

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME IV

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

April 23, 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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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Teleconference - 4/23/2020)

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(On record)

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MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning everybody.

It's the top of the hour. And this is our power
through day on the agenda. So getting through this is
really important and staying on task for this day as I
talked this morning with the Chair.

I'll first do a quick roll call to see
who we have on line.

I'll start with the National Park
Service with Don Striker, are you on?

MR. STRIKER: Good morning, Tom.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Don.

Bureau of Land Management, Chad
Padgett, are you on?

(No comments)

MR. DOOLITTLE: I'll come back around
to you.....

MR. C. BROWER: Good morning.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, Charlie, good
morning Charlie.

MR. C. BROWER: Yeah, you got to speak
closer to the mic, I can barely hear you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, I'll speak
closer, how about that.

MR. C. BROWER: A little better, okay.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Bureau of Land
Management, Chad Padgett.

(No comments)

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. I'll come back

1 to Chad, I know Greg's on line.
2
3 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
4
5 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, good morning, Tom,
6 I'm here.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Dave.
9
10 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.
11
12 MR. PELTOLA: Roger, Roger, 10-4.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Gene, good to
15 hear you.
16
17 Rhonda Pitka, are you on line yet.
18
19 MS. PITKA: Yes, I am.
20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. You sound
22 clear now, that's great.
23
24 Tony Christianson, are you on line?
25
26 (No comments)
27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chairman
29 Christianson.
30
31 (No comments)
32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, we're still
34 waiting for Chad and Tony.
35
36 MR. PADGETT: I'm here, this is Chad.
37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Chad, good
39 morning. We're just waiting for the Chair.
40
41 Ken Lord, are you on line?
42
43 (No comments)
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Don't hear Ken
46 yet.
47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: And the State of
2 Alaska, is Ben Mulligan on line?

3
4 MR. MULLIGAN: Good morning, the State
5 is here.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Ben, good to
8 hear your voice.

9
10 Suzanne Worker, are you on line?

11
12 MS. WORKER: I'm here, Tom.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Katya Wessels, are you
15 on line?

16
17 MS. WORKER: It sounds like Katya might
18 not have a speaking roll, she said she can't hear
19 anything.

20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: So the speaking roles
22 would be for her and it would be coming up after public
23 testimony.

24
25 MS. WORKER: Yeah, it sounds like she
26 can't hear the conference though. I might just advise
27 her to try to.....

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Right. And Operator,
30 if we could make sure that people can hear the
31 conference and they're not listening to muzak while
32 they're in too, that would be wonderful.

33
34 OPERATOR: Absolutely, Sir.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I'm on,
37 Tom, this is Anthony.

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Tony, good to have
40 you. And I'll go to see what RAC Chairs are on this
41 morning.

42
43 Is Don Hernandez on this morning.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Southcentral RAC, is
48 Greg Encelewski on this morning.

49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Kodiak/Aleutians, Della
4 Trumble on this morning.
5
6 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm here, good morning.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Della.
9
10 Bristol Bay, is Nanci Lyon on this
11 morning.
12
13 MS. MORRIS LYON: I am.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Nanci, good
16 morning.
17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Good morning.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yukon Kuskokwim Delta,
21 Alissa Rogers.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: I don't hear Alissa.
26
27 Western Interior, Jack Reakoff.
28
29 MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff's here,
30 thank you.
31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Good morning, Jack.
33
34 Seward Penn, Louis Green.
35
36 (No comments)
37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Northwest
39 Arctic, Mike Kramer.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Eastern
44 Interior, Sue Entsminger.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: And last but not least
49 North Slope, Gordon Brower.
50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We have a few of
4 our RAC Chairs on. And we have a full quorum of the
5 Federal Subsistence Board at this particular time. I
6 do want to check to see if Lisa Maas or Chris McKee are
7 on line.

8

9 MR. MCKEE: I'm here Tom.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is Lisa, I'm
14 here.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, great, you guys.
17 Alrighty, I think, Mr. Chair, at your direction to go
18 into our morning of public comment period on non-agenda
19 items.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, thank you
22 for that Tom. And we'll start this morning off on that
23 and welcome everyone back to the fourth day of our
24 Federal Subsistence Board meeting and hopefully we can
25 jam through this session today and get work we have on
26 the table ahead of us, so we'll go ahead and open up
27 the line to any public comments on non-agenda items
28 this morning. And, again, you know, we are on our last
29 day of teleconference and I would remind and ask people
30 that we be mindful of trying to keep it around 10
31 minutes. So, thank you. And, with that, we'll open up
32 the floor to non-agenda items to the public.

33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Then Operator if we
35 could remind the public it's star one to get into the
36 call and if you could announce who's in the cue before
37 they speak.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Jordan?

42

43 OPERATOR: My apologies, Tom, I was
44 just speaking with Karen on behalf of Louis, she has
45 now joined the call.

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. That's good to
48 hear. Is there anybody in the cue that is available to
49 speak and press star one, we're at the public comment

50

1 period.
2

3 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir. Our first comment
4 comes from Lincoln Bean, your line is now open.
5

6 MR. BEAN: Good morning, can you hear
7 me?
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Lincoln,
10 we can hear you fine, thank you you have the floor.
11

12 MR. BEAN: All right. Good morning,
13 Mr. Chairman and Board members.
14

15 Mr. Chairman, I've been involved in
16 health care, it'll be 40 years this year, and I've
17 never seen an epidemic like this in all my years of
18 health care on top of 80 percent unemployment in my
19 community, on top of not having ferry services in
20 Southeast. It's not like -- something you've never
21 seen or witnessed. I'm sure we're all in the same
22 boat. But there's no reason why we can't live off the
23 land, the air, and the sea. The sea is our garden.
24 The air we have fowl, birds. The land we have the
25 deer, the moose, grouse, you name it, whatever walks on
26 God's Earth that can provide healthy food for our
27 people. And, you know, I'm not getting any younger, so
28 my nephews bring food to my door.
29

30 And there's something all of our people
31 are known for, is helping each other.
32

33 And in this time it's never been more
34 important for all of us across the nation, across the
35 world, there is going to be food famine coming because
36 of the shortages that are taking place in meat
37 factories, there's no reason why we can't go out. I'm
38 a firm believer in self-governance and self-
39 determination. And the trust responsibility of the
40 Federal government and the State has to our people.
41 And I need to remind them that we all need to -- that
42 this is a time, we're not looking for handouts, we can
43 stand our own ground, we can provide for our own
44 people, the back door is our store when we go out. We
45 don't want to abuse them, we know when to hunt and not
46 to hunt when they're carrying their little fawns, their
47 little babies, we know to leave them alone. We know
48 what to hunt for.
49
50

1 Mr. Chairman, I don't have to plead to
2 you as Native people or the government, but I can tell
3 you this, that our people will survive and this is a
4 learning lesson and this is where we all have to stand
5 united, not only to keep this disease away from our
6 people, but also to keep them -- our people shouldn't
7 have to go to jail and become criminals for getting the
8 food that they live off of. I appreciate all the work
9 that you do. If I've insulted or hurt anybody, please
10 forgive me, that was not my intention.

11

12 Thank you, very much.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
15 Bean, appreciate you calling in this morning with a top
16 concern expressed by the public all week in our public
17 testimony and appreciate you calling on behalf of your
18 community and giving us the insight that you have.

19

20 So thank you for calling. Any
21 questions for Lincoln.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, Mr.
26 Bean, you have a good day and the best to you in your
27 community.

28

29 OPERATOR: Our next comment comes from
30 DeAnna Perry, your line is open.

31

32 MS. PERRY: Good morning, Board.
33 Actually I was chiming in earlier just to let you know
34 that I was standing in stead of the Southeast and
35 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Chairs.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
40 comes from Deborah Lind, your line is open.

41

42 MS. LIND: Good morning, Chairman, and
43 members of the Board. My name is Deborah Lind. I work
44 for Tanana Chiefs Conference as a Natural Cultural
45 Resource specialist. I'm currently working with
46 hunting, fishing task force serving 42 villages in the
47 Interior assisting with food security issues.

48

49 The hunting and fishing task force has

50

1 established a network system tracking and notifying
2 rural villages who do not have direct and convenient
3 access to grocery stores and other packaged foods. We
4 are in direct contact with tribal councils assisting
5 them completing and submitting the complex special
6 action request form and answering questions for them.
7 We currently have eight SARs submitted for your review.
8 As you, the Members of this Board, discuss solutions to
9 create a quick response to solving food security issues
10 in rural Alaska, I believe we can help each other.

11
12 Tanana Chiefs Conference has
13 partnerships with all agencies here on this Board. I
14 believe leveraging our partnership can reduce time,
15 resources and Staff hours and notification and
16 processing of SARs from a very vast large landscape of
17 rural Alaska. The hunting and fishing task force is
18 prepared to expedite SARs bringing a quick response to
19 food security which is an integral source for physical,
20 mental and spiritual help and well-being to rural
21 Alaska villages.

22
23 Thank you for this opportunity.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 Thank you for taking the time to call in this morning,
27 any questions.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Again, I
32 appreciate you speaking to the food security issue this
33 morning.

34
35 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
36 comes from Mr. Gambell, your line is open.

37
38 MR. GAMBELL: Good morning, could you
39 hear me?

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
42 Shewan, I can hear you loud and clear, you have the
43 floor.

44
45 MR. GAMBELL: (In Tlingit) Chairman
46 Christianson and members of the Federal Subsistence
47 Board. I'm (In Tlingit).

48
49 Good morning again, my name is Shewan

50

1 Jackson Gambell. My Tlingit name is (In Tlingit) which
2 translates to watchman of Hamilton Bay. I belong to
3 the (In Tlingit) Clan and I'm in the Kix.adi Clan, and
4 I come from the people of Kake. I am an emerging
5 leader for the Central Council of Indian -- or Central
6 Council of Tlingit Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and
7 AFN, Southeast Regional Village alternate, and I'm
8 speaking on behalf of the citizens I represent in
9 Southeast Alaska and also as a concerned tribal citizen
10 of Kake.

11
12 I'm reaching out today to speak in
13 support of Organized Village of Kake's, along with
14 other tribal requests for emergency tribal action, or
15 sorry about that -- special action request to consider
16 special hunts and fishing an option during this
17 uncertain pandemic time to secure wild game if the
18 shipments from down South don't come in in a timely
19 manner. The majority of Kake's and many rural
20 communities meat supply come in via barge, and with no
21 ferrys it makes it difficult and expensive for us to
22 get the essential things to survive. We make the best
23 of what we have here and we help out the community when
24 needed. Huge industrial meat factories of pork,
25 chicken and beef across the U.S. are being shut down
26 because of Covid-19 outbreaks in the meat plants and
27 that puts our tribal citizens at great risk and even
28 worse food shortages.

29
30 Going back to some of the -- I did a
31 lot of research of how ANILCA could, you know, be
32 applicable to my people, in some of my earlier under-
33 graduate work. And I'm a University of Oregon PhD
34 graduate, John Starkey, stated that numerous Native
35 leaders have spoken at AFN Conventions, rejecting
36 subsistence as a term that minimizes a complex and
37 holistic way of interacting with their traditional
38 land, waters, plants and animals that share this
39 territory. I think that that statement is referring to
40 that there is more than just fishing and hunting to
41 survive. It's a way of life because a lot of our
42 traditional values being tied into hunting and fishing
43 like patience, integrity, giving out traditional foods
44 to elders and members of the community and not expect
45 anything in return for them.

46
47 Maintaining our traditional lands for
48 future generations and to always respect what you catch
49 and eat.

50

1 I grew up watching my pappas and my
2 uncles hand out food, even if it was just a taste, or
3 enough to last for a long time, the feeling of seeing
4 my elders and community filled with joy and happiness
5 in receiving those traditional foods is priceless to
6 me.

7
8 Protection of our foods and food
9 security is why I chose to go into Native environmental
10 science because of the importance of the traditional
11 foods to my community.

12
13 During the territorial days of Alaska,
14 one of the first subsistence laws that was created from
15 U.S. Government's trust responsibility, the Native
16 people, the Government thought that "any Indian or
17 Eskimo, prospector, traveler can take birds, fish or
18 game, fresh game, in the closed season when he is in
19 need of food. Under Title VIII it gives rural Alaska
20 subsistence users a priority on Federal land and waters
21 and we need to act now, because this won't just help us
22 right now, as tribes, we need to be more incorporated
23 with the role of management and incorporate Alaska
24 Native traditional knowledge, management practices and
25 customs to implementation and regulations of
26 subsistence hunting. If Title VIII were interpreted as
27 Indian Legislation, tribes would be eligible to enter
28 contracts, compacts and annual funding agreements where
29 implementing Title VIII in Native villages under Self-
30 Determination Act and Education Assistance Act, and
31 that also comes from Starkey.

32
33 I remember when I was going my final
34 research paper in my sophomore year on ANILCA and
35 focusing on Title VIII and relating why herring should
36 be a forage fish and push for more tribal management
37 for our traditional foods and resources. I remember
38 interviewing Chairman Christianson on that topic and
39 was (indiscernible - muffled) a secondary source on my
40 final paper at that time. I didn't know that I'd be
41 giving public comment to the Federal Subsistence Board
42 two years later so I tried to do my research topics on
43 ideas that one day to help my people and the
44 generations to come.

45
46 This is an issue that doesn't only have
47 to do with food security. It lets our young men and
48 women practice our traditions. We have been doing it
49 for thousands of years. We can set the standard of
50

1 food security in Alaska if we form unity and work
2 together to do what's best for our citizens and our
3 shareholders. There's a lot of people that will
4 benefit from these fishing and special hunts, not only
5 now, but in the uncertain times to come in the future.

6

7 That's all I have for you today.

8

9 I hope that hearing a youth voice will
10 help influence the Federal Subsistence Board to add the
11 Special Action Requests to the agenda and have an
12 answer by the end of the meeting today.

13

14 Gunalcheesh for taking the time to
15 listen to my public comment. It means a lot to be
16 speaking in front of you today.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Shewan. Appreciate you taking the time to call in
20 today and speak on the issue of food security. It's an
21 important topic that we've placed before us at this
22 Board meeting so definitely good luck to you and your
23 community.

24

25 Any questions for Shewan.

26

27 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, BIA.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
34 Gene, you have the floor.

35

36 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. I would like
37 to ask the speaker, what is the current availability of
38 the food in his community at this moment.

39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. GAMBLE: Right now we're making by
43 with what we have. We've recently done some fishing
44 for halibut to just hand out during Easter time. But
45 right now, you know, we have enough right now but, you
46 know, it's not that we're starving, you know, it's that
47 we're preparing for what's to come, you know, it's food
48 security.

49

50

1 That's all I have.

2
3 Thank you.

4
5 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, appreciate it.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
8 other questions for Shewan.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12
13 OPERATOR: Our last public comment
14 comes from Liz Cravalho, your line is now open.

15
16 MS. CRAVALHO: Thank you. Good
17 morning, Mr. Chair and members of the Board. I just
18 wanted to provide some brief comments to you this
19 morning.

20
21 As you know NANA Regional Corporation
22 manages 2.2 million acres of land on behalf of our
23 shareholders and this land falls within Game Unit 23
24 area. We manage this land to ensure access and use of
25 these lands for subsistence purposes and to seek
26 economic development that benefits our shareholders.

27
28 Today the people of the NANA region,
29 like the rest of the country and the world are facing a
30 serious pandemic. Covid-19 is a respiratory disease
31 that threatens all individuals and especially those
32 with preexisting conditions and the elderly.

33
34 As you know, currently there are no
35 known effective vaccines or treatments to ease this
36 spread of this deadly virus and with this in mind, NANA
37 supports the temporary action request for Game Unit 23,
38 specifically to protect communities and make sure that
39 the rural health care system is not over extended. So
40 I'm calling today to express that support for
41 discussion on the agenda and Covid-19 is not the first
42 pandemic that our communities have faced and that is
43 persistent and communicable. Communities in the NANA
44 region have seen significant losses due to the 1918 flu
45 epidemic and Tuberculosis, both are respiratory
46 diseases that are highly communicable and responsible
47 for the death of many Alaskans and Alaska Natives. The
48 advancement of the 1918 flu and Tuberculosis led to the
49 effort to improve home ventilation, decrease crowding

50

1 and improve health care, get water to villages. Though
2 living conditions have improved today in our
3 communities, many families in our own region still do
4 not have running water and have multiple generations
5 living under one roof. This means that many families
6 and individuals in the NANA region continue to be more
7 susceptible to respiratory illnesses. Individuals
8 carrying Covid-19 may be asymptomatic and can cause the
9 spread of this deadly disease unknowingly. This
10 increase the likelihood of individuals contracting this
11 illness and spreading it throughout the community.

12
13 Prior to the development of a vaccine
14 or other effective treatments for the flu and
15 Tuberculosis, there are two important steps that could
16 be taken to prevent the spread of the diseases,
17 maintain social distancing from each other and ensure
18 proper sanitation of individuals, homes, and communal
19 spaces.

20
21 Right now rural communities have a rare
22 opportunity to maintain social distancing until medical
23 technology can catch up and they can do this, both in
24 their communities and by limiting travel to their
25 communities.

26
27 The TSA request for Game Unit 23 to
28 close hunting to non-Federally-qualified users is an
29 opportunity for the Federal Subsistence Board to be a
30 partner in addressing this public health crises and
31 assuring that the loss of life in these rural
32 communities to Covid-19 is limited and not as severe as
33 the 1918 flu or the decades of losses from the
34 Tuberculosis.

35
36 We encourage the Federal Subsistence
37 Board to consider what it can do to implement this as
38 an emergency order as quickly as possible.

39
40 I want to thank you for your service
41 and I appreciate your time.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46 Thank you for taking the time to call in today,
47 appreciate it. Any questions from the Board.

48
49 MS. PITKA: I didn't catch the last
50

1 speaker's name.

2

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10 MS. CRAVALHO: Sorry. My name is
your testimony, that was really good. Thank you.

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MS. CRAVALHO: Sorry. My name is Elizabeth Cravalho and I am the vice president of lands for NANA Regional Corporation.

(In Inupiaq)

MS. PITKA: Thank you very much for your testimony, that was really good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Our next public comment comes from Joel Jackson, your line is open.

MR. JACKSON: Good morning and thank you, Mr. Chair, and the Board for allowing to me speak again. I know I've been on here for the last two days. I think it's an important enough issue for me to call in every day.

You've heard from a number of our community members today, like my grandson, Shewan mentioned, we're not in that place where we're in a panic mode to provide for our community because we've been doing our share providing fresh fish, fresh king salmon when it was open, fresh halibut we gave away to the community. We also got clams because we knew that with the warming weather that would be probably the last time we'd be able to do that for that thing there. And then after that we did another halibut, my nephews and grandson went out and got more halibut and we gave it away. We've been providing because we know how important our Native traditional foods are to our people. Right now it's more important than ever that we keep providing these things because those are the things that sustained us for thousands of years. Our bodies crave it. So, you know, we will continue to do that for our community.

I'm blessed that I have a boat that I can use and let my nephews and grandsons use to provide for the community.

And we've been taught that for thousands of years, to provide for others that are less fortunate than we are, and we never ask for anything in return, that was the way we were taught. That's what I'm teaching my nephews and my grandsons, that we do it out of the goodness of our heart because we care for

1 our people.

2

3 So I just wanted to give you a little
4 history on that.

5

6 And also encourage you to put the
7 special request thing on your agenda and hopefully act
8 on it today. Being a community leader, it weighs heavy
9 on me to provide for my community. But like I
10 mentioned before, I will do what I need to do to make
11 sure our people are safe and they have what they need.

