would like to entertain the idea that we just maybe add
15 this on as another topic of discussion at the end of
16 the meeting. Add it to the current agenda so that
17 maybe within two days we might be able to maybe have
18 another discussion on where we could provide that Staff
19 feedback that needs to happen. So I'm just
20 entertaining the idea that maybe we have this
21 discussion one more time prior to the end of this
22 meeting.

23

24 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I
25 support that. I think that people on the ground really
26 need the direction also.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
29 Hearing no opposition to that, I think I'll just look
30 at the agenda here. Under 12, with no opposition to
31 it, under other business we'll just add this discussion
32 to the agenda as other business.

33

34 Appreciate you guys taking the time to
35 just hear me out on this and just the importance of
36 what we hear from the people we represent in rural
37 Alaska and Alaska as a whole.

38

39 So thank you guys and all your support
40 for that.

41

42 Without any other discussion on the
43 topic, I'll recess the meeting until 9:00 a.m.
44 tomorrow.

45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, thank
49 you, guys.

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MR. C. BROWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
Thanks, Tom.
MR. DOOLITTLE: You betcha. Bye.
(Off record)
(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th day of May 2019.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22