12

13 I'm not asking your permission, I want
14 to make that clear. Whether you approve it or not, if
15 the time comes we will act because we have to. So
16 right now, you know, it's a lot of unknown things out
17 there, our people are getting scared, they have been
18 scared, you know, it's almost a 24 hour a day thing,
19 leadership in these small communities, because we deal
20 with not only our tribal problems that we have but
21 social and criminals, you know, it's -- for our
22 community we don't have law enforcement, we have a
23 VPSO. And for those of you that don't know what a VPSO
24 is, it's a Village Public Safety Officer, and
25 unfortunately he has limited powers. So a lot of times
26 people don't even call him, they call us, and we go and
27 take care of things. But that's just the way it is in
28 a lot of the small communities across Alaska, they're
29 in the same situation we are. Tribal leadership has to
30 step up and do what the State should be doing.

31

32 But I encourage you, right now, to
33 consider this special action request that you've
34 received from all across Alaska because people are
35 concerned about their communities and concerned that
36 they're not going to be getting the meat and whatever
37 else that they're falling short on. I know I can't
38 even get any eggs or butter or anything, which I don't
39 mind, but, you know, being in the Western world for so
40 many years we get accustomed to eating that stuff.

41

42 But thanks again, and I appreciate all
43 your hard work and, you know, I'm honored to be able to
44 speak with you all.

45

46 Like my cousin, Lincoln Bean said, you
47 know, if I said anything to offend anybody, please
48 forgive us, because right now is a very trying time for
49 us. And I sometimes forget to mention that last part

50

1 when I'm done talking.

2

3 Anyway, I appreciate your time and your
4 efforts of what you're doing and I hope that this
5 special action request is put on your agenda so you can
6 act on it.

7

8 All right, thank you, have a good day.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Joel, appreciate you taking the time to call in and
12 painting a realistic picture of what community leaders
13 face in rural Alaska. Me, being a Mayor, I can
14 definitely reflect on and appreciate the role that you
15 play in your community, being from a rural community
16 here, Hydaburg, as well, with almost a similar
17 situation, except we have a little bit better access to
18 some facilities which I appreciate. But thank you for
19 taking the time to call in and playing the role you do
20 in the community.

21

22 Operator, is there anybody else in
23 line.

24

25 OPERATOR: Yes, we have several people
26 left. Our next public comment comes from Ben Stevens,
27 your line is open.

28

29 MR. STEVENS: Well, thank you very
30 much, Operator, and thanks for keeping us all
31 connected.

32

33 Mr. Chairman, good morning to you, and
34 the Board. Can you hear me clearly?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Ben, I can
37 hear you clearly, you have the floor.

38

39 MR. STEVENS: Thank you very much.
40 I'll be really brief. I just realized that I had not
41 really explained my perspective in some of the comments
42 I made yesterday and some folks in a roundabout way
43 kind of was wondering how was I qualified to make the
44 statements that I did and I think what I did is I
45 scared them and they caused me a little bit of guff.
46 So let me extend that courtesy also to members of the
47 Board that don't know me and that may not necessarily
48 be too familiar with Alaska Native people and rural
49 villages.

50

1 I grew up as Deneski's (ph). When I
2 got older my grandmother changed my name to (In Native)
3 essentially it means makes me think ahead, which I
4 guess I did to her. Anyway, I grew up in Stevens
5 Village and went away to school, I did the boarding
6 school thing and went on to college, and when I came
7 back to the village is when I realized that we had
8 absolutely no place in the management of the foods that
9 we rely upon. There was one case where an ADF&G
10 biologist told me that I probably should turn around
11 and go back to the village because they had our
12 concerns addressed. And so I mean that was the way
13 that we were told to go through the day. Unfortunately
14 that didn't really work because he didn't -- in good
15 times we were having food security issues. And so this
16 is nothing new to us. This whole pandemic environment
17 that we're in right now has just exacerbated and, I
18 think, elevated, the need of the people. Now, it's
19 becoming a lot more dire. When I first got back to the
20 village from the city, the elders came up to me and
21 they said, you need to go down to the place here, where
22 we call the (In Native) and -- because there's a
23 problem down there, and (In Native) for those that
24 don't know is called the Dall River, and it's right
25 there between Stevens Village and the Haul Road, where
26 the TransAlaska Pipeline goes across the Yukon River.
27 As soon as the road went through that became quickly
28 known as a world class pike fishery, the Dall River,
29 and so without regulations it was flooded and nobody
30 did anything about it. Needless to say the resources
31 of that area were depleted. And it was no longer (In
32 Native), and so the elders came to me and said, go --
33 you need to talk to somebody about helping that place
34 down there and so I did. I went and I talked to Fish
35 and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game, and it was at
36 that time one of the Fish and Game biologists turned to
37 me and said, go home, we got this, and I said, but
38 there's a problem down there, and he said -- they said
39 we've got no data to indicate that there's a problem
40 down there. No data to tell us that there is a problem
41 down there and so they disregarded it but with a lot of
42 public screaming and hollering they finally said, okay,
43 let's take a look at it. So needless to say we took a
44 look at it and they brought us right back around the
45 same circle and said, see, the data does not indicate a
46 problem.

47
48 And so that was a huge, huge wake up
49 call for me that we knew there was a problem, yet, the
50

1 managing agency said that there was no problem.

2

3 So I am extremely, extremely worried
4 that this is going to be another situation like that.

5

6 When our folks are in dire need and
7 screaming for food security, we need to pay attention
8 to that. I mentioned yesterday that a lot of our folks
9 submitted requests for relief from the State, extend
10 the hunting season here or there, or allow people to go
11 out and get some meat to feed the village, and that was
12 just flatly denied. And as I mentioned, one of the
13 reasons was conservation concerns. They were worried
14 about depleting resources which would inhibit future
15 hunts for their many constituents. And so in light of
16 that blatant disregard, we're worried that this may be
17 another one of those situations and I'm begging that we
18 pay a little bit of attention to this because what's
19 happening out there on the ground is real to our folks.

20

21 I mentioned earlier that they don't
22 have paychecks. They don't have Fred Meyers down the
23 street that they can easily go to, they have to go out
24 and hunt their food down. And right now we're trying
25 desperately to abide by the regulations, we're trying
26 hard. What do you do when the regulation says, ah,
27 well, according to these words, you can't go eat. What
28 do you do. What do we do. And like Mr. Jackson said
29 earlier, we're very likely going to have to go and feed
30 our families.

31

32 And so I believe this is a great
33 opportunity for us to come together and work this thing
34 out. If we do not, we're going to have a tremendous
35 amount of criminalization of our people doing what they
36 do, living their lives, being who they are. That is
37 not necessarily the way that I think anyone wants to
38 go, especially when we all know that the Alaska Native
39 people have a direct connection to the land and the
40 animals that surround us.

41

42 We all know that when you tell that
43 Native man there that he can't do his job, his job is
44 to feed the people, protect the weak, we have told him,
45 don't do that, go sit on the couch, there's some
46 commodity cheese; that disconnection right there breeds
47 incredible amount of turmoil and that breeds, I
48 believe, a lot of the social ills that plague us these
49 days. I know of a man right now that is probably early

50

1 to mid-60s. He spent his entire life serving the
2 people. Every time there was a need he was there.
3 Every time we had to dig a grave he was there. Every
4 time that there was something to do in the community he
5 was there, he was being a positive force in the world.
6 He was cutting wood for grandparents. He was bringing
7 soup to the elder that couldn't get out of their house.
8 He was bringing wood to the single parent that had a
9 hard time getting out. And then we disconnected him
10 from that job. He ended up on the sidewalk. Now, he's
11 less of a powerful service to the community. Now he's
12 involved in the judicial system. Now he's taking up a
13 lot of the resources that shouldn't be used in this
14 regard.

15
16 We need to reconnect our people with
17 the land and the animals.

18
19 We need to establish again the ability
20 for our folks to go out there without fear of
21 criminalization and do what they do. The benefits to
22 this is going to be immense. It's going to be immense.
23 And I'm begging you that you go through the hard
24 discussions, you feel the fear and you try to help
25 those that OSM is supposed to help at the very core.

26
27 Mr. Chairman, I'm anxious to see how
28 much we can do to help those folks out there in our
29 villages.

30
31 With that I'll thank you for your time
32 and your attention. I didn't mean to be that long.

33
34 So, thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
37 Appreciate you calling in today to speak to the issue.
38 Again, I applaud everybody who is taking that time to
39 clearly express the concerns out there in rural Alaska
40 and what our immediate needs are.

41
42 Any questions for Ben.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate
47 that Ben, and the best to you and your community.

48
49 Operator, we'll move on to the next.

50

1 OPERATOR: The next comment comes from
2 Tisha Kuhns, your line is open.

3
4 MS. KUHNS: Good morning, I am Tisha
5 Kuhns. I am the vice president of land and natural
6 resources for Calista Corporation. And we thank you
7 today, Operator, Board and Chairman for the opportunity
8 to comment.

9
10 Calista is one of 12 Alaska Native
11 Corporations created under the ANCSA law of 1971
12 encompassing a land entitlement of 6.5 million acres
13 which include communities served by multiple Game
14 Units. The Calista region has 56 villages and 46
15 tribes, with a shareholder base of over 31,000
16 shareholders. These communities continually struggle
17 with housing shortages, limited water, sanitary and
18 sewer infrastructure, village erosion and limited
19 healthcare facilities and personnel. Covid-19 further
20 complicates these village issues and would create an
21 unfathomable strain on limited resources if it reaches
22 these villages. Access to traditional food offsets the
23 limited access to commercial groceries in many of these
24 communities.

25
26 Calista urges expedited action for
27 emergency special requests for hunt, and in particular
28 game units that are managed in the region. With Ravn
29 filing for bankruptcy, the sudden loss of essential air
30 service to regional communities places additional
31 strain on weather dependent delivery of mail and food.

32
33 Approving a special request would not
34 impact these short opening opportunities, we believe,
35 as our region's moose population has remained strong
36 since the moratorium was lifted around 2015. We
37 encourage your consideration and approval for emergency
38 request that will be coming in the near future and we
39 believe this will also lessen the activity of illegal
40 hunt.

41
42 Again, thank you to the Board and
43 Chairman for the opportunity to make comment.

44
45 And I do have one question, Calista
46 provided a letter of support for Game Management Unit
47 19A for an emergency opening request and I haven't
48 heard back or have gotten feedback on that status for
49 that request.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
4 Thank you for calling in. And I'm not sure, Tom, is
5 there Staff that has an answer to the question.
6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tony, this is Tom.
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom.
10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, anything that was
12 part of a special action request and are part of that
13 package are being reviewed right now along with any
14 special action and so that would be part of it. We'll
15 make sure that Staff doublechecks to make sure that
16 Calista Corporation's comments were part of that
17 package.
18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
22 Thank you for that. And, again, thank you for calling
23 in, I appreciate that.
24

25 Operator, next caller.
26

27 OPERATOR: Our next comment is from
28 Courtenay Carty, your line is open.
29

30 MS. CARTY: Good morning, thank you,
31 Operator, Mr. Chair, members of the Board, and our
32 passionate and engaged subsistence harvesters and
33 participants in this very important process.
34

35 I do have two questions of the Board
36 this morning before I get into my testimony.
37

38 I know we've heard already that this is
39 our rush through day and I know we've also heard a lot
40 of testimony about food security and the SARs so I just
41 want to maybe ask if that is on the agenda, and I'm
42 tracking the agenda on line and it is not listed as an
43 amended agenda item. So that's one question.
44

45 The second question is just maybe so we
46 could understand, those of us who are on the line,
47 we're hearing every region of our state calling about
48 their SARs except for maybe us and it was interesting,
49 our caribou hunt ended March 31st, right when we were
50

1 really, really rapidly responding to Covid, as we still
2 are, I'm going to include one agenda item comment in my
3 testimony this morning because I'm going to be wrapped
4 up in Covid calls from 11:00 to probably 3:00 today and
5 I'm not sure I'm going to be able to pop back on, but I
6 really hope the SAR issue does get on the agenda and
7 food security might be the better word.

8
9 But maybe how many SARs have been
10 submitted or are in process right now?

11
12 Maybe I could start with the questions
13 and then get into my testimony after they're answered.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, this is Tom,
16 again.

17
18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, this is Tom.
22 Maybe, through the Chair, I could answer those
23 questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.....

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, is Mr.
30 Christianson still on line.

31
32 OPERATOR: Unfortunately it seems he is
33 disconnected, one moment as we wait for him to dial
34 back in.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Board Member Pitka,
37 through you, can I answer those questions?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, at this time,
42 can I make a poll to see who is still on line from the
43 Federal Subsistence Board?

44
45 OPERATOR: Yes, sir, all participants
46 that have open lines on our list are currently on.

47
48 We currently do not have Rhonda on or
49 Jack. We also do not have the Chair, Anthony.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just came
4 back in.

5

6 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, I'm back
7 on.

8

9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom.

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: So, Mr. Chair, you are
14 back on?

15

16 MS. PITKA: No, Rhonda is back on.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom. Tom,
21 could you hear me?

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, I can.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I'm back
26 on now, Tom.

27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. I was just going
29 to answer a question relative to Board agenda from the
30 public relative to SARs.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Tom,
33 thank you, I appreciate that. I heard her asking
34 questions and I got cut off, so sorry about that.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, no problem.

37

38 MS. PITKA: The last thing I heard her
39 say was I want to ask two questions and then I got cut
40 off.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. The questions
43 are whether it was on the agenda, yes, at the other
44 business section at the end of the agenda. The Board
45 will be discussing food security issues. We do have,
46 at least, eight special action proposals from
47 throughout the state that we're analyzing and working
48 through process with.

49

50

1 MS. CARTY: Through the Chair. Thank
2 you so much, Tom. I appreciate those answers.
3

4 For the record, I guess we said my
5 name, but Courtenay Carty, tribal administrator for
6 Curyung Tribal Council. We are the Federally-
7 recognized tribe of Dillingham, Alaska.
8

9 (In Native) is my name.
10

11 I'm going to try to stay on track.
12 It's a little much hearing everybody this whole week.
13 I will be off the call later today dealing with Covid
14 calls.
15

16 I'll reiterate our tribes continued
17 request for a Section .810 analysis on the BLM 17(b)
18 land easements that are traversing the mine imprint
19 project, imprint for the proposed Pebble project.
20

21 I appreciate you guys answering my
22 questions today, that helps me clear up some of what I
23 was going to say.
24

25 I do want to get some of my comments
26 that I made in tribal consultation, boy, I think it was
27 on Monday, into the record regarding delegated
28 authority from the Refuge Manager for management of
29 subsistence resources in their land units, and then
30 also tribal council permit distribution.
31

32 It's kind of directly in regards to --
33 or at consultation I spoke to it in regards to deferred
34 Proposal WP18-19, which I'm not sure if I'll be able to
35 be on for later. But I think it's a very important
36 task that our council provides for our community and I
37 think it's an honor that I would love that we'd be able
38 to share with the Ahtna people. There are many other
39 tribes in Alaska who are able to process Federal
40 permits for their community members, Native and non-
41 Native alike, and I think it's very important to our
42 community connectedness and that social fabric that is
43 brought to our villages and towns tied to our
44 connection to the land as people who live here
45 irregardless of whether or not we're indigenous. A lot
46 of times the only Native facility people in Dillingham
47 travel to or visit is the hospital, BBAHC but every
48 summer when the season's getting ready to start in
49 August and our permits come in and then as soon as we
50

1 get snow-pack and then of course right before the end
2 of season we get a rush of our non-Native neighbors and
3 our Native people coming in to our building to get
4 their caribou permits and it's a very important time
5 because aside from seeing some masks and beautiful
6 carving and art out at the hospital on display, it's
7 really their only time that they're interacting with us
8 as an organization as a people and so they're able to
9 see some of our displays that provide education on our
10 history, the tribal people and community, and a lot of
11 times they leave there, you know, connecting with a
12 person that maybe they didn't know in town that they
13 can now say hi to at the grocery store or maybe go
14 hunting with. But also learning more about the
15 community in which they live in and some of the strong
16 roots and history that we have in our places.
17

18 So I think that's a very important
19 component and should be something that the Federal
20 Subsistence Board and the system, the amazing Staff and
21 workers that we have look into expanding and making
22 available in more communities.
23

24 I guess in ending I just want to really
25 encourage our Federal partners at the Board and your
26 Staff levels within the agencies, to please work with
27 the communities, which -- I guess the communities of
28 your land units, or wherever your nexus may be to,
29 irregardless of what the State is doing, ensure the
30 public safety in those communities in regards to Covid
31 and if the tribal council has a non-essential travel
32 ban, please try to understand your community's needs
33 and ability or lack thereof to respond to this public
34 health crises. And if we are going into communities for
35 field work this summer and research, that we're
36 practicing safe social distancing measures and
37 quarantining, et cetera, in accordance to local village
38 law.
39

40 That's all I have today.
41

42 I really appreciate everyone on the
43 line, the participants, you know, it used to be that it
44 was just us who have careers working to advocate for
45 the subsistence rights of our people who are calling in
46 on the line all the time or going to the meetings and
47 every meeting we hear more and more harvesters calling
48 in and families calling in and agencies and tribe's
49 providing testimony and so every meeting I feel like
50

1 we're doing a better and better job and this is what
2 we're supposed to do. So I'm really looking forward to
3 getting through my other calls and getting back on the
4 line at the end of the day to hear the conversation
5 about food security and if any tribes are available and
6 not calling in, and don't have the information, please
7 connect with the BIA every Tuesday and Thursday at
8 1:30, there's an all tribes call in response to Covid
9 and food security is talked about at those meetings.

10

11 Thank you, so much.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
14 Courtenay, for taking the time to call in today. Any
15 questions for Courtenay.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The best to you
20 and your community, Courtenay. Appreciate, again, you
21 taking the time to call in.

22

23 Operator.....

24

25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

29

30 (Teleconference interference -
31 participants not muted)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello,
34 somebody's.....

35

36 MS. CARTY: Hi, I can hear you on line.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, it's
42 coming from Greg's line.

43

44 MS. PITKA: Siekaniec, we can hear you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.
47 Operator, if you could let us know the next public
48 testifier, please.

49

50

1 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, I have
2 muted Greg's line for now. Our next public comment
3 comes from Bruce Irvin, your line is now open.
4

5 MR. IRVIN: Good morning, Chairman and
6 members of the Board, can you guys hear me?
7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
9 Bruce, I could hear you loud and clear.
10

11 MR. IRVIN: Thank you, Chairman,
12 members of the Board and Staff. I'm glad to be back on
13 here again today.
14

15 You know, I want to echo my boss, Ben
16 Stevens, and for the record my name is Bruce Irvin, I
17 work for Tanana Chief Conference, I'm the natural and
18 cultural resources research coordinator.
19

20 And I just want to get back on here
21 again and, you know, recap, refocus on the special
22 action request for the Tanana Chiefs Conference region.
23

24 I guess I'd like to start out just, you
25 know, maybe starting off with maybe like an analogy,
26 and I don't know if it'll even come close to what
27 tribes all over Alaska experience.
28

29 You know think about your garden, you
30 know, you start it out, you plant that seed, you watch
31 it grow, you take care of it, you water it, you make
32 sure that it's taken care of. You know, you have to do
33 certain things to make sure your garden flourishes.
34 You can't just, you know, overharvest, you can't take
35 more than what's needed. And when you're ready to go
36 out there and you see that tomato that's just ripe,
37 ready to go, you know, you see your pumpkin growing
38 over there and it makes you feel really good, you know,
39 you have a source of food that you can rely on. And
40 the more better that you take care of it, the more you
41 end up with. And a part of that is sharing with your
42 family and your community.
43

44 So when you think about it, and you go
45 out there and you look at that tomato, oh, man, that
46 tomato is ready to go, I want to -- I should take some
47 of that today so I can feed my family. And then you
48 look at the regulations, am I able to take that today,
49 does the law say that what I've been taking care of
50

1 (indiscernible-muffled), am I able to take that and
2 feed my family today.

3
4 That's what we're dealing with.

5
6 We have -- sorry -- we have every right
7 to provide for our families.

8
9 (Pause)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello?

12
13 MR. IRVIN: And we do not waste
14 anything. We use every part of that animal. You know
15 we do not take more than what is needed and we share it
16 with the community and all tribes all over Alaska,
17 we're all saying the same thing.

18
19 (Pause)

20
21 MR. IRVIN: Sorry. I don't know how
22 else to say it and we've all been talking about it and
23 we try to come up with ways to convey that from a
24 Alaska Native perspective to all kinds of different
25 perspectives, we're all one people.

26
27 So I just want to speak up today and
28 our ancestors and creators stand behind us. We're not
29 alone. We've done this for thousands of generations.
30 So if you think about it in another analogy, tribes our
31 elders, when our elders ask for something we have to
32 honor it so I just want to say thank you, Mr. Chairman
33 and members of the Board.

34
35 Thank you for letting me talk today and
36 I hope that we come to some agreement, and we really
37 need to.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
42 taking the time to call in today and giving your
43 testimony. It's important that we hear how this
44 affects everybody so thank you and appreciate your
45 words.

46
47 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
48 comes from Brooke Wood, your line is open.

49
50

1 MS. WOOD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
2 and members of the Board. My name is Brooke Wood and I
3 grew up in Rampart Alaska. I had to move from my
4 village to get an education and shortly after I
5 returned.
6

7 And, again, I wanted to testify on the
8 importance of the decisions made by the Board and
9 agencies on ensuring that our rural communities have
10 food security. And I just wanted to recognize the
11 testimony of Bruce Irvin, my colleague, we are
12 committed to having a long-term relationship with
13 agencies as tribal members and we go to the extent of
14 getting a Western education to be validated in these
15 management meetings but also have the responsibility of
16 learning from our elders, our matriarchs and ensuring
17 that our ways of life survive because they were
18 intentionally taken away from us through assimilation
19 and you heard from my other colleague, Ben Stevens, on
20 the social impacts to our communities and we come to
21 you very humbly and ask that you meet the needs for our
22 communities. Although there are avenues in which the
23 State would like to provide food to our communities,
24 the real need is the food that is from the land. And
25 not every community is requesting emergency hunts, but
26 they are necessary for the survival of our people.
27

28 So I just want to reiterate the
29 importance of these SAR requests that you are
30 receiving, and the ones that you will receive in the
31 future.
32

33 Thank you so much for your time.
34

35 I was just inspired by my colleague to,
36 once, again, testify.
37

38 If you have any questions, please ask
39 me now.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 Appreciate you taking the time to call in and testify.
43 Any questions.
44

45 (No comments)
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, the
48 best to you and your community.
49
50

1 Operator, is there another public
2 member.

3
4 OPERATOR: Yes, there is one more
5 public comment. Our next public comment comes from
6 Karen Linnell, your line is open.

7
8 MS. LINNELL: Good morning, it's for
9 Hanalee Sanford.

10
11 MS. SANFORD: Good morning, Mr. Chair
12 and Operator and the members of the Board. My name is
13 Hanalee Sanford from Mentasta.

14
15 First of all I'd like to encourage that
16 the SAR to allow the hunt for -- during the Covid-19,
17 especially with all the travel bans in the rural
18 communities that rely on the planes and ferries to
19 deliver groceries, and also that don't have the
20 abundance that we have in our area, the -- but -- to
21 get groceries. But where I live you have to travel 50
22 miles to go to the grocery store or 100 miles or more
23 just to get, you know, milk and eggs. And that, too,
24 is low in our area, a lot of the shelves are empty, no
25 flour, no rice, and I recently went to the store last
26 week and the price of hamburger went up and we get a
27 lot of hamburger because that's kind of like the
28 cheapest on the rack besides to get beef and other
29 things, but, even the price of hamburger went up. In
30 my community 90 percent of the community is poverty and
31 they rely on food stamps and other options.

32
33 But I would really like to encourage
34 the Board to really take this seriously for our rural
35 communities that do not have a road system and they
36 have to rely on their food off the land. And this is
37 really important to provide for their families for
38 food.

39
40 And also I'd like to support other
41 areas on this issues, and approving this request will
42 help the communities all around in rural Alaska.

43
44 And I would just like to thank you, Mr.
45 Chair, for listening and the Board.

46
47 OPERATOR: And would you like to go to
48 the next question?

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that. Yes, Operator, we would. Thank you for calling
3 in today, appreciate you taking the time.

4
5 OPERATOR: Thank you. The next comment
6 comes from Shirley Sinclair, you may go ahead.

7
8 MS. SINCLAIR: Good morning, can you
9 hear me okay?

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
12 Shirley, hear you fine.

13
14 MS. SINCLAIR: Hi, how you doing Mr.
15 Christianson and Board. I regret not having you guys
16 up here in Ahtna Country for the meeting because of the
17 Covid, but I'm here on the special action request.

18
19 It is, it's getting kind of scary that
20 we have no store you could get a decent price of food,
21 and you have to go all the way to Anchorage or you got
22 to go to Fairbanks, then you can have like a Carrs or a
23 Fred Meyers. We have an IGA here in Glennallen, and
24 it's ridiculously high priced meat there. And I mean
25 if we're really hungry we'll buy it but, you know, I'd
26 really like to have moose we cook, but, yeah, we really
27 enjoy to have food -- more Native food in my
28 refrigerator and freezer. It's kind of -- I'm kind of
29 a little nervous, I'm not really good at speaking but
30 I'm looking at my phone and it's telling me it's okay.

31
32 So, okay, another thing was like I was
33 listening to Bruce Irvin and it came to my mind, before
34 he came, and I said, wow, he's saying the same thing as
35 I am, but, you know, when your garden comes along and
36 you want your -- you're really hungry for it, and when
37 you have no other food around and the next thing that
38 comes to your mind is your Native foods, that's your
39 soul food, that's what you want to have, that makes you
40 feel good inside, you know, when you're hungry, nothing
41 can fill you up more than your Native foods. Also not
42 seeing your family, it's pretty (indiscernible-
43 muffled)

44
45 It would be so awesome if you guys
46 could do the special action request for them and us
47 too, we put one out too, and I think we were rejected
48 from the State, too. So we're relying on you guys,
49 you're our subsistence people and we need you to help
50

1 us. And really keep -- I mean -- and I've listened to
2 all these -- I've been listening to you guys all week,
3 I've been in here all week and it's so good to hear all
4 the familiar voices and touching base, and I felt like
5 I was there.

6
7 We just need these special requests for
8 our people. And like everybody keeps saying we don't
9 overtake or waste anything and we -- we -- you know, I
10 have a moose hide outside right now just thawing out,
11 I'm going to scrape it up this spring, and hopefully I
12 can get some moose skin and get some projects going
13 with that. I haven't done it before but I'm going to
14 try.

15
16 And I had so many things I was going to
17 talk about but anyways I hope you guys really, really,
18 really think about what it is like to really be out
19 here and not have a store that has decent prices.
20 There's a little store here that's a little off the
21 beaten road there, the prices are -- it's a little tiny
22 store, I go to it to get my Coffeemate and my eggs all
23 the time but it's not a big store, it doesn't have
24 fresh meat, it doesn't have meat, it doesn't have
25 anything like that. But prices up here, it's really
26 high and it's -- if you don't have enough funds in your
27 -- all your electric, I have a house payment, I have
28 insurance for my car and I have everything else and
29 then you realize, oh, I didn't buy any groceries and
30 then you look in your pocket, oh, you got, maybe \$50
31 for the month, that's not going to get me very far, I
32 guess I'm going to go on a diet, but, you know, it's
33 really hard to live up in -- and I can't imagine what
34 it's like to live out there where you don't have all
35 these things, like a local store, that could provide
36 for you. Summertime is a good time for us, we can
37 garden.

38
39 But, anyway, it would be really good to
40 have that special action request for us, it would
41 really help us out.

42
43 I wasn't prepared today but I decided I
44 better put my two cents in and thank you for listening
45 to me and I hope everybody has convinced you guys how
46 important this is to us because it is very important.

47
48 Thank you.

1 Any questions.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
4 Thank you for taking the time to call in today, really
5 appreciate it.
6

7
8 (No comments)
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
11 Operator, is there any other public on line.
12

13 OPERATOR: Thank you. Carrie Stevens,
14 you may go ahead.
15

16 MS. STEVENS: Good morning, thank you.
17 Can everyone hear me?
18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Carrie,
20 could hear you fine.
21

22 MS. STEVENS: Good morning. Thank you,
23 Chairman Christianson. Thank you for your service.
24 Thank you to the Board.
25

26 And I really also want to especially
27 thank Tribal Liaison, Orville Lind, for his work, as a
28 single individual responsible for tribal consultation
29 of over 200 tribes in Alaska. And that is no easy
30 task, and also represent the inadequacies of this
31 system as intended by law.
32

33 My name is Carrie Stevens and I am
34 faculty at UAF. I'm used to seeing all of your faces
35 during the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. As you
36 know I teach introduction to the Federal Subsistence
37 Board, we currently have over a dozen students in the
38 course and I very much want to thank you all for your
39 time and your service. I know that it's not an easy
40 task.
41

42 As you also know in all of my work, I
43 very rarely speak directly to you at this time, and a
44 few things have been weighing on me that are very
45 clearly outlined both in Federal law and regulation and
46 in numerous published and unpublished academic reports,
47 and I just wanted to share that with all of you today
48 and for everyone on the line. I felt compelled to
49 speak to all of you today.
50

1 I want to share that we are here today
2 because in 1971 in the Congressional record, in the
3 Conference Committee reports during the passage of
4 ANCSA it was documented there was the expectation that
5 the Secretary of the Interior and the State of Alaska
6 would take action necessary to protect the Alaska
7 Native way of life and subsistence needs.
8

9 So I just want to ensure that we have
10 no question as to why you exist and as to why Title
11 VIII of ANILCA was drafted and passed.
12

13 Also I just want to read a little bit
14 of .801 and I hope that everybody is listening. I
15 can't see the Board members faces, and I hope that
16 you're all listening now, especially I don't know all
17 of you that are new agency heads and previous agency
18 heads, your education and training on the history of
19 Alaska Native subsistence and ANILCA, Title VIII, and
20 the regulation. And you exist today for the
21 continuation of the opportunity for subsistence use by
22 Alaska Natives on public lands and on Alaska Native
23 held lands. And 40 years ago, we are at the 40 year
24 anniversary of ANILCA, it was written into Federal law
25 that this way of life is essential to Native physical,
26 economical, traditional and cultural existence. We do
27 not need to further question that. And in additionally
28 in Section .801, it clearly demonstrates that this is
29 under threat. IT says this is threatened by increasing
30 population of Alaska which will result in pressure on
31 subsistence resources by sudden decline in the
32 population of some resources and increase accessibility
33 of remote areas and by taking of fish and wildlife in
34 manner inconsistent with recognized principles. And so
35 Congress enacted ANILCA to fulfill the policies and
36 purposes of ANCSA as a matter of equity and to evoke
37 its Constitutional authority over Native affairs and
38 Constitutional authority under the property clause and
39 the commerce cause to protect and provide opportunity
40 for subsistence by Alaska Natives.
41

42 So I just want to remind us of that
43 today and every day that you sit there, that ANILCA
44 Title VIII was written because of the promise and
45 because of the trust responsibility as clearly outlined
46 there. And to provide, to protect and to serve tribal
47 governments and Native peoples in this country.
48

49 I just think that's very clear for us
50

1 to outline repetitively because I often have students
2 questioning why was Title VIII of ANILCA written and
3 what is the purpose and it shouldn't be called into
4 question 40 years later. We know under the 2010
5 Secretarial Review of the Federal Subsistence
6 Management Program that there are deep concerns within
7 the Federal Government itself that it's not meeting the
8 intent and purposes of ANILCA, Title VIII. And I
9 appreciate that work and the fact that we now have
10 Rhonda Pitka and Charles Brower sitting on the Board.

11
12 Other things that were called for at
13 that time that have yet to be fulfilled, such as
14 increase .809 agreements, ASA and self-governance
15 agreements with tribal governments and Alaska Native
16 organizations. If these were entered into you wouldn't
17 see a slough of public testimony that tribal government
18 needs are not being met. And I encourage you to
19 continue to seek out .809 agreements, to seek out Title
20 4 Indian Self-Determination Education and Assistance
21 Act, annual funding agreements, these can be used to
22 address the request of special action requests. You
23 have so many tools in your tool box already in
24 existence if you have the courage and the respect and
25 the trust to use them to empower tribal governments.

26
27 In 2012 the Alliance for Just Society
28 published Survival Denied, highlighting the
29 criminalization of Alaska Natives for feeding their
30 people.

31
32 In March of 2013 there was a
33 Congressional briefing held on Capital Hill and at that
34 time, former Senator Mark Begich declared he knew no
35 one better than Alaska Natives to manage resources to
36 provide for their own people.

37
38 This is not a question. We all know
39 this answer. It has been documented repetitively, but
40 we also know it has been repetitively documented as in
41 a report by Larry Mercurief that was produced for the
42 College of Rural and Community Development and funded
43 by the Oak Foundation, published July 30th of 2012,
44 that there is a severe lack of trust between Federal
45 agency managers and Alaska Natives. In that report
46 both Federal managers and Alaska Natives were surveyed
47 and they both said they do not trust one another. This
48 also should not be a question, we know this to be true.

1 In 2015 to start to address this issue,
2 the University of Alaska-Fairbanks posted the first co-
3 management symposium, there were over 200 individuals
4 in attendance at the symposium, tribal, State, Federal
5 representatives, to build trust, to build relationships
6 to work together. And I want to read a quote from the
7 words of Deputy Assistant Regional Director for the
8 Alaska Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at that
9 time: I'm very touched by elders openness, and sharing
10 experiences that were painful for them personally and
11 collectively. It was that honest and authentic sharing
12 that helped me to understand the desire for more
13 control over subsistence resources in a more visceral
14 way. As someone who has lived in Alaska for the
15 majority of my life, I am well versed in ANCSA and
16 ANILCA. I understand the rights and history associated
17 with those laws. Hearing Mr. Justin and others helps my
18 heart to better understand.

19
20 I just encourage you to, as Board
21 members, as you consider both proposals, the continuing
22 requests put before you from Ahtna Incorporated, and
23 others, that you consider these facts, these truths
24 that have been proven time and again in academic
25 reports. And also to remind yourself that you know
26 that you have the tools and the authority to not only
27 answer in a timely manner this emergency special action
28 request before you at this time, but to create a
29 Federal Subsistence Management Program that would not
30 cause a crises, that would meet the intent of the law
31 passed 40 years ago.

32
33 I just have one more point I wanted to
34 share, I apologize if I am taking too long.

35
36 And that is from the Alaska Department
37 of Fish and Game, Division of Subsistence, July 2018
38 report published by James A. Fall and Marilyn L. Cotzik
39 (ph) Food Security and Wild Resource Harvest in Alaska.
40 Again, this is not a question. The USDA defines food
41 security as access by all people at all times to enough
42 food for an active and healthy life.

43
44 In this report it's everything we've
45 been discussing is clearly identified and we continue
46 to repeat ourselves. Quote: Compared to other states,
47 Alaska faces unique food security challenge because of
48 its remoteness, high cost of transportation, limited
49 agricultural production and high reliance on imported
50

1 food. Also unique to Alaska is the major role that
2 harvesting wild foods through fishing, hunting and
3 gathering plays in support of food security. Indeed,
4 as noted in the report Building Food Security in
5 Alaska, the main source of local food in the state of
6 Alaska today is subsistence and personal use gathering.
7

8 I encourage you to review this report.
9 The conclusion of the report says what can be done to
10 enhance Alaska food security as it relates to fish and
11 wildlife. Again, these are truths that are self-
12 evident that we all know to be true. Quote: Promote
13 regulatory flexibility in response to changes in the
14 timing, distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife
15 populations. Promote the use of subsistence foods.
16 Support and enhance involvement of resource users in
17 the fish and wildlife management system including the
18 documentation and application of local and traditional
19 knowledge and observations. Support and enhance
20 sustainable fish and wildlife management. It says
21 current initiatives that are being carried out while
22 food policy through access to local wild foods, the
23 State of Alaska itself has published this document
24 repetitively in technical documents, technical papers
25 as they're called by ADF&G, has also acknowledged these
26 things, yet, we see ADF&G issuing the importance of
27 personal and sport use fisheries at this time and the
28 need for Alaskans to participate in those but yet not
29 allowing tribal government and villages to feed
30 themselves. They're only asking to feed themselves in
31 a respectful and culturally and historically and
32 healthy appropriate manner that makes them whole.
33

34 I encourage you to consider that as you
35 push forward your decision today on the proper way to
36 address the special action request before you and I
37 also ask you while you consider that, to address the
38 documented mistrust between land managers and tribal
39 governments.
40

41 Again, I thank you for listening. I
42 hope that you are. I thank you for your time. I thank
43 you for your service.
44

45 And I want to say (In Native) to
46 everyone who has spoken over this last week.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Brooke [sic]. Any questions for Brooke [sic].

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
7 giving us a lesson on .801.

8
9 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Professor
10 Stevens. Your resource list, can you please email it
11 out to me. Thank you.

12
13 OPERATOR: And the next caller is Jim
14 Simon, you may go ahead, Sir.

15
16 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Chairman. Thank
17 you, Operator, and other members of the Board, and
18 Federal Staff. For this opportunity to speak.

19
20 My name is Jim Simon. I am a former
21 Federally-qualified user, I'm from the Ahtna region.
22 In the early 70s about the time that ANCSA was being
23 passed, some of my first memories were of my father
24 explaining the remains of an old reindeer -- pardon me
25 -- caribou corral around Old Man Lake as well as I
26 learned about the old fish weir there and traps to use
27 to get fish. And those childhood experiences resulted
28 in me dedicating my career to working with subsistence
29 issues in Alaska and more than 30 years of working with
30 tribes and corporations to address tribal rights and
31 subsistence resources.

32
33 I just want to share an observation of
34 those 30 years, I have seen the Federal Subsistence
35 Program increasing align with the Department of Fish
36 and Game approach to providing for customary and
37 traditional uses, and as we have witnessed throughout
38 this week, there are so many cases where there is a
39 lack of biological information and that just want to
40 point out that if the Federal Subsistence Board was
41 truly providing for customary and traditional uses, we
42 would have a lot more biological information. When you
43 -- when the customary and traditional ways of gathering
44 caribou with corral complexes and fences as well as
45 fish weirs and traps, that provided local people with a
46 good characterization of the status of the various
47 populations that they depend on for a means of making a
48 living during an annual round of subsistence
49 activities. Increasingly today we see a two week
50

1 hunting period here and there in order to provide for a
2 whole years worth of nutritional and food security
3 need. And I think it's important to recognize,
4 especially since so many Federal subsistence Board
5 members from the agencies are not particularly familiar
6 with Alaska or life in rural Alaska, to recognize that
7 turning tribal citizens who have a multi-generational
8 relationship to the land and the resources to ensure
9 food security, that those continue to be forcing local
10 rural people to act like sporthunters, and worry about
11 how many brow tines are here and there, this is a
12 continued erosion of this relationship between tribal
13 citizens and the resources that they have stewarded for
14 many generations.

15
16 I'm reminded -- you know, I ended up
17 getting two graduate degrees from UAF in anthropology.
18 I worked for what used to be called the Division of
19 Subsistence at the Department of Fish and Game for 14
20 years, as a regional supervisor for the northern two-
21 thirds of the State, well that Division no longer
22 exists, there are at least some Staff still left within
23 the Commissioner's office, I believe, but they are not
24 really part of the leadership anymore, but as the
25 previous speaker spoke to, there's a lot of information
26 available at the Department of Fish and Game, and I
27 hope that in this close relationship that exists
28 between the Federal agency Board members and the
29 Department of Fish and Game, that you are accessing all
30 of the specific community food security data that
31 compares both statewide food security, USDA protocols
32 with national protocols, that really demonstrates the
33 importance of wild foods to rural community food
34 security as Carrie mentioned previously.

35
36 I also am reminded in this conversation
37 of an experience I had about 14 years ago at the
38 confluence of the Porcupine River and the Yukon River,
39 at the Gwichyaa, the Native Tribe of Fort Yukon culture
40 camp, where we had elders from throughout the Yukon
41 Flats and particularly Arctic Village, teaching young
42 people these old ways, how to build a fish trap, how to
43 understand how to deploy that technology because the
44 elders kept telling the students in that class, all of
45 this that we see now with regulation books, et cetera,
46 some day those may not be there anymore, and we'll have
47 to go back to our customary and traditional ways of
48 ensuring our communities survive, just as we always
49 did. And I think -- having a hard time not continuing
50

1 to hear the words of those elders in light of the
2 pandemic that's going on now.
3

4 It is 1918 for a non-Native such as
5 myself, you know, that was a long time ago, but for
6 rural Native people in these villages who still talk
7 and are dealing with the tragedy of those experiences
8 and the orphanages and the loss of life, is still very
9 much alive, and I think it's incumbent upon the Federal
10 Subsistence Board members from the agencies to
11 recognize this greater responsibility, this Federal
12 Indian Trust responsibility, the tribal citizens,
13 utilize all the various avenues and ways that you
14 already have available to work and expand your
15 relationship with tribes, and to do the hard work to
16 get over the mistrust that the academic articles have
17 characterized and as truths, and to really step up and
18 respond to this as an essential need for these
19 communities. And we're not talking about sporthunting
20 here, we're talking about the needs for better data by
21 working with local people on the ground and stop
22 relying so much on taking a little data point from way
23 over there and applying it to here because we don't
24 have anything else to use. Work with local people in
25 order to do it, to get this information and to truly
26 involve rural users in your management decisionmaking.
27

28 I am concerned about the tragedy of the
29 common here with these very respectful and reasonable
30 requests for out of season food security hunt requests
31 given the pandemic and the dramatic effect it's having
32 on, even those of us on the rural road system, are
33 experiencing, and that, yeah, there is food coming in
34 to Fairbanks and Delta Junction, but you can't
35 guarantee that that shelf is going to have anything on
36 it even here. And my experiences in rural Alaska
37 demonstrate that if I'm experiencing problems, I know
38 how dramatically severe it is off the road system in
39 these communities. And I implore you to take
40 affirmative action on these special action requests in
41 order to ensure a regulated, a respectful partnership
42 in ensuring that the tragedy of commons does not occur
43 and you can do that by working with the tribal
44 governments in order to have responsible community
45 leadership and guidance on providing these
46 opportunities.
47

48 Thank you, very much.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Jim.
2 Any questions for Jim.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 calling in today.

8
9 OPERATOR: Thank you. Our next
10 question comes from Dawn Jackson, you may go ahead.

11
12 MS. JACKSON: Good morning, can you
13 hear me?

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
16 Dawn, I can hear you well.

17
18 MS. JACKSON: Gunalcheesh, Mr. Chairman
19 and the Board for allowing me to have the floor this
20 morning. Before I go into my testimony I'd like to
21 introduce myself.

22
23 (In Tlingit)

24
25 My English name is Dawn Jackson. I am
26 the Executive Director of the Organized Village of
27 Kake, the Federally-recognized tribe of Kake, Alaska.
28 We're located in the heart of Southeast Alaska right
29 smack in the middle of the Tongass National Forest.

30
31 I'm calling in today to urge you, the
32 Federal Subsistence Board, to support the various
33 special action requests -- or emergency special action
34 requests submitted to the Board and to do it
35 expeditiously. Nowhere in our history have we ever
36 taken more than we need. It's just not something that
37 is physically capable -- we just can't do that as
38 humans. The consequence of were and are too heavy to
39 bear. Today, during this pandemic, food security is
40 even more important. I need not remind you of the
41 Federal trust responsibility you have to the tribes of
42 this state and why you meet every year to review
43 proposals that impact every single one of us.

44
45 OVK went through all of the hoops with
46 the State of Alaska to request an emergency hunt out of
47 season. Our season was from August 1st through end of
48 November, and this emergency pandemic happened in the
49 new year so it was way out of our hunting season.

50

1 And what we've requested hasn't been
2 much, and we don't need it right now but we want to
3 make sure that everything is in place due to the supply
4 chain that the government and the State has -- we've
5 been so trained over the past 50 or 60 years to rely on
6 food chains down in the Lower 48 with our 85 to 90
7 percent of our diet relies on imported and barged food
8 coming from the Lower 48, which is crazy.

9
10 I'm looking back at my notes.

11
12 The State denied this request.

13
14 And throughout the whole year, it
15 troubles me that the rural subsistence users are more
16 regulated and are the first to be pinched, all the
17 while sportsfishermen are allowed so much. We see the
18 boxes leaving the state, those are our traditional
19 foods leaving the state, hundreds, thousands of boxes
20 leaving on jets.

21
22 What has happened to the subsistence
23 users being the last to be impacted during this. Over
24 the years it's very concerning to me that the Federal
25 agencies are not according subsistence the highest
26 priority when considering management alternatives, yet,
27 this was drafted in ANILCA, Title VIII, it needs to be
28 followed and we need to go back to that.

29
30 I implore you to move forward on the
31 SARs, we need it more than ever for our physical,
32 mental and spiritual health during this uncertain time
33 of isolation and lockdown. As rural and as Natives, we
34 have been experiencing so much inter-generational
35 trauma and it comes out, you know, in the forms of
36 addiction and dysfunction and we need to heal, not only
37 do we need to heal that but I'm really scared of what
38 kind of mental issues are going to be coming out of
39 this social isolation and us not being able to come
40 together, the impacts are going to be -- I'm just
41 really worried for our people in the future after this
42 is over.

43
44 All the food chains, as I stated
45 before, they're being compromised and we need these
46 emergency access to our traditional foods, it is our
47 wellness and we need it now more than ever.

48
49 In closing, I would like the Board to
50

1 consider the management of resources to be delegated to
2 tribes. Through the Federal Self-Determination Act,
3 OVK was one of many tribes who negotiated a compact to
4 administer BIA funds and we have done it successfully
5 for over 25 years. Please explore this option as
6 tribes and ANCSA are trying to work together to protect
7 our tribal citizens in rural Alaska during this
8 pandemic.
9

10 I appreciate your time.
11

12 Gunalcheesh for all of your service of
13 sitting on the Board and making these hard decisions on
14 behalf of all of us.
15

16 Gunalcheesh. Howaa.
17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Howaa. Thank
19 you, Dawn, for taking the time to call in today and
20 share your community concerns.
21

22 Any questions for Dawn.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
27 Operator, can we go to the next public.
28

29 MS. JACKSON: Thank you.
30

31 OPERATOR: Our next comment comes from
32 Barbara Blake, your line is open.
33

34 MS. BLAKE: Chairman and members of the
35 Board, I thank you for allowing me to participate and
36 to provide testimony this morning.
37

38 My name is Barbara Blake, I currently
39 serve as Director of the Alaska Native Policy Center
40 with First Alaskan Institute. First Alaskans Institute
41 is a statewide Native non-profit that operates
42 throughout the state.
43

44 Calling in this morning to support the
45 tribal and tribal organizations special action requests
46 that have been made and to recognize the urgent need
47 for government to government compacting discussions to
48 be meaningful right now, and, further, hope, that you
49 will discuss and consider delegation of Federal
50

1 authority to tribes to manage hunting and fishing
2 especially right now through these Covid-19 concerns.
3

4 Alaska Native peoples, the first and
5 forever stewards of these lands are healthiest when
6 they are on their lands and in their waters doing the
7 hard work of harvesting and processing the nutrient
8 rich spiritual foods that have sustained us for
9 thousands of years. Alaska Natives know best how to
10 utilize their thousands of years of expertise on their
11 homelands to hunt, fish and gather in a proven
12 sustainable way, taking only what is needed. With even
13 more restricted access to grocery foods and the higher
14 cost of foods, Alaska Natives need to provide food for
15 their communities, elders, and those most vulnerable.
16 Alaska Native peoples are on the ground in their
17 ancestral homelands and as they always have, are
18 prepared to do what is necessary to protect and provide
19 for their communities.
20

21 Again, I am calling on all of you to
22 support the tribal and tribal organization SARs that
23 have been submitted and hope you will seriously
24 consider what a government to government compacting
25 discussion might look like now and into the future.
26

27 Howaa.

28 Gunalcheesh.

29 (In Tlingit)

30 Thank you, all.

31
32
33
34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Barb. Thank you for taking the time to call in today.
37 Any questions for Barb.
38

39 (No comments)
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And the best to
42 you. Operator, do we have another public member on
43 line.
44

45 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
46 comes from Marina Anderson, your line is open.
47

48 MS. ANDERSON: (In Tlingit) Marina
49 Anderson.
50

1 (In Tlingit)

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Board for
4 listening to my words today. My name is Marina
5 Anderson and I am calling in from Kasaan. I am the
6 Vice President for the Organized Village of Kasaan
7 Tribal Council.

8

9 In Kasaan, we have no open medical
10 facility, we don't have enough money in our budget to
11 even bring two citizens to the nearest clinic that is
12 over two hours away. We have no store here. And we
13 have a very highly vulnerable population. We have
14 irregular mail. Our mail comes once a week, weather
15 depending, and because of the pandemic our mail is shut
16 down actually for a few months.

17

18 We've been experiencing high
19 unemployment due to the virus and our families are
20 impacted heavily. Our villages in Alaska are small
21 generally and we're not asking for a lot. We're asking
22 to feed our people with clean protein and clean fat.
23 Our menstruating women need red meat. We need the
24 minerals and vitamins for our growing children and our
25 precious elders. The store's on the other side of the
26 island, they've got social distancing in place, but
27 there's not (indiscernible-muffled) really followed,
28 which makes shopping a game of Russian Roulette, not
29 only for the shopper but for our entire village.
30 Prevention of the coronavirus is essential as there is
31 currently no vaccine, we are doing our part. We are
32 practicing strong social distancing. We have one man
33 going in and out of the community to pick up groceries
34 and medication weekly, but as I said even going to the
35 store to pick up one box is playing a game of Russian
36 Roulette for our entire community.

37

38 We need you to let us keep our immune
39 systems high. We need to stay strong and healthy with
40 our quality food. Our community has already been
41 facing a food shortage before the impacts of the
42 coronavirus started. We had a plan to go out and get a
43 sea lion soon but because of the coronavirus and social
44 distancing rules that we are following very strictly,
45 we're not able to get a sea lion because it takes more
46 than two people to be able to get a sea lion and
47 process it for the community.

48

49 I spent days and I went over to the

50

1 other side of the island to get herring eggs for our
2 community and we were able to bring about 300 pounds of
3 herring eggs back for the community but that's not
4 enough food to sustain our community for the whole year
5 and we need balance. We need other vitamins and other
6 minerals that are in the fresh game that walks among
7 us.
8

9 Recently Congressman Don Young gave me
10 some advice when I was in his office in Washington,
11 D.C., and he stated this in regards to my question
12 about law enforcement, and the lack of law enforcement
13 in our villages, and what we could do as villages to
14 increase law enforcement. The advice that was given to
15 me from the Congressman was to take matters into our
16 own hands. If we don't want alcoholism in our village,
17 he told me to build a jail cell out of two by fours and
18 put the drunks in the jail cell. He said if there is a
19 shooting in the village, to have my financee, a Native
20 man, take his gun, take our deer hunting rifle and
21 defend the village with that gun. I'm assuming the
22 Congressman would suggest the same when it comes to
23 providing food for our people. Because the threat of
24 somebody who is experiencing alcoholism or the threat
25 of a shooter in our village is just as threatening as
26 the lack of food shortage for our people.
27

28 So today I'm urging you to please
29 approve the special action requests that are in front
30 of you, and approve them quickly.
31

32 Howaa.
33

34 Gunalcheesh.
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
37 Marina. Thank you for that perspective from Kasaan.
38 Any questions for Marina.
39

40 (No comments)
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
43 Operator, is there any other participants on line?
44

45 OPERATOR: We have no additional public
46 commenters at this time.
47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Operator, I appreciate that. And I appreciate
50

1 everybody that called in this morning to really give us
2 a grasp on the brevity of the situation and truly
3 commend all of your leadership across the state and
4 continue to hope the best for you and your communities
5 and success in these trying and troubling times. And
6 again we will do our best within the parameters of the
7 job that we have before us and, again, we're getting
8 tight now to actually get to that job so appreciate
9 everybody this morning.

10

11 So, with that, Tom, I think we'll take
12 five minutes and jump into the WP proposals where we
13 left off yesterday.

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Agreed, Mr. Chair.

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So come back in
19 five minutes.

20

21 (Off record)

22

23 (On record)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, Tom.

26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: We should make sure
28 everybody's here after the break.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep. We'll
31 make sure we have a quorum established.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Sir.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Don Striker, are you
38 on.

39

40 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, Operator, can we
43 make sure the lines are open for the speakers.

44

45 OPERATOR: Yes. All remaining speakers
46 that are on have open lines. I was also just speaking
47 with a Patricia McDonald who was trying to make a
48 public comment earlier but was having difficulties, and
49 she was wondering if you would be able to take her

50

1 public comment once you returned.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: That would be at the
4 discretion of the Chair, Operator.

5

6 OPERATOR: Understood. And let me know
7 when you're ready for me to open the lines.

8

9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, the lines should
10 be open.

11

12 OPERATOR: Understood. One moment as I
13 open up the lines to the conference, stand by.

14

15 (Pause)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I will
18 entertain knowing that there's been trouble with the
19 lines across the board, we'd hate to miss that
20 opportunity. I would just ask to keep it as brief as
21 possible as we are running up against the wall today
22 and if we are going to get to some of the agenda items
23 we've got to start clicking, so I would appreciate
24 that. But I would like her to have the opportunity.

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

27

28 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, the
29 lines are now open. If you would like to make a public
30 comment or did not get the chance to make a public
31 comment earlier, please star one from your phone.

32

33 (Pause)

34

35 OPERATOR: One moment, we have a few
36 people cuing in.

37

38 (Pause)

39

40 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
41 comes from Patricia McDonald, your line is open.

42

43 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you. Good
44 morning, my name is Patricia McDonald, I'm with the
45 Healy Lake Traditional Council.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning.

48

49 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you, Chairman

50

1 Christianson and thank you to the Board, the Operator
2 for your time, and for putting this opportunity
3 together for us to speak.
4

5 I would like to start by special thank
6 you to Carrie Stevens for her testimony, it was
7 informative and it was definitely -- it spoke exactly
8 what I would like to say on behalf of Healy Lake.
9

10 I want to tell you about Healy Lake.
11 We are a tiny little village. We are a village that is
12 -- we don't have access to a road. We live in a
13 community that is on the northwest side of Healy Lake,
14 which is in the Yukon Tanana Highlands. You can only
15 reach Healy Lake via boat in the summer or airplane in
16 the summer and the winter. In the winter if the lake
17 is frozen and we have the ability to plow the lake we
18 can drive in and out. It's pretty remote. Right now
19 it's break up, we can't reach the village at all, the
20 landing strip is -- you cannot land, there is no way to
21 take a boat in because the ice hasn't gone out. So the
22 only access to our village is by air drop. It's very
23 remote.
24

25 Our community does not have a store.
26 We have no ability to feed ourselves except for to
27 store what we have to try to shop early but with the
28 covid epidemic you can imagine that this impact has
29 greatly impacted the people of Healy Lake.
30

31 The ability to hunt and to provide for
32 ourselves by taking game is significant to the people
33 of Healy Lake. I would like you, Chairman, for a
34 moment, to imagine living somewhere where you cannot
35 physically leave your community or home for food or
36 medical or any other purposes for a period of time
37 until the ice goes out. Without the ability to feed
38 ourselves during this time of covid we are struggling,
39 our people are struggling, that leads to depression and
40 we are afraid for our people in our community. The
41 ability to hunt is big, inherent, in Alaska Native
42 people.
43

44 We absolutely and humbly request that
45 you look at the significant challenges of the rural
46 people in rural Alaska. There's nothing like living in
47 a community where you cannot access any services, none,
48 for weeks, sometimes a month, if not longer. You have
49 the ability to impact our lives significantly by the
50

1 decisions that you make and we would request that you
2 would remember us when making those decisions.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Thank you for taking the time to call in today,
8 appreciate that. Any questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, I
13 appreciate that. Okay, I think that concludes our
14 public testimony for the day.

15

16 And Tom I think we were going to start
17 off with the order of business was to get to the two
18 tabled motions yesterday, we were going to bring up as
19 the first order of business today.

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: That's correct, Mr.
22 Chair. We were going to start with WP20-36/37 Fish and
23 Wildlife Service, and may I ask that due to the time
24 constraints that the Board may want to have an agenda
25 change to concentrate primarily on the wildlife
26 proposals and that we get to the wildlife closure
27 reviews as time permits, and if time does not permit,
28 that we move those closure reviews to a later meeting
29 date, just for the critical aspects of the amendments
30 of the actual regulations, the proposals are first and
31 foremost for action items.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom, I
36 think I agree with that perspective. If there is
37 concurrence by the Board, I see that as I look down the
38 agenda, where we would just have to jump over the
39 wildlife reviews and then pick those up as the day
40 progresses. Any.....

41

42 MR. PELTOLA: And BIA would concur with
43 that approach.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Any
46 other thought from any other Board members.

47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Fish and Wildlife
49 concurs.

50

1 MR. SCHMID: The Forest Service

2 concurs.

3

4 MR. C. BROWER: Public Member Charlie

5 concurs.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank
8 you guys for that, so, Tom, we'll follow the order of
9 business on the wildlife proposals and then we'll put
10 the reviews at the end as time allows.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
15 that observation and we'll get started on the two that
16 we left off on yesterday.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: We are at the stage
21 with providing, from Fish and Wildlife Service, a
22 motion.....

23

24 (Teleconference interference)

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE:on Wildlife.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We're getting a
29 lot of bad feedback, excuse me.

30

31 MR. C. BROWER: I think we have
32 something going on with the phone.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Something's
35 happening with the phones now so if we could -- there
36 it is, thank you, appreciate that Operator. Thank you.
37 Go ahead, Tom, I couldn't hear you the phone was going
38 crazy. You have the floor again, Tom.

39

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Just that this is at
42 the stage for Wildlife Proposal 36/37, we left off with
43 a tabling at the stage of the motion, that was going to
44 be presented by Fish and Wildlife Service.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
47 Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is Greg

50

1 with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

2

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

5

6 MR. SIEKANIEC: All right, thank you.
7 Thanks Tom for that reminder, yes, we were at the stage
8 where I had not made a motion so at this point I would
9 like to move to adopt 20-36 with modification to
10 maintain the to be announced season in the Koyukuk
11 Controlled Use Area and in Unit 21D remainder to
12 clarify regulatory language and to delegate authority
13 to Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
14 Manager to allow to dates, harvest quotas and sex
15 restrictions via delegation of authority letter only
16 and take no action on WP20-35 [sic]. If I get a second
17 I will provide my justification.

18

19 MR. PELTOLA: BIA seconds.

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Adoption of
22 this modified regulatory language will support the
23 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council's desire to
24 maintain to be announced seasons in Unit 21D. It also
25 supports the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
26 and Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
27 request to establish a may be announced March moose
28 season in a portion of Unit 21D resulting in a creation
29 of a new hunt area. Developing a may be announced
30 March 1 to 31 season provides more harvest opportunity
31 for Federally-qualified subsistence users and aligns
32 with State regulation reducing regulatory complexity.
33 Delegating authority to the Refuge in-season manager
34 allows for management flexibility and better
35 coordination with the Bureau of Land Management and the
36 State of Alaska. Requiring a State registration permit
37 will likely improve harvest reporting and simplify
38 administration of permits for users. The Western
39 Interior Council identified in testify their desire to
40 forego its Federal December hunt if the Alaska Board of
41 Game failed to adopt Proposal 59. Given the Board of
42 Game did not adopt Proposal 59, the regulation, as
43 modified, supports the Western Interior Regional
44 Advisory Council request to forego establishing the
45 December hunt and subsequently avoid creating disparate
46 State and Federal seasons in Unit 21D.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 And I want to thank the Board for
2 allowing us to revise that motion to make sure that we
3 got it correct, and I would like to thank the Office of
4 Subsistence Management folks for assisting us in that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Greg, appreciate that. Any Board discussion or
8 deliberation on the motion as presented.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
15 called, thank you, Charlie. Roll call, Tom, please.

16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, Mr. Chair. On
18 Wildlife -- Scott, if you could scroll up to the top
19 and move we down that would be helpful -- thank you
20 very much.

21
22 This is Federal Subsistence Board
23 action Wildlife Proposal 20-36 with modification to
24 maintain the to be announced season in the Koyukuk
25 Controlled Use Area and Unit 21B remainder to clarify
26 regulatory language and to delegate authority to the
27 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge Manager
28 to announce season dates, harvest quotas and sex
29 restriction via delegation of authority letter only and
30 to take no action on Wildlife Proposal WP20-37 -- would
31 you scroll down, Scott -- thank you -- so the
32 regulation would read:

33
34 Unit 21B Koyukuk Controlled Use Area,
35 one bull by State registration permit, one moose by
36 Federal permit if authorized by announcement by the
37 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
38 Manager, harvests of a cow moose accompanied by a calf
39 is prohibited, season dates September 1 through 25, and
40 season March 1 through 5, to be announced.

41
42 Thank you, very much.

43
44 I will do the roll call.

45
46 We'll start with U.S. Forest Service,
47 David Schmid.

48
49 MR. SCHMID: Yes, thank you. I support

50

1 Proposal WP36 as modified with the justification
2 provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

5
6 BIA, Gene Peltola.

7
8 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports WP20-36/37
9 as modified as previously stated reasons by our
10 colleagues.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

13
14 Rhonda Pitka.

15
16 MS. PITKA: I support the proposal as
17 stated by Fish and Wildlife Service, thank you.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

20
21 Charlie Brower.

22
23 MR. C. BROWER: I support Proposal
24 36/37 as mentioned by the Wildlife Service. Thank you.

25
26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
28 Charlie.

29
30 National Park Service, Don Striker.

31
32 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
33 supports the modified proposal for reasons articulated
34 by Fish and Wildlife. Thank you, Tom.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

37
38 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
39 Padgett.

40
41 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I support
42 as modified by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank
43 you.

44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir.

46
47 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
48 Siekaniec.

49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
2 support WP20-36/37 as modified and in deference to the
3 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and per
4 justification provided. Thank you.

5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

7
8 And last but not least, I have Chairman
9 Anthony Christianson.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
12 deference. Thank you.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Tony. And
15 the motion passes with the modification. And then that
16 moves us on to WP20-41, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, and we'll
19 go ahead and open the floor for that motion at this
20 time.

21
22 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
23 with BLM.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
26 the floor, Chad.

27
28 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I move to
29 adopt WP20-41 as submitted by Lance Kronberger. This
30 proposal is shown on Page 1070 of the Board book.
31 Following a second I will explain why I intend to
32 support this motion.

33
34 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

35
36 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. My
37 justification is the following: Adoption of this
38 proposal is not expected to pose a biological concern
39 to the local moose population in Unit 22A north.
40 Considering the low combined reported harvest and
41 estimated harvest in the area the potential increase to
42 harvest in Unit 22A north resulting from the approval
43 of this proposal is unlikely to exceed the harvestable
44 surplus of moose in the area. While the analysis shows
45 that there may be a low density in the area, the latest
46 numbers also show that the numbers have increased from
47 545 to 840 moose between 2012 and 2017 on a positive
48 trend. Hunting under State authority in Unit 22A north
49 will require hunter effort and success reporting, which
50

1 can be used to better understand moose abundance in the
2 area. Finally, in order to address concerns over
3 aerial survey of moose in the area, BLM will work with
4 the State in order to fund a survey in 2020.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
9 Chad. Any discussion, Board discussion.

10
11 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, this is Louis.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Louis, go
14 ahead.

15
16 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair. You're
17 doing this without real data so I'm troubled with that,
18 and without the real data you're making a decision that
19 may not be a good decision. The best information is
20 best decisions.

21
22 This has been on the back burner since
23 the last cycle and I'm wondering why the State hasn't
24 done a survey, this has been -- the doorknocker has
25 been sounding off by the guide, you're creating a
26 contest between user groups, so I just fail to see the
27 scientific data here.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I appreciate
32 the comment. And I'm looking at the geospatial surveys
33 and like I said I'm happy to fund an aerial survey by
34 the State and appreciate the comment.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair, thank
39 you for that. I'd like to see that survey.

40
41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
42 Greg.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead,
45 you have the floor.

46
47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Chad, your
48 mention there of helping support on a survey, I believe
49 that we have, you know, some facilities and personnel,
50

1 you know, in that area as well that we would be more
2 than happy to join you on, you know, on trying to
3 gather the important information to help clarify this.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. PADGETT: Through the Chair,
8 thanks, Greg.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
11 Board discussion or deliberation.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A call for the
16 question.

17
18 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

19
20 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
23 called. Tom, roll call, please.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right, we're
26 looking at Proposal WP20-41 requests that the Federal
27 public lands closure for moose in the portion of Unit
28 22 north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik
29 River drainages, Unit 22A north be rescinded September
30 1st to September 20th to coincide with the State's non-
31 resident moose season.

32
33 The regulation would be:

34
35 Unit 22A, that portion north and
36 including Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages,
37 one bull, Federal public lands are closed to hunting
38 September 21 through August 31 except by Federally-
39 qualified users.

40
41 I'll start with Public Member Rhonda
42 Pitka.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Gene Peltola.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
49 opposes as recommended by the Seward Penn Regional
50

1 Advisory Council.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

4

5 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

6

7 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, the Forest Service
8 is also going to oppose this in deference to the RAC
9 and what -- I know we'd like to get data, we should get
10 data, but without that we're going to oppose this.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

13

14 BLM, Chad Padgett.

15

16 MR. PADGETT: I support as stated.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

19

20 National Park Service, Don Striker.

21

22 MR. STRIKER: The Park Service is
23 opposed in deference to the RAC and until we get
24 confirmed and scientific data, and I'd like to note
25 that Mr. Kronberger made a very compelling case and I
26 really appreciate his passion.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

31

32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
33 Siekaniec.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I am
36 going to support this proposal, you know, we don't
37 always have the luxury of having all of the information
38 that we need when we are presented with this but I do
39 believe that this does not present a loss of
40 subsistence opportunity if we were to move forward with
41 this.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

46

47 Rhonda Pitka, are you on?

48

49 MS. PITKA: Yes. I oppose this

50

1 proposal in deference to the Regional Advisory Council.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
5
6 Charlie Brower.
7

8 MR. C. BROWER: I oppose this with the
9 recommendation from the Seward Peninsula Subsistence
10 Advisory Council. Thank you.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
13

14 And last but not least, Chairman
15 Anthony Christianson.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
18 deference to the RAC.
19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 The motion fails. That moves us along, Mr. Chair, let
22 me see where we're at.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I believe we
25 ended on 41 yesterday.
26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, we'll be on 42.
28 So this would be Wildlife Proposal 20-42 and Mr. Chair,
29 Ms. Hannah Voorhees will be on deck for us.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
32 Staff, you have the floor to present the analysis.
33 Thank you.
34

35 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
36 members of the Board. This is Hannah Voorhees,
37 anthropologist with OSM.
38

39 Wildlife Proposal 20-42 begins on Page
40 1087 of your Board book. This proposal was also
41 submitted by Lance Kronberger of Eagle River and
42 requests that the Federal public lands closure in Unit
43 22A remainder moose hunt area be rescinded September
44 1st to September 30th to coincide with the State's non-
45 resident moose season. The proponent notes that the
46 Federal public lands in Unit 22A remainder are adjacent
47 to Unit 18, which has very high moose densities.
48

49 The recent regulatory history for this
50

1 proposal parallels that outlined for Wildlife Proposal
2 20-41. During the last regulatory cycle the Board
3 adopted an earlier version of this current proposal
4 with modification expanding opportunity to hunt moose
5 in 22A remainder to all residents of Unit 22 who have
6 C&T for moose in the unit. The Board stopped short of
7 opening 22A remainder to non-Federally-qualified users.
8

9 As I mentioned earlier information from
10 22A central has historically been used to make
11 inferences about moose abundance throughout Unit 22A.
12 Please recall the population metrics for 22A central,
13 which I previously presented for Wildlife Proposal 20-
14 41 and do let me know if you need me to refer this
15 point further on.
16

17 In the case of 22A remainder, there are
18 other adjacent moose populations that may also
19 influence local abundance. In Unit 21E, to the
20 southeast moose densities are around two moose per
21 square mile. To the south in Unit 18, moose densities
22 are nearly five moose per square mile and it's possible
23 that moose are moving along riparian corridors into
24 Unit 22.
25

26 There's one new piece of biological
27 information specific to 22A remainder since the Board
28 previously considered this proposal. In 2018 the
29 recruitment rate for moose in 22A remainder was found
30 to be somewhat low at 10 percent in the Pikmiktalik and
31 Golsovia drainages. Overall, there's evidence the
32 population in Unit 22A remainder may be growing but we
33 don't know for sure and we can't quantify it. We also
34 can't quantify harvest, which is likely underreported.
35 Reported harvest among local users has declined in
36 recent years in 22A remainder. During the most recent
37 subsistence surveys for Stebbins in 2013, 26 percent of
38 residents of that village reported not being able to
39 harvest enough moose. Most of Stebbins and St.
40 Michaels moose harvest takes place in August and
41 September. Stebbins also harvests moose in winter.
42 However, late freeze up, lower snowfall and thin ice
43 have curtailed local ability to harvest moose in the
44 winter resulting in special action requests to extend
45 seasons in recent years. Difficulty accessing moose in
46 winter may increase pressure on residents to find moose
47 in the fall. Caribou are not widely enough available
48 to make up for low moose harvest.
49
50

1 In addition to the five guides
2 currently eligible on BLM lands, on the Yukon Delta
3 National Wildlife Refuge a single guide is permitted to
4 operate for a period of 10 years and the proponent
5 currently holds this concession.
6

7 If this proposal is adopted, Federal
8 public lands in Unit 22A remainder will be open to all
9 users September 1st to September 30th, which may
10 increase moose harvest by non-local users. A certain
11 amount of this will likely come from guided hunters.
12 The influx of guided hunters would be limited on Fish
13 and Wildlife Service lands by the exclusive guide use
14 concession operated by the Refuge and possibly on BLM
15 lands by the relatively small land area in 22A
16 remainder. Transporters are subject to fewer
17 restrictions so that might be where we would see
18 increased traffic. Overall, it's likely that at least
19 some additional harvest is sustainable, however, given
20 that we don't really understand the population dynamics
21 in the area there is uncertainty about what effect
22 additional harvest will have on the population.
23 Adoption of this proposal will primarily benefit non-
24 local hunters and commercial operators and may come at
25 the expense of Federally-qualified users.
26

27 Overall, our understanding of the
28 situation has not changed since the Board last
29 considered this request. Maintaining the status quo
30 until additional information is available is the most
31 conservative approach and provides an assurance that
32 subsistence use continues to be prioritized.
33

34 The OSM conclusion is to oppose
35 Wildlife Proposal WP20-42.
36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38

39 I'll standby for any questions.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
42 questions for Staff on that presentation.
43

44 MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, this is Louis.
45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Louis, you
47 have the floor.
48

49 MR. GREEN: Yeah, I just wanted to ask
50

1 the lady there, excuse me for the name, has there been
2 any aerial survey there?
3

4 MS. VOORHEES: Hi, Louis, this is
5 Hannah. Let me just defer that question to Suzanne
6 Worker, if she's on the line possibly. Otherwise I am
7 looking for that information for the bordering areas,
8 which do seem to be better studied.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 MS. WORKER: Hi, Louis, it's Suzanne.
13 So there haven't been any surveys in the Unit 22A
14 remainder, no abundance surveys. And, you know, like
15 Hannah mentioned there are surveys in the adjacent
16 areas, it looks like in the Unalakleet, the last survey
17 was conducted in 2017; in Unit 22E there was an
18 abundance survey in 2019; and then I think the one in
19 Unit 18 is a little older than that. But, no, in Unit
20 22A remainder we don't have an abundance estimate.
21

22 MS. GREEN: Okay, thank you Suzanne.
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
26 questions for Staff.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
31 we'll go to summary of Council comments, Coordinator.
32

33 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Katya
35 Wessels with the Office of Subsistence Management. And
36 we did not receive any written public comments for
37 WP20-42.
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Katya. I'd ask at this time was there anybody on line
43 who would like to speak to this proposal. Operator,
44 could you check please.
45

46 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would
47 like to make a public comment, please press star one.
48

49 (Pause)
50

1 OPERATOR: We do have three public
2 commenters in cue.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
5 you.

6
7 OPERATOR: Our first public comment
8 comes from Jessica Giard, your line is open.

9
10 MS. GIARD: Hello, I'd like to postpone
11 my testimony for any tribal members or leadership that
12 are on the call.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll go
15 to the next person, Operator.

16
17 OPERATOR: Our next public comment
18 comes from Gloria Strickland [sic], your line is open.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 OPERATOR: Gloria, your line is open,
23 please check your mute button.

24
25 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Gloria,
28 you.....

29
30 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:have the
33 floor. Go ahead, Gloria.

34
35 MS. STICKWAN: I just wanted to say that
36 I support providing wild game for the residents of
37 Alaska. In our area we have a lot of pressure during
38 the moose season and caribou season and many of the
39 Ahtna people don't get any -- hardly get any moose. I
40 believe it was like 18 moose for any bull, and probably
41 12 were legal, I think 12 were legal and 18 for -- 12
42 legal and 18 were -- it was 18 for legal and 12 for any
43 bull, I believe. We have a lot of hunting pressure
44 around here and last year some people said they didn't
45 get much fish, there was a big run during the first
46 part of the fishing season but later on it slowed down
47 even though people said that they got fished, I've
48 heard from reports that some people that run their
49 fishwheels, they didn't get very much fish, like one or

50

1 two. We fortunately had a good run because we had our
2 fishwheel in, and during the early part of the season
3 we were able to catch a good amount of fish for our
4 family but some people did not get their fishwheel in
5 on time and the run slowed down after that.

6
7 So there are people that are hurting in
8 this area, mostly because the pressure in this area
9 during the hunting and fishing season, we have a lot of
10 personal use fishermen in our area that take a lot of
11 fish and we don't have any areas hardly to hunt in
12 because the people that do, they have ATVs and local
13 people, Ahtna people don't have ATVs, many of them
14 don't to hunt off the road system, and to get a moose
15 and caribou you have to be able to hunt off the road
16 system and you need an ATV to do that.

17
18 And I just want to say Tazlina Village
19 Council had to buy food because I heard people were --
20 needed food so our village council decided to buy
21 groceries, bulk supply through Anchorage to provide
22 food so I think people in rural areas during this time
23 of crises we do need wild game if you can provide it.
24 How you do that, I'm not sure, but different areas have
25 different usage of meat, or fish they use, but for us
26 it's basically caribou, moose and salmon.

27
28 If you could do the special action
29 request for wild game and fish that would be good.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Gloria, for calling in today, I appreciate your
35 testimony. Any questions for Gloria.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, BIA.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
40 the floor, Gene.

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Good morning, Gloria. So if I understand correctly,
44 you wanted to provide comment on the special action
45 requests which have been forwarded on to the Federal
46 Subsistence Board with regard to food security; is that
47 correct?

48
49 MS. STICKWAN: Yes, that's exactly what
50

1 I'm testifying on.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. Thank you, Gloria,
4 appreciate it. And, Mr. Chair, with that being said,
5 could we ensure that Gloria's testimony is bundled
6 together with the comments we had this morning on non-
7 agenda items.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you
10 for that as well. I was going to make mention to that
11 that it was dealing on -- or touching on food security,
12 so thank you for that observation.

13

14 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Gloria. Any other discussion or questions.

18

19 OPERATOR: Our last public comment
20 comes from Lance Kronberger, your line is open.

21

22 MR. KRONBERGER: Good morning, Board,
23 and Board members, can you guys can hear me?

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Lance, I
26 hear you loud and clear, welcome back.

27

28 MR. KRONBERGER: All right, regarding
29 Unit 22A remainder, WP20-42. I'll give you guys a
30 little history.

31

32 I started personally hunting in 22A in
33 2009 and guiding in there in 2010 for brown bear. From
34 2014 to 2018 there have been 64 brown bears harvested
35 in 22A remainder. Over the last 10 years I've
36 personally observed a dramatic increase in the moose
37 population within 22A remainder. In 2017 I submitted a
38 special action request to rescind the Federal land
39 closure in Unit 22A remainder. My proposal was
40 rejected by the Seward Peninsula RAC, and they rejected
41 that on the grounds that there was no current data. In
42 2018 I submitted a proposal, WP18-37, again, I
43 requested that the Federal public land closure for non-
44 qualified moose hunting in Unit 22A remainder be
45 rescinded. Although the Board adopted the proposal
46 with modifications it was not adopted as I had fully
47 intended. Again, the RAC opposed it on the information
48 that there was no current data. I requested Fish and
49 Game to do surveys, I know that they had tried to do a

50

1 survey down there, weather and conditions impaired
2 that. These areas that I'm talking about open to moose
3 hunting are very small areas and are not high priority
4 for these surveys and might I say that we use this
5 extrapolated to close areas down, it is very concerning
6 that we can not use that extrapolated information to
7 open areas up.

8
9 In 2010 our guide service started
10 guiding brown bear hunters in 22A remainder. We have
11 put a lot of energy and resource into harvesting large
12 male brown bears, many of which are moose calf killers.

13
14 Since 2014 64 brown bears have been
15 harvested in 22A remainder. We have seen a constant
16 increase in the moose population within 22A remainder
17 over our years of guiding activity. I believe that at
18 least some of this increase can be contributed to the
19 number of brown bears that have been removed from the
20 22A remainder. But the largest factor to contributing
21 to the increase moose population is the expansion and
22 explosion of the moose population within Unit 18. The
23 very mild terrain distinction from Unit 18 to Unit 22A
24 remainder allows for an easy and natural movement of
25 moose between these boundaries. Almost 90 percent of
26 the Federal lands closed to non-qualified users in 22A
27 remainder has a common border with Unit 18.

28
29 We hunt these Federal lands both in the
30 spring and in the fall for brown bear. We have never
31 seen a subsistence hunter while we were hunting on
32 these Federal lands. I believe that it's because of
33 the difficulty in accessing these very remote areas.
34 As you can see in Figure 1, there is only one major
35 river system within 22A remainder, the Golsovia River
36 is a very rocky river with high banks and a steep
37 vertical drop. These factors make navigation of the
38 Golsovia River very difficult and dangerous. All the
39 other rivers within 22A remainder have very limited
40 accessibility thus restricting the remote areas of 22A
41 to only being accessible by Bush aircraft. This is
42 especially evident since almost 90 percent of the
43 Federal lands within 22A remainder are managed by the
44 Fish and Wildlife Service, which does not allow all
45 terrain vehicles.

46
47 OSM states that if non-qualified
48 Federal land closures within 22A remainder is rescinded
49 that there would be an increase in guided hunters.

50

1 This is highly unlikely since 86 percent of the Federal
2 land would be available to guided hunters can only be
3 accessed by myself. I am already limited to the number
4 of moose hunters I can guide on Federal lands within
5 Unit 18 and 22 remainder. In the last five years of
6 guiding hunters on our Yukon Delta Federal guide
7 concession we have over 90 percent success with a 62
8 inch antler spread average. But because of the non-
9 qualified closures in 22A all of our guided moose hunt
10 activity has to be concentrated in Unit 18, if the
11 closure in 22A remainder were to be rescinded, the same
12 number of moose would be harvested, we could just
13 spread this harvest out over Units 18 and 22A
14 remainder, instead of concentrating all of our guide
15 activity in Unit 18. Because of this regulation, it is
16 highly unlikely that there would be any additional
17 harvest of moose population that inhabits the northern
18 parts of Unit 18 and 22A remainder. It is also very
19 unlikely that there would be other guide activity on
20 the small portions of BLM land that would be open to
21 guided hunters as the access to that small area is very
22 difficult and there is already guide activity on
23 adjacent lands.

24
25 Each spring we conduct spring brown
26 bear hunts in Unit 22A remainder. Most of our camps
27 are on the southern end of 22 along the Unit 18, 22
28 remainder border. The number of moose we observe
29 during the spring bear hunt is extraordinary. Over the
30 last five years we have seen an already healthy moose
31 population bloom into a very dense moose population.
32 During the last week of May from just one observation
33 point, we counted over 30 cow moose where 90 percent
34 had newborn calves and over half of them had twins. We
35 observed bull moose traveling from Unit 18 to 22A and
36 vice versa, the rolling hills and low passes that
37 separate Unit 18 from 22A remainder make for easy
38 travel for moose between these units.

39
40 During the fall we are conducting hunts
41 within 22A remainder and the very northern parts of
42 Unit 18 along the border of 22A remainder. During this
43 timeframe we are also experiencing a high volume of
44 moose sightings. Most days consist of 15 to 20 moose
45 sightings with very good days having 30 to 40 moose
46 sightings. We have consistently seen over 50 percent
47 of the cows with calves, and over half of those having
48 twins during our fall sightings. We are also
49 consistently observing a one to one bull to cow ratio.

50

1 This bull high ratio explains why we observe traveling
2 bulls into Unit 22A as the rut gets into full swing.
3 This high density of bull moose has allowed us to have
4 a very high success with our guided hunters and
5 provides us an opportunity to target the older age
6 class bulls that may be past their prime breeding age.

7
8 Because of the remote areas via Bush
9 aircraft and our remote camps we spend a lot of time
10 flying over 22A remainder going to and from Unalakleet.
11 Although when possible we keep a high altitude, the
12 number of moose sightings we survey from the air has
13 increased every year.

14
15 In the fall of 2018 we spent 20 plus
16 hours flying over Unit 22A remainder, with a total
17 moose sighting of 180 and then during the same
18 timeframe during 2019 we had a total sightings of just
19 over 200. Now, may I mention that these are just
20 sightings as we are going to or from, we are not flying
21 a grid, and we are not doing a survey. While we are
22 guiding, our on ground observations also indicate a
23 steady moose population increase year after year in
24 Unit 22A remainder.

25
26 Each year I spend two months working
27 out of Unalakleet, Alaska. Unalakleet is a wonderful
28 community and I have many life long friends. Our
29 operation works very hard being conscious of the local
30 traditions, along with making sure we are an asset to
31 the community. Our operation rents a house from a
32 local resident, buys most of our supplies at a local
33 store, and eats many meals at the local restaurants
34 along with hiring the local air taxi. Along with being
35 part of the local community, we work very hard to
36 donate meat to the local residents. Our hunt contract
37 only allows guided moose hunters to take home the
38 backstraps and tenderloins from the moose they harvest,
39 the rest of the meat gets donated to local residents.
40 In a lot of cases we personally transport the donated
41 moose meat to the local households. And in other cases
42 there are people within the community who know the
43 families and elders that could use the moose meat and
44 they make sure they are all taken care of. I have
45 letters from Unalakleet residents stating to our
46 contributions to the community.

47
48 Board members, there is no biological
49 reason that Federal lands within 22A remainder should
50

1 be closed to non-qualified users. There are no
2 legitimate conservation concerns. The moose
3 population's documented in the surrounding areas show a
4 very high density. The moose population within 22A
5 remainder is on the high end and in neighboring areas,
6 have a huge influx to that population. The Board of
7 Game has even extended and given additional opportunity
8 to the neighboring Unit 18. There is actually greater
9 evidence to open Federal lands as the accessibility --
10 to access these lands is so difficult for the local
11 users, thus reducing the chance of in the field
12 conflict and spreading out the harvest of this moose
13 population. Opening Federal lands to non-qualified
14 users needs to be a win, win for everyone, and it can
15 be. The non-qualified hunters that we are guiding are
16 looking for a great experience in wild and remote
17 places like 22A remainder. They are looking to pursue
18 an old age-class moose, which 22A remainder has a
19 surplus of and have the opportunity to take home a set
20 of antlers, cape and 50 pounds of moose meat. They do
21 not want to take all the meat that comes with
22 harvesting a large bull moose, nor would I allow them
23 to take that meat. Donating the meat to locals is
24 enjoyed, not only by the one who receives, but also by
25 the hunter as they get to see the gratitude the local
26 community expresses.

27
28 The guided non-resident hunter just
29 wants an experience and an opportunity. They have no
30 problem spending money in many of the small
31 communities. We have many hunters that buy scrimshaw
32 walrus tusks, fur hats, seal gloves, tanned hide, and
33 many other items that locals sell. These items have
34 come from Shishmaref, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet and other
35 local communities.

36
37 By continuing to close Federal lands
38 within Unit 22A remainder, many user groups and
39 communities will suffer. This closure doesn't just
40 prevent non-qualified users the opportunity to harvest
41 an old age class moose, but also concentrates hunters,
42 concentrates moose harvest to certain locations, keeps
43 moose meat from being donated to locals and money from
44 being spent in a local community.

45
46 These are all good reasons to remove
47 the non-qualified closure, but the main reason to allow
48 non-qualified hunters is because there is no biological
49 concern. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has stated

50

1 it, their surveys even state it. Our observations have
2 confirmed it and the recent age of our harvest shows
3 it.

4
5 I urge you to remove the non-qualified
6 regulations to hunt moose in Unit 22A remainder.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Lance. Any questions or Lance from the Board.

12
13 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, BIA.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

16
17 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Good morning, Mr. Kronberger. So I was looking at the
19 map and you mentioned that you possess concession
20 permits or special use permits from the Bureau of Land
21 Management and Fish and Wildlife Service. Now, Federal
22 lands -- the majority of the Federal lands with regard
23 to the Fish and Wildlife Service with a small little
24 sliver of BLM lands. OSM stated that, you know, there
25 was others permitted, not on State Federal lands, but
26 within the GMU22A remainder subunit there's the one
27 main tributary, the Golsovia, but also you have two
28 communities are kind of equal distance on the north
29 edge of the subunit, Stebbins and St. Michaels. I also
30 notice on the map that those Federal lands where you're
31 permitted at least by the Fish and Wildlife Service do
32 not necessarily go all the way down the coast in
33 reaching those two villages, so exercising potential
34 abilities or authorities under a State authorization,
35 have you ever conducted any guided hunts in the coastal
36 low lands adjacent or close to those two communities?

37
38 MR. KRONBERGER: No. All of our
39 activity is concentrated at the headwaters of the
40 Golsovia and up against the Unit 18 border.

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr.
43 Kronberger, appreciate that.

44
45 MR. KRONBERGER: And to go along with
46 that, when we have our permit with BLM, you know, we
47 have camp site permits and they are issued to us by
48 BLM, and BLM has those maps and it's very obvious where
49 we're concentrating our moose hunting activities and

50

1 they are nowhere near those coastal communities.

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: At one time I recall
4 using, what locally at home, we call the Kelly rim
5 strip on the upper Golsovia, is that the region you're
6 referring to?

7

8 MR. KRONBERGER: That is correct.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you. Thank
11 you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
14 other questions or discussion with Lance.

15

16 MR. GREEN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
17 Louis.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, you
20 have the floor.

21

22 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair. Lance.
23 The question about Unit 18, I couldn't remember if you
24 said you hunted there or you had permits to hunt there,
25 guided hunts.

26

27 MR. KRONBERGER: Yes, through the
28 Chair. Louis, my Fish and Wildlife guide concession
29 permit is for the upper -- the headwaters of the
30 Andreafsky Rivers within Unit 18 and 22A, that Federal
31 permit goes into both Game Management Units, and what I
32 -- my allowed hunters that I'm allowed to take
33 incorporate that unit, it is not broken down between
34 Unit 18 and Unit 22A, it is one big chunk that
35 incorporates both of them.

36

37 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair. So,
38 Lance, that gives you quite a bit of opportunity from
39 what you said about the moose densities and what I know
40 about Unit 18 moose populations. It seems to me that
41 they have so many moose down there that one harvest
42 ticket covers two animals, as far as subsistence.

43

44 MR. KRONBERGER: I am not privy to
45 being an expert on that. Basically, you know, I have
46 one harvest ticket per hunter, that's all they're
47 allowed to harvest. My hunters are only allowed to
48 harvest one moose and I am only allowed to take X
49 number of moose hunters within my guide concession.

50

1 MR. GREEN: Through the Chair, thank
2 you, Lance. I see there's plenty of opportunity in
3 Unit 18 and you obviously have access. I still have
4 this issue with lack of data to make a good decision
5 and I think that the State of Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game needs to do a survey before they make their
7 decision on how they do their future management of that
8 moose population. My feeling is breeding bulls up in
9 that area are helping to increase the number coming
10 around the corner to Unit 22A. And I seen how the
11 Seward Peninsula became a flourishing place back in the
12 '70s, I grew up here, hunted out there and flew over
13 much of it, and watched how that population increased.
14 So having that background and that knowledge of back in
15 those days, I still feel that this is what's happening
16 here with the moose herd in 22A, that it is getting the
17 breeding bulls that are in the area to help increase
18 the population in the 22A Unalakleet area.

19
20 So, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I don't
21 want to go on.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Louis. Any Board discussion, questions for Lance.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
29 calling today, Lance.

30
31 MR. KRONBERGER: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep. Is there
34 any other public testimony on line.

35
36 OPERATOR: Yes. Our next public
37 comment comes from Faye Ewan, your line is open.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 OPERATOR: Faye, your line is open.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 OPERATOR: It appears Faye withdrew her
46 question. There are no more public comments.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Operator for that, appreciate it. We'll move on to
50

1 recommendation from Council Chair.

2

3 MR. GREEN: You just about lost me
4 there, I'm plugging my phone in, hang in, Mr. Chair,
5 thank you.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 MR. GREEN: Sorry for the delay there.
10 So the SPRAC, Seward Peninsula opposed. Moose density
11 in this area is unclear and it is not currently known
12 how additional harvest could impact moose population.
13 The Council also agreed with OSM, including that this
14 proposal would only benefit non-local hunters and could
15 negatively affect subsistence users.

16

17 We're here -- our mandate is to protect
18 subsistence and that's what our Council wishes for.

19

20 The State of Alaska receives money from
21 sporthunts, they should be able to turn some of that
22 money into an aerial survey to give us a better idea of
23 what's going on in there.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Louis. Any questions for Louis.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
33 we'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation
34 comments, Native Liaison.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, did
39 we lose Orville.

40

41 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir, it seems he
42 disconnected. One moment as we wait for him to dial
43 back in.

44

45 (Pause)

46

47 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, I can provide
48 those comments if we don't get Orville back.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
2 give him one minute.

3
4 OPERATOR: Orville is dialing back in
5 right now, one moment.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

8
9 OPERATOR: His line is.....

10
11 MR. LIND: Can you hear me now?

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Got you loud
14 and clear, Orville, you have the floor.

15
16 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
17 members. RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison
18 for the Office of Subsistence Management. During the
19 consultation held on September 23rd on WP20-42 there
20 were no comments made.

21
22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Orville. We'll call on the State, Alaska Department
26 of Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

27
28 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
30 and Game. The Department supports this proposal, and I
31 will readily admit we do not have direct survey data
32 for this area and, you know, from the conversation we
33 had yesterday afternoon for 22A north, but since that
34 time -- short amount of time.....

35
36 (Teleconference interference)

37
38 MR. MULLIGAN:Staff who are out
39 there, but I've also had a conversation with the
40 Director of Wildlife Conservation talking about the
41 need for surveys for that area. And I just want to put
42 on the record, also, publicly, to thank Chad and Greg
43 for their offer of resources, but this is far from
44 over, to get that direct data that we're hearing that
45 is a concern for folks out there.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
50

1 questions for the State.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
6 we'll move to InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC
7 Chair.

8

9 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 The ISC offered the standard comment for WP20-42.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
13 That opens up the floor for Board discussion with
14 Council Chair and State Liaison.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
19 the floor is open for Board action on this proposal.

20

21 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Greg
22 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
25 floor.

26

27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 I would like to move to adopt Proposal WP20-42. The
29 proposal language is shown on Page 1071 of the Board
30 book. Following a second, I will provide justification
31 for why I intend to support my motion.

32

33 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

34

35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie.
36 Specific biolog.....

37

38 MS. PITKA: I'm sorry, did you say Page
39 1071?

40

41 MR. SIEKANIEC: 1071 according to my
42 book.

43

44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda, I think if you
45 look at -- this is Tom, sorry for interjecting 1087.

46

47 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

48

49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay. Again, for the

50

1 justification, specific biological data may be lacking
2 regarding the status and trend of the moose population
3 specific to 22A remainder, however, as we have heard
4 several adjacent units have certainly medium to high
5 density moose populations with strong bull/cow ratios
6 that suggest that Unit 22 remainder, the moose
7 population is likely stable or probably growing. The
8 concern for increased harvest from non-locals is
9 somewhat unknown but this area as described is
10 extremely remote and the number of non-locals hiring a
11 transporter to get to this region is likely low.
12 Guiding on Refuge lands would be limited to one guide,
13 as, again, we have heard, it is limited to a take of
14 eight bulls per year, and all non-Federally-qualified
15 users would be limited to take of bulls only, further
16 reducing harvest by non-locals. Increased guide use on
17 the seven percent of Bureau of Land Management land is
18 possible, but likely minimal given the small land base.
19 A priority would still exist for Federally-qualified
20 users as their season is split and longer by several
21 months. The potential for conflict between users would
22 be moderated by the fact that non-Federally-qualified
23 users could only harvest for 30 days in September,
24 Federally-qualified users would have first opportunity
25 for moose starting in August and the benefit of a
26 winter season. So far the harvest data does not
27 indicate that overharvest is occurring by any user
28 group. Opening to all users, having opened it last
29 regulatory cycle to all Federally-qualified subsistence
30 users, would allow us to determine non-local use and
31 harvest. If moose surveys indicate a conservation
32 concern, there's always an option for a special action
33 to close the area.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 Greg. Any Board discussion, deliberation on the
39 motion.

40

41 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, Bureau of
42 Indian Affairs.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
45 the floor, Gene.

46

47 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, I have a couple
48 quest -- I'm thinking crackers, sorry.....

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. PELTOLA: I have a couple questions
4 for the Fish and Wildlife Service, if I may.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

7

8 MR. PELTOLA: So, Greg, with regard to
9 commercial harvest, and I mean commercial by say guides
10 and transporters, you did mention that you have one
11 guide permitted for Fish and Wildlife Service lands in
12 GMU 22A remainder. Do you have any type of
13 limitations, qualifiers or such that a transporter who
14 is permitted to operate in this system, they have to
15 abide by, because one thing I was aware of, is also the
16 Andreafsky Wilderness area overlaps the upper portions
17 of GMU 18, the southwestern portion of 22A remainder;
18 am I correct?

19

20 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Gene. Mr.
21 Chair, I think that that question could probably be
22 best answered by the Refuge Manager, who, I believe, we
23 have on line, which normally in a face to face meeting,
24 would be in our audience, can I see if Ray Born, acting
25 Refuge Manager of Yukon Delta is on line?

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, let's do
28 that. Operator, is Ray on?

29

30 OPERATOR: Was that Ray Born?

31

32 MR. SIEKANIEC: Correct.

33

34 OPERATOR: His line is now open.

35

36 MR. BORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
37 you, members of the Board. Yeah, transporters are not
38 limited by the number of people, however, again, as has
39 been pointed out, this area is extremely remote, and
40 access is very difficult, and so we've not had any
41 transporters interested in that particular area, other
42 than the one that works with Lance Kronberger up there
43 out of Unalakleet, so, again, transporters are not
44 limited in the non-wilderness areas so the part of the
45 22A we're talking about would be accessible to
46 transporters to transport people into that area.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
2 Greg.

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

6
7 MR. SIEKANIEC: Gene, did that answer
8 the question, I believe that what I heard from Ray, was
9 that in the wilderness area, yes, transporters are
10 limited but outside they would not be.

11
12 MR. PELTOLA: Yep, I got that, thank
13 you, appreciate that. That was my primary question,
14 thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
17 Board discussion, deliberation.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 we'll call for the question.

23
24 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
27 called. Tom, roll call, please.

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is a motion to
30 adopt Proposal WP20-42 requests that the Federal public
31 land closure in Unit 22A remainder moose hunt area be
32 rescinded September 1 through September to coincide
33 with the State non-resident moose hunt.

34
35 We'll start with National Park Service,
36 Don Striker.

37
38 MR. STRIKER: The National Park Service
39 opposes in deference to the RAC. I feel strongly that
40 we need to have a precautionary principle for ensuring
41 subsistence uses, and that means the burden of science
42 should be on verifying the abundance. With that said,
43 the lack of science shouldn't be a hold up. And I
44 think the Park Service would be interested in joining
45 the BLM and the Fish and Wildlife to get more data.
46 And I also wonder if we couldn't explore ways to
47 integrate Mr. Kronberger and other local users as
48 citizen scientists that could help advise the RAC.

49
50

1 Thank you, Tom.

2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

4
5 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

6
7 MR. PELTOLA: I'm going to state our
8 position here in a second but I want to clarify it
9 first. In order for a Federal Subsistence Board member
10 to counter a Regional Advisory Council recommendation
11 we have to address those concerns, and with this vote
12 that'd be, is the action detrimental to the Federally-
13 qualified user, in the absence of any unit specific
14 information, that we must rely on other means if we're
15 going to go in a different direction than the RAC.

16
17 I feel concern for Mr. Kronberger's
18 efforts, he did submit a special action request, the
19 Board denied it, and said it was more appropriately for
20 a regulatory proposal, he went through the proposal
21 process and here we are again, and if you look at the
22 composition of the unit, 40 to 45 percent are Federal
23 lands, a majority of that being the Fish and Wildlife
24 Service with a sliver of BLM lands, so, therefore, they
25 have regulatory control over the guides and/or
26 transporters of which they have one guide and could be
27 one transporter authorized on Refuge lands. Mr.
28 Kronberger stipulated that he does not hunt in the
29 coastal low lands or in close proximity to Stebbins and
30 St. Michael, so any potential conflict which may occur
31 from non-resident use and a local Federally-qualified
32 user would be aircraft usage in the up lands, and in
33 the Andreafsky section of GMU 19, a survey has been
34 conducted where there's 3,210 plus or minus 24 percent
35 and that represents over two moose per square mile.
36 Adjacent to that is Unit 21E which has 8,607 moose plus
37 or minus 27 percent, and 2.1 moose per square mile.
38 The remainder of the lands within 22A remainder are all
39 under the State purview.

40
41 And so with that being said, the Bureau
42 of Indian Affairs feels we support WP20-42 and feel
43 that as the geography, the topography and the harvest
44 practices have been expressed in this area, there would
45 most likely not be a detrimental impact on Federally-
46 qualified users.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene, for
2 that.

3
4 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
5 Padgett.

6
7 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I support
8 adopting WP20-42 as stated by both BIA and the Fish and
9 Wildlife Service. Thank you.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

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

15
16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
17 support per my justification and concurrence with
18 Gene's added information on the units.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

23
24 Rhonda Pitka.

25
26 MS. PITKA: Hello.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda.

29
30 MS. PITKA: Yes. Hello, did you hear
31 me?

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, I hear you.

34
35 MS. PITKA: Okay, great. I oppose in
36 deference to the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
37 Council. And I would strongly suggest that we find
38 more data on this area, it sounds like the data is
39 scant, and there could be negative effects to
40 subsistence users.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

45
46 Charlie Brower.

47
48 MR. C. BROWER: I'll support as stated
49 above.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Did you say you
2 support, Charlie?

3
4 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.

5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

7
8 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

9
10 MR. SCHMID: Yes, I'm going to go ahead
11 and support this proposal with the Fish and Wildlife
12 Service justification, but especially in light of BIA's
13 additional information, that Gene was able to share
14 here.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
19 Dave.

20
21 Anthony Christianson, Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: My vote is in
24 deference to the RAC.

25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: The motion passes. Mr.
27 Chair, it's 12:17 and I'm not sure what you want to do
28 going into the next one.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think for the
31 order of business let's do one more and we'll break at
32 12:30 for 45 minutes. So I think we could do one more.

33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Let's go to
35 Wildlife Proposal 20-43/44/45/46.

36
37 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
40 Staff, you have the floor.

41
42 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chair, members of the Board. For the record, my name
44 is Lisa Maas and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office
45 of Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting a
46 summary of the analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP20-
47 43/44/45/ and 46, which begin on Page 1188 of your
48 meeting book.

1 Wildlife Proposal 20-43 was submitted
2 by the Kotzebue Sound AC, and Proposal 20-45 was
3 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Council, and they
4 both request a year-round bull season for caribou in
5 Unit 23.

6
7 Wildlife Proposal 20-44 was also
8 submitted by the Kotzebue Sound AC and requests that
9 harvest of caribou calves be permitted in Unit 23.

10
11 Wildlife Proposal 20-46 was submitted
12 by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, or
13 WACH Working Group, and requests a year-round bull
14 season and that harvest of caribou calves be permitted
15 in Unit 23.

16
17 The Kotzebue Sound AC note that the
18 migration of the Western Arctic Herd has occurred later
19 in recent years resulting in the bull season already
20 being closed when caribou pass through accessible
21 areas. Therefore, harvest has shifted to cows which
22 could be a conservation concern. Opening the bull
23 closure would allow harvest of younger bulls that do
24 not stink during the rut, conserving cows and
25 alleviating compliance issues associated with
26 distinguishing between bulls and cows. The Kotzebue
27 Sound AC also states that while no one targets calves,
28 legalizing calf harvest would allow take of orphaned
29 calves that may otherwise be killed by predators. The
30 WACH Working Group provided the same rationale as the
31 Kotzebue AC. The Northwest Arctic Council states that
32 eliminating the bull closure would allow harvest of
33 younger bulls, reducing harvest pressure on cows. The
34 Council echoed concerns of the Kotzebue AC that due to
35 caribou migration occurring later in the year, only the
36 cow season is open when caribou migrate through
37 accessible areas and eliminating the bull closure would
38 take pressure off Federally-qualified subsistence users
39 to harvest caribou during a certain timeframe.

40
41 In 2013 an areal photo census indicated
42 significant declines in the Western Arctic Herd, in
43 response the Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence
44 Board implemented a suite of regulatory restrictions
45 across the range of the Western Arctic Herd in 2015,
46 including closing the bull season during the rut and
47 prohibiting calf harvest, therefore, these restrictions
48 have only been in regulations for a short time and were
49 intended as conservation measures during a time of
50

1 steep decline. The Kotzebue Sound AC and the WACH
2 Working Group also submitted identical proposals to the
3 State, Proposals 19, 20, 24 and 25. In January of this
4 year the Board of Game adopted Proposal 20 to open a
5 year-round bull caribou season in Unit 23 and adopted
6 Proposal 24 as amended to remove the restriction on
7 caribou calf harvest in Unit 23 as well as in Units 22
8 and 26A.

9
10 The Western Arctic Herd declined from a
11 peak population of 490,000 caribou in 2003 to a low of
12 201,000 in 2016. In 2017 the herd increased to an
13 estimated 259,000 caribou. The 2019 population
14 estimate was 244,000 caribou. Bull/cow ratios have
15 been adequate and generally above 40 bulls per 100
16 cows. Caribou calving generally occurs in June while
17 weaning occurs in late fall before the breeding season.
18 Calves stay with their mothers through their first
19 winter which improves access to food and body
20 conditions. Calves orphaned after weaning have a
21 greater chance of survival than calves orphaned before
22 weaning. Since about 2000 the timing of fall migration
23 has become less predictable often occurring later than
24 in previous decades.

25
26 Caribou have been and are a primary
27 subsistence resource in the Northwest Arctic region.
28 Traditionally cows and calves were highly valued for
29 their hides and were harvested in late summer when
30 their hides were prime for making clothes. Calves also
31 provided food for elders as their meat was more tender
32 and easier to chew. However, hunters no longer target
33 calves in the Northwest Arctic region and Northwest
34 Arctic Council members indicated harvest of calves to
35 be wrong and unethical. The harvestable surplus of the
36 Western Arctic Herd is calculated at six to seven
37 percent of the estimated population. In 2016 harvest
38 likely exceeded the harvestable surplus when harvest
39 was estimated at 15,000 caribou while the harvestable
40 surplus was only 12,000 caribou. However, the
41 population increase in 2019 increased the harvestable
42 surplus estimate to 14,700 likely bringing harvest to
43 approximate the harvestable surplus. Local community
44 harvest reflects caribou availability rather than
45 population trends, and Federally-qualified subsistence
46 users account for approximately 95 percent of total
47 Western Arctic caribou harvest. As caribou migration
48 has been occurring later in recent years, subsistence
49 harvest has also been occurring later in November, for
50

1 example, rather than September.

2

3 One alternative considered was to
4 maintain the prohibition on calf harvest as some
5 members of the Northwest Arctic Council voiced strong
6 opposition to calf harvest. Since no conservation are
7 concerns are associated with allowing calf harvest and
8 it increases harvest opportunity, OSM supports calf
9 harvest but recognizes Northwest Arctic Council members
10 may consider calf harvest to be in conflict with their
11 subsistence lifestyle and beliefs.

12

13 If these proposals are adopted, the
14 bull caribou season would be open year-round and the
15 harvest of caribou calves would be permitted in Unit
16 23. Eliminating the bull closure provides more harvest
17 opportunity and poses no conservation concern. Young
18 bulls could still be harvested during the rut taking
19 harvest pressure off of cows and providing more harvest
20 flexibility to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
21 Permitting calf harvest would allow the harvest of
22 orphaned calves, however, identifying orphaned calves
23 can be difficult as cows and calves are sometimes
24 separated by substantial distances. Allowing calf
25 harvest may also reduce wanton waste as calves
26 mistakenly shot are left in the field because they
27 cannot be legally harvested to salvage. Northwest
28 Arctic Council members and a local biologist have
29 reported seeing wounded or orphaned calves out in the
30 field that are not legally available for harvest. The
31 Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds are the only
32 herds in Alaska where calf harvest is prohibited and
33 it's only been prohibited since 2015. Prior to the
34 prohibition calves comprised an estimated two percent
35 of the harvest, which is not biologically meaningful.
36 Indeed prohibiting cow harvest would have much more of
37 a conservation impact on herd trajectory than
38 prohibiting calf harvest.

39

40 The Board of Game adopted a year-round
41 bull season and calf harvest at its meeting in January
42 2020 so these changes will become effective under State
43 regulations in July of this year. If only the Board of
44 Game passes these proposals and not the Federal
45 Subsistence Board Federal regulations would be more
46 restrictive than State regulations, which is contrary
47 to law. Differing State and Federal regulations would
48 also create user confusion and cause users to
49 distinguish between Federal and non-Federal lands,

50

1 including the mean high water mark, which can be very
2 difficult to define.

3

4 In sum, these proposals increases
5 harvest opportunity and there are no conservation
6 concerns although there are social and cultural
7 concerns.

8

9 The OSM conclusion is to support WP20-
10 46 and to take no action on Proposal WP20-43, 44 and
11 45.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 appreciate that. Any questions for the Staff.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
21 we'll call on the presentation of summary of public
22 comments, Council Coordinator.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
25 members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels,
26 OSM. And we did not receive any written public
27 comments on Wildlife Proposals WP20-43, 44 and 45 and
28 46.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Katya. And we'll go ahead and ask the Operator,
34 anybody on line who would like to publicly testify to
35 this proposal, specifically, please.

36

37 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would
38 like to make a public comment about this proposal
39 specifically, please press star one from your phone.
40 One moment to wait for any public comment.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 OPERATOR: Our first public comment
45 comes from Zachary Stevenson, your line is open.

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 I am here to provide the Regional Advisory Council
49 recommendation, I know we're not there yet, I'm just
50

1 standing by.

2

3

Thank you.

4

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you for that. Appreciate it. Is there any other public on line that would like to speak to this proposal.

(Teleconference interference - participant not muted)

OPERATOR: There are currently no public comments in cue at this moment.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. We will now call on Regional Advisory Council recommendation, Chair or designee, you have the floor.

MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff, Western Interior.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Jack, you have the floor.

MR. REAKOFF: The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council voted unanimously to support WP20-46 and took no action on the other proposals.

The Council felt that this addressed allowing hunters to take younger bulls during the breeding season and with the adequate bull/cow ratio we were satisfied that there's no need for further protection of bulls at this time whereas previously there was.

So those are the wishes of the Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Jack.

MR. GREEN: Mr. Chair, this is Louis.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Louis, you have the floor.

MR. GREEN: I'm not sure if I connected there, Mr. Chair.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. GREEN: Hello.

4

5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Louis, you're
6 coming in clear.

7

8 MR. GREEN: Okay, thank you. I can
9 hear something on the background but I can't tell -- so
10 the Seward Peninsula RAC voted unanimously to support
11 WP20-46 and take no action on WP43, 44, and 45. These
12 actions are consistent with the Office of Subsistence
13 Management's conclusion. And the Council agreed with
14 OSM that adopting WP20-46 increased harvest opportunity
15 for Federally-qualified subsistence users and felt that
16 eliminating the bull closure may help to grow the herd
17 and take the pressure off the cows as others have
18 stated. And there's a feeling that people do not
19 target calves.

20

21 Thank you, and that's all I have, Mr.
22 Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Louis. And we'll call on the next Regional Council
26 Chair, North Slope, or Western Interior -- no, we heard
27 from Western Interior -- North Slope.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Hello, Mr. Chair, this is
34 Eva Patton for the record, Council Coordinator for the
35 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Our
36 Chair, Gordon Brower, is in other urgent meetings at
37 this time for the North Slope region so I will read the
38 Council's recommendation into the record on their
39 behalf.

40

41 The North Slope Subsistence Regional
42 Advisory Council supports WP20-45. They support WP20-
43 45 specifically as it was submitted by their Federal
44 Regional Advisory Council in the Northwest Arctic
45 region. They took no action on Proposals 20-43, WP20-
46 44, AND WP20-46.

47

48 The Council supported residents of Unit
49 23, including the North Slope community of Point Hope

50

1 would be able to harvest bull caribou at any time and
2 make the decision locally whether the bulls are in rut
3 or not good to eat. Council members discussed their
4 observations that the migration and movement of caribou
5 are changing and that the caribou have been coming by
6 Point Hope later in the season. The Council expressed
7 that an open bull season would allow flexibility to
8 hunt bull caribou when the timing is right if the
9 caribou are nearby the community and not in rut. The
10 Council felt that while the closure was intended as a
11 conservation measure initially that perhaps it would be
12 more beneficial to reduce pressure on cow harvest by
13 lifting the bull closure and traditional knowledge will
14 inform when the bulls are in rut or are good to eat.

15
16 The Council specifically supports WP20-
17 45 in deference to the neighboring Northwest Arctic
18 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the
19 communities in Unit 23 to be able to increase
20 subsistence opportunity for the harvest of bull
21 caribou. However, the Council has concerns about
22 proposals requesting the harvest of calves since the
23 Western Arctic Caribou Herd is still in conservation
24 management. The Council recognizes traditional
25 subsistence uses of calves but suggests ongoing
26 protection of calves at this time for the future of the
27 herd as the population is still recovering.

28
29 And that concludes the comments from
30 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

31
32 Thank you, Chair and members of the
33 Board.

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

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
41 we'll move on -- did we get all the Council Chairs for
42 this one?

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, this is Tom.
45 Mike Kramer or Zach Stevenson needs to comment on
46 behalf of the Northwest Arctic.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. I just
49 want to make sure we got everybody. Thank you. You're
50

1 on the floor.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Northwest
6 Arctic.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Hello, this is Zach
9 Stevenson, can you hear me?

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We got you loud
12 and clear, Zach, you have the floor.

13

14 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
15 Chair and members of the Board. This is Zach Stevenson
16 for the record, the Subsistence Council Coordinator for
17 the Northwest Arctic and Eastern Interior Alaska
18 regions. I am presenting the Northwest Arctic
19 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommendation on
20 the proposals as the Chair, Michael Kramer is
21 unavailable.

22

23 Addressing Wildlife Proposal 20-43, the
24 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
25 voted to support WP20-43 requesting the year-round bull
26 season for caribou in Unit 23 justifying their position
27 that this proposal would increase subsistence
28 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users
29 and support the harvesting of young bull caribou when
30 larger bulls are in rut as justification for its
31 decision.

32

33 May I proceed with the Council's
34 recommendation regarding WP20-44 through 46, Mr. Chair?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, please do.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Additionally, the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
40 Advisory Council voted to oppose Wildlife Proposal 20-
41 44 requesting that the calf harvest be permitted for
42 caribou in Unit 23 justifying its opposition stating
43 that cultural values are the basis for wanting to avoid
44 establishing an open season for any calf, while
45 supporting, however, the incidental harvest of mortally
46 wounded or orphaned calves. The Council discussed the
47 possibility of modifying the proposal to specify
48 allowing the incidental harvest of wounded or orphaned
49 calves. Additionally, an Alaska Wildlife Trooper noted

50

1 the enforcement of such a modification is presently
2 impossible given the region's vast geography and
3 limited number of law enforcement personnel in the
4 region. Additionally, the Council clarified that the
5 harvest of calves is uncommon presently and suggested
6 modifying the RC907 permit to document the incidental
7 harvest of wounded or orphaned calves. Lastly, one
8 Council member expressed opposition to the harvest of
9 calves, noting that such practice is inconsistent with
10 contemporary Inupiaq cultural values.

11
12 Additionally, addressing Wildlife
13 Proposals 20-45, 46, the Council stated their support
14 stating their concurrence with the OSM conclusion on
15 Wildlife Proposals 20-45/46 justifying their position
16 that because of the actions taken on Wildlife Proposal
17 20-43 and Wildlife Proposal 20-44 and noting opposition
18 to requiring the RM880 permit.

19
20 And that concludes the Council's
21 recommendation.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
26 Zach. Any questions.

27
28 MS. MAAS: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

31
32 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I'd just like to
33 clarify for the record, I think Zach got on the next
34 proposal 20-47, that the Northwest Arctic Council voted
35 to take no action on Proposal 20-45 and 46 because of
36 its actions taken on 20-43 and 44.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
41 the clarification. Any questions from the Board for
42 any of the RAC Chairs.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
47 hearing none, we'll move on to the Alaska Department of
48 Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

49
50

1 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
3 and Game.
4

5 The Department supports Proposal WP20-
6 46. As you know the Board of Game considered proposals
7 similar to these during their January meeting up in
8 Nome and passed a proposal to open a year-round
9 resident season for caribou bull harvest in Unit 23 and
10 they also passed a proposal to remove restrictions on
11 caribou calf harvest in 22, 23 and 26A. We recommend
12 adopting Proposal 46 with the modification to allow
13 that calf harvest in Units 22 and 26A to align Federal
14 and recent Board of Game action.
15

16 Thank you.
17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
19 questions for the State.
20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. We forgot
22 something -- but, this is Tom. I was wondering if we
23 had the tribal and ANCSA Corporation comments from Mr.
24 Lind.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Maybe we can
27 step back if we didn't get that one there, Tom.
28 Orville, are you available?
29

30 MR. LIND: Can you hear me?
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I could
33 hear you, Orville.
34

35 MR. LIND: Oh, okay, I'm on again.
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair, board members and RAC Chairs.
37 Orville Lind, Native Liaison of Office of Subsistence
38 Management. During the consultation session held on
39 September 30th there was just a request to overview
40 WP20-43, 44, 45, and 46, however, there were no
41 comments made.
42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
46 that Orville. And thank you for keeping me on task,
47 there, Tom. Okay. We'll jump back ahead now to the
48 ISC Staff Committee comments, ISC Chair.
49
50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 ISC agrees with the intent of Proposals WP20-43 and
3 WP20-45, which request a year-round bull season for
4 caribou in Unit 23. This action may help grow the
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd by reducing pressure on
6 cows and providing additional subsistence opportunity
7 for Federally-qualified subsistence users. Local
8 testimony has suggested that meat from young bulls is
9 frequently palatable even during the fall rutting
10 period.

11
12 The ISC has concerns regarding the
13 portions of WP20-44 and WP20-46 that request that calf
14 harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 23. The issue
15 of orphaned and wounded calves appears to be
16 concentrated in the Kotzebue area. The situation may
17 be better addressed with the formation of hunter
18 education groups similar to the caribou hunter success
19 working group that is facilitated by Western Arctic
20 Parklands National Park Service. The Northwest Arctic
21 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Cape
22 Krusenstern Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource
23 Commissions have expressed concern regarding the
24 hunting of calf caribou especially considering ongoing
25 conservation concerns. Members of both SRCs indicated
26 that active calf harvest is no longer a cultural
27 practice. Several members of these bodies have
28 indicated a need to address orphaned and wounded cows
29 and not wanting hunters to be legally liable for
30 dispatching and potentially utilizing calves in
31 apparent distress due to these circumstances.

32
33 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd
34 Management Plan recommends a prohibition on calf
35 harvest while in the conservative management mode,
36 which the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is currently in,
37 and thus the prohibition on calf harvest may be
38 warranted. The plan's focus on conservation could be
39 justification for opposing the Western Interior and
40 Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory
41 Council's recommendation to support calf harvest
42 opportunity. Still, calf harvest is expected to
43 compromise a very small portion of the harvest, and
44 with the new registration permit in place if WP20-44
45 and WP20-46 are adopted, and if management agencies
46 note significant calf harvest, they could submit a
47 special action request prohibiting the harvest of
48 calves. The Alaska Board of Game did, however, lift
49 the prohibition on calf harvest in Unit 23 under State
50

1 regulations so opposing this action would make Federal
2 regulations more restrictive than the State. Because
3 much of the land immediately surrounding Kotzebue,
4 Kotzebue is State managed, a prohibition on Federal
5 lands would still allow for orphaned and wounded cows
6 to be harvested near Kotzebue.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, ISC.
11 We'll open up the floor now for Board discussion with
12 RAC Chairs and State Liaison.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
17 we'll go ahead and open the floor for Board action on
18 this proposal.

19

20 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Don Striker,
21 with the Park Service.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
24 have the floor.

25

26 MR. STRIKER: I move to adopt Wildlife
27 Proposal WP20-46 and to take no action on 20-43, 20-44,
28 and 20-45. To be clear, the intent of this motion is
29 to adopt a year-round bull season for caribou and to
30 lift prohibitions on calf harvest in Unit 23. If given
31 a second, I'll explain my intent to support this
32 motion.

33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

35

36 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

37

38 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. The Park
39 Service supports a year-round bull season for caribou
40 in Unit 23 as this would increase harvest opportunity
41 for Federally-qualified subsistence users and may also
42 help grow the Western Arctic Caribou Herd by reducing
43 harvest pressure on cows. While there have been
44 repeated testimony in the region that adult bulls are
45 not palatable during the rut, there has also been
46 testimony that the timing of the rut can be variable,
47 and that young bulls may still be consumed during this
48 time. For these reasons I support the year-round bull
49 season.

50

1 Concerning the lifting of prohibitions
2 on calf harvest, I understand that this is a
3 contentious and complicated issue. We've heard from
4 both sides of the issue, from several of our advisory
5 committees and I won't restate what we've already
6 heard, but it is important, in my opinion, to
7 understand that calf harvest is now legal under State
8 regulation and so to the extent that lifting the ban
9 would align the State and Federal regulations, I think
10 this makes good sense.

11
12 So for that I'll be supporting the
13 position of the Western Interior and Seward Peninsula
14 Councils and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
15 Group. I believe the prohibition on the calf harvest
16 in Federal regulation should be listed, and that
17 because most people don't target calves, calf harvest
18 is expected to be very low, and should not affect the
19 conservation of the herd. This would make it legal for
20 hunters to kill and retain calves that are clearly
21 abandoned or mortally wounded, and for people who have
22 cultural opposition, it doesn't require a reg to
23 conform to cultural norms. Additionally, I feel that
24 lifting the prohibition on calf harvest would align
25 with the newly implemented State regulations making it
26 easier for users to understand.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
31 Board discussion or deliberation on this motion.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
36 we'll call for question.

37
38 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
41 called. Roll call, Tom, please.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: All right. This is
44 Proposal WP20-43, 44, 45, and 46.

45
46 Proposal WP20-43 requests a year-round
47 bull season for caribou in Unit 23.

48
49 Proposal WP20-44 requests that calf
50

1 harvest be permitted for caribou in Unit 23.

2

3 Proposal WP20-45 requests a year-round
4 bull season for caribou in Unit 23.

5

6 Proposal WP20-46 requests a year-round
7 bull season and that calf harvest be permitted for
8 caribou in Unit 23.

9

10 The motion is to support Proposal WP20-
11 46, take no action on Proposals WP20-43, WP20-44, and
12 WP20-45.

13

14 We'll start with U.S. Forest Service,
15 David Schmid.

16

17 MR. SCHMID: Thank you. I support WP20-
18 46 and take no action on WP20-43, WP20-44 and WP20-45
19 with the justification provided by the National Park
20 Service as well as in deference to the Western Interior
21 and Seward Peninsula RACS.

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
24 Dave.

25

26 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

27

28 MR. PELTOLA: Bureau of Indian Affairs
29 supports adoption of WP20-45 and take no action on
30 WP20-43, 44 -- no, excuse me -- WP20-46, adopt, and
31 take no action on WP20-43, 44 and 45 as stated, and
32 with the justification so eloquently provided by our
33 National Park Service colleague.

34

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

37

38 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

39

40 MS. PITKA: I support the adoption of
41 20-46 and take no action on WP20-43, 44, and 45 in
42 deference to the Western Interior and Seward Peninsula
43 Regional Advisory Council, and also this increases
44 harvest opportunities for Federally-qualified users and
45 it aligns State and Federal regulations.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,

50

1 Rhonda.

2

3

Charlie Brower.

4

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Charlie Brower.

MR. C. BROWER: Good afternoon. I support Proposal WP20-45 and take no action on Proposal WP43, 44 and 46, as recommended by the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

Bureau of Land Management, Chad

Padgett.

MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I support adoption of WP20-46 and take no action on WP20-43, 44 and 45 as stated by my colleague at the National Park Service. Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg

Siekaniec.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I support the motion to adopt WP20-46 and take no action on 43, 44 and 45 in deference to Western Interior and Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Councils and the justification provided by our National Park Service colleague.

Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,

Greg.

National Park Service, Don Striker.

MR. STRIKER: I support for reasons already articulated. Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

And last but not least, Chairman Anthony Christianson.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in

1 deference to the RAC.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty, Mr. Chair,
4 that concludes that motion, which passed. And we would
5 -- the next one on deck would be 20-47.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
8 Well, we'll go ahead and it looks like it's 10 to 1:00
9 right now, can we take a 30 minute break for lunch and
10 come back at 1:20.

11

12 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll see you guys at
15 1:20.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Operator.
22 Is this still Jordan, the Operator?

23

24 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir, I will be on for
25 the next 40 minutes.

26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Jordan.
28 Okay, let's see who's back, this is Tom back from my
29 short lunch recess.

30

31 Don Striker, are you with us on line.

32

33 MR. STRIKER: I am here, thank you.

34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, good, Don.

36

37 Chad, are you with us, Padgett.

38

39 MR. PADGETT: I am here, Tom, thank
40 you.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks.

43

44 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
45 Siekaniec.

46

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

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, Greg.

50

1 Dave, from the Forest Service, you with
2 us.
3
4 MR. SCHMID: I'm on Tom.
5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks, Dave.
7
8 Gene, are you on line with us?
9
10 MR. CHEN: Hey, Tom, this is Glenn
11 Chen, I'm filling in for Gene until he steps back in.
12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Glenn.
14
15 Rhonda, are you on line with us?
16
17 MS. PITKA: Hi, I'm on line.
18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda.
20
21 Charlie, are you on line with us?
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tony, you're on line
26 with us?
27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm here,
29 thank you, Tom.
30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, is Mr.
32 Charlie Brower, do you see him in the cue?
33
34 OPERATOR: Charlie Brower is on with an
35 open line, he may be muted on his end.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, good.
38
39 Our State partner, is Alaska Fish and
40 Game on, is Ben Mulligan on?
41
42 MR. MULLIGAN: Present.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Ben.
45
46 Just checking to see if Staff is on,
47 Suzanne Worker, you on?
48
49 MS. WORKER: I'm here.
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Great. Lisa Maas, are
2 you on?

3
4 MS. MAAS: Hey, Tom, this is Lisa, yep,
5 I'm here.

6
7 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, great. Chris
8 McKee, are you on?

9
10 MR. MCKEE: I'm here, Tom.

11
12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Great.

13
14 Orville, are you on?

15
16 MR. LIND: I'm here, Tom.

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Wonderful. Alrighty.
19 We have a quorum of the Board. And, Mr. Chair, we are
20 at WP20-47.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on, we'll
23 call on the Staff at this time to present the analysis,
24 thank you.

25
26 MS. MAAS: All right, thank you, Mr.
27 Chair, members of Board. For the record this is Lisa
28 Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis
29 for Wildlife Proposal WP20-47 which begins on Page 1239
30 of your meeting book.

31
32 Wildlife Proposal 20-47 was submitted
33 by the Northwest Arctic Council and requests closure of
34 the cow moose season and requiring a State registration
35 permit for moose in Unit 23. The proponent is
36 concerned about declines in the Unit 23 moose
37 population stating this proposal would help conserve
38 cows, improve harvest reporting, align State and
39 Federal regulations and aid in the recovery of the
40 moose population.

41
42 The cow moose season and non-resident
43 season have been closed under State regulation since
44 2017 due to conservation concerns. In 2018 both cow
45 and bull moose seasons were shortened under Federal
46 regulations. In 2019 the cow moose season was closed
47 under Federal regulations by special action and
48 authority delegated to the in-season manager to close
49 to non-Federally-qualified users if warranted due to
50

1 serious population viability concerns.

2

3

4 The Unit 23 moose population had
5 declined approximately 25 percent in the past two years
6 from an estimated 7,500 moose in 2017 to an estimated
7 5,600 moose in 2019. Low calf cow ratios also indicate
8 poor recruitment and that the population decline will
9 likely continue.

10

11 Moose are a relatively recent
12 subsistence resource for local people, although the
13 recent declines in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd has
14 likely resulted in more people harvesting moose to meet
15 their needs. Harvest likely exceeds the harvestable
16 surplus. Non-local resident harvest has averaged 42
17 moose per year and local harvest is estimated at 350 to
18 450 moose per year while the harvestable surplus is
19 currently only 336 moose.

20

21 If WP20-47 is adopted, the Federal cow
22 moose season will be closed and the RM880 State
23 registration permit will be required to hunt moose
24 under Federal regulations in Unit 23. The RM880 permit
25 must be obtained between June 1st and July 15th in
26 local villages which burdens Federally-qualified
27 subsistence users with traveling to a licensed vendor
28 to get a permit during a certain time period.

29

30 Serious population viability concerns
31 exist for the Unit 23 moose population due to
32 population decline, low calf cow ratios and likely
33 exceedance of the harvestable surplus. Conserving cows
34 is particularly important in conservation as cows are
35 the engine of population growth. Adopting this
36 proposal could aid in the population's recovery and
37 decrease regulatory complexity in the area through
38 alignment of State and Federal regulations.

39

40 The OSM conclusion is to support WP20-
41 47 with modification to change the harvest limit from
42 one bull to one antlered bull to prevent inadvertent
43 cow harvest after antlers have dropped.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
48 questions for Staff.

49

50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
2 move on to summary of public comments from the
3 Coordinator.
4

5 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Members of the Board. For the record Katya Wessels
7 with OSM. We did not receive any written public
8 comments for WP20-47.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Katya. We'll now ask the Operator, anybody on line to
14 publicly testify to this proposal.
15

16 OPERATOR: As a reminder, if you would
17 like to make a public comment, please press star one
18 from your phone. One moment as we wait for any public
19 comment.
20

21 (Pause)
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing
24 none.....
25

26 OPERATOR: I'm showing no comments in
27 cue at this time.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
30 thank you. We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native
31 Corporation consultation summary, Native Liaison.
32

33 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, but I
34 didn't hear you go through Regional Advisory Council
35 recommendations.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, sorry. I
38 lost my connection from my Board here, so give me one
39 second, I was just trying to pull my card back up here
40 again.
41

42 MR. LIND: Okay.
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
45 that clarification.
46

47 Regional Advisory Council
48 recommendations, Chair or designee.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.

2

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

5

6 MS. PATTON: Yes, good afternoon, Mr.
7 Chair and members of the Board. It sounds like maybe
8 Zach is still trying to cue in to speak on behalf of
9 the Northwest Arctic Council, I will provide the
10 comments from the North Slope Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council. For the record this is Eva Patton,
12 Council Coordinator, and, again, our Chair, Gordon
13 Brower, is in other urgent meetings for the region. As
14 you all know many Council Chairs wear many hats and
15 these are some challenging times right now responding
16 to the Covid-19.

17

18 So the North Slope Subsistence Regional
19 Advisory Council supports WP20-47. The Council
20 discussed that the North Slope community of Point Hope
21 occasionally have an opportunity to hunt moose when
22 they are pushed north into the area by wild fires.
23 They're not familiar with other community subsistence
24 moose hunting in Unit 23, however, the Council is
25 supportive of the Northwest Arctic Council's efforts
26 for conservation to help rebuild the moose population
27 by closing the cow hunt and focus subsistence harvest
28 on bull moose only.

29

30 Further, the Council recommended that
31 if the use of a registration permit were to be
32 implemented that managers work closely with the local
33 tribes and community to distribute permits so that they
34 are readily available in each rural community in Unit
35 23 including Point Hope.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
38 Board.

39

40 That concludes the North Slope's
41 comments.

42

43 Thank you.

44

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

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Hello. Could I be
49 recognized for a second, Gordon Brower, from the North

50

1 Slope.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes,
4 Gordon.....

5

6 MS. PATTON: Oh, wonderful, Gordon,
7 you're on. Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:you have
10 -- yes, yes, I recognize you now Gordon, you have the
11 floor, welcome in.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: (In Inupiat) I just
14 got on and I got the messages and I appreciate Eva
15 stepping in to assist us here.

16

17 All I wanted to say was I'm on line if
18 there's questions I'll be on line to take any questions
19 as well.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Gordon, appreciate that. Calling on the other Regional
23 Advisory Council Chair or designee.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
28 Lisa, and if Zach's not on line I can provide the
29 recommendation.

30

31 OPERATOR: This is the Operator,
32 Zach.....

33

34 MR. STEVENSON: Hello, can you hear me?

35

36 OPERATOR:Stevenson's line is
37 open.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I.....

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: Hello, can you hear me?

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:can hear
44 you, Zach -- yes, you have the floor, Zach, thank you.

45

46 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 This is Zach Stevenson with the Office of Subsistence
48 Management. I'm speaking on behalf of the Northwest
49 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, whose
50

1 Chair, Michael Kramer, is unavailable this afternoon and
2 has asked me to share the Council's recommendation on
3 Wildlife Proposal 20-47.

4
5 The Council voted to support WP20-47 as
6 modified by the Office of Subsistence Management and
7 justified its position noting a concern for conserving
8 the region's declining moose population, while also
9 expressing concern about the ability for Federally-
10 qualified subsistence users to access the RM880 permit.

11
12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
15 Zach. Any questions for Zach.

16
17 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
20 Charlie.

21
22 MR. C. BROWER: A question to Mr.
23 Brower there, on the North Slope Advisory Council, you
24 guys are just supporting the Proposal 47, do you
25 support it with the modification by OSM?

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Yeah,
28 Gordon Brower, North Slope Regional Advisory Council.
29 Just having entered the meeting I didn't get to hear
30 the reading of the proposal and so I need to look at
31 that to refresh my memory, it's been quite some time,
32 and I've been inundated with many different meetings
33 here with the current work I'm doing right now with the
34 Borough. But I did get the message.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Eva, could
39 you clarify the position on that please, thank you, for
40 Gordon.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and Council
43 [sic], and thank you Chairman Gordon Brower. So the
44 North Slope Regional Advisory Council actually met
45 prior to the Northwest Arctic Council meeting and so
46 they supported WP20-47 as written and submitted by the
47 Northwest Arctic Council.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: And here's my question,
2 Eva, can you tell me what that proposal was, I know the
3 number but I'm trying to look at the documents here
4 what it was supporting. Just hearing the number, that
5 doesn't prompt my memory.
6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you
8 -- thank you for jumping on teleconference here. Maybe
9 what I can do is just repeat the Council's
10 recommendation.
11

12 So this was a proposal submitted by
13 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
14 requesting that the cow moose hunt be closed in Unit
15 23, and use of registration of permit. So the North
16 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's
17 recommendation was to support WP20-47 as written. The
18 Council discussed the North Slope community of Point
19 Hope occasionally has an opportunity to hunt moose when
20 they are pushed north into the area by wildfires but
21 were not familiar with other community subsistence
22 moose hunting in Unit 23. However, the Council is
23 supportive of the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council's efforts for conservation to help
25 rebuild the moose population by closing the cow hunt
26 and focus subsistence harvest on bull moose only.
27 Further, the Council recommended that if the use of a
28 registration permit were to be implemented that
29 managers work with the local tribes and communities to
30 distribute permits so that they are readily available
31 to each rural community in Unit 23, including Point
32 Hope.
33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35

36 That concludes the North Slope
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council comments.
38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.
40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Did that help
42 -- yes, go ahead, Gordon.
43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, in response to the
45 question, yeah, that was -- we've always had concerns
46 among various different villages about the availability
47 of moose and that -- yeah, we would support that with
48 that modification of working the village.
49
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
4 other questions for Regional Advisory Council Chairs.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
9 thank you guys for that clarification. Now, we'll move
10 on to Tribal/Alaska Native Corporation consultation
11 summary, Native Liaison.

12

13 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board
14 members, Regional Advisory Council Chairs. My name is
15 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
16 Subsistence Management.

17

18 During the consultation session on
19 September 30th, we did have one member from the Native
20 Village of Kaktovik, and he stated that they are trying
21 to have a small moose season so they can try and
22 harvest moose in that area, moose harvesting has been
23 an issue for some people in this area. And he also
24 stated that some of the moose are skinny and it's not a
25 good time to hunt in some areas but the people are
26 hoping that the discussion at the public hearing ahead
27 will result in the opening of a moose hunt. They're
28 also working on changes with the Refuge to make the
29 moose hunt work for them.

30

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

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Orville. Any questions for Orville.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
39 we'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game
40 comments, State Liaison.

41

42 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
44 and Game. We have no comments on this proposal.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
49 InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC Chair.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 The InterAgency Staff Committee agrees with the OSM
3 conclusion and the Northwest Arctic Subsistence
4 Regional Advisory Council recommendation to support
5 Wildlife Proposal WP20-47 with modification to change
6 the harvest limit from one bull to one antlered bull.
7 Given the serious population viability concerns for
8 moose in Unit 23, substantial declines in the
9 population, low calf/cow ratios and possible exceedence
10 of the harvestable surplus, conservative actions and
11 harvest tracking mechanisms are necessary.
12

13 The ISC would like the Board to be
14 aware, however, of local concerns regarding
15 implementation of the RM880 permit. Local testimony
16 has indicated that the original intent of the RM880
17 permit being made available only to Unit 23 communities
18 during this specific period was to limit non-local use
19 of the limited resource. Requiring locals to obtain
20 this permit adds to a burden on local users, and
21 several Unit 23 residents have indicated access to
22 vendors can be difficult, especially in the summer when
23 subsistence activities are being undertaken. If
24 implemented a resident who is unable to, or fails to
25 obtain the RM880 permit within the available time
26 period will have to hunt under a more restrictive State
27 regulation that require larger bulls be taken only in
28 the period of September 1st to September 20th.
29

30 Both the Northwest Arctic and the North
31 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's expressed
32 concerns regarding local access to the RM880 permit.
33 The North Slope Council recommended that managers work
34 with tribes to distribute permits. The Cape
35 Krusenstern and Kobuk Valley SRC both supported the cow
36 moose season closure but imposed the implementation of
37 the RM880 permit. It is unclear what level of
38 compliance will result from a permit that may be
39 difficult for some to obtain, and if availability is
40 expanded, to what extent non-local harvest may increase
41 as a result.
42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
46 questions for the ISC.
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

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

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
7 we'll open the floor for Federal Board action on this
8 proposal.

9
10 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Don Striker,
11 Park Service.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
14 have the floor.

15
16 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. I move to
17 adopt Wildlife Proposal WP20-47 with modification to
18 change the harvest limit for moose in Unit 23 from one
19 bull to one antlered bull, and to eliminate the RM880
20 State registration permit requirement portion of the
21 request. The proposal language is shown on Page 1239
22 of your Board book and if I get a second I'll explain
23 my intention to support this motion.

24
25 MR. PELTOLA: Second.

26
27 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

28
29 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. There are
30 serious population viability concerns for moose in Unit
31 23. Given that cow moose are important drivers of the
32 population, I concur with the Northwest Arctic and the
33 North Slope Council's that the cow moose season should
34 be closed at this time. I also agree with the
35 Northwest Arctic Council and OSM that changing the
36 regulation wording from one bull to one antlered bull
37 will further protect cows during this time of
38 conservation concern. Conservative actions are
39 necessary to protect the viability of this population
40 and I applaud local users for taking actions to self
41 restrict for both conservation and for future
42 subsistence opportunity. I understand the need for
43 improved harvest tracking mechanisms, but I don't
44 support the requirement for an RM880 State registration
45 permit currently, and I share the ISC's concern and
46 very well articulated rationale for this component of
47 the request. I think that requiring this permit for
48 Federally-qualified subsistence users would add a
49 substantial burden and therefore I'm not a proponent of
50

1 adding that piece. Additionally, Unit 23 residents are
2 still adjusting to the relatively new State
3 registration permit requirements for caribou and so for
4 those reasons I oppose implementation of the RM880
5 permit requirement at this time.
6

7 I realize my position on that matter is
8 contrary to the Northwest Arctic and North Slope
9 Council's because I believe it would be detrimental to
10 the satisfaction of subsistence needs. I think it's
11 worth noting that both of these Councils expressed some
12 concern over this permit requirement as did the
13 Cape.....
14

15 OPERATOR: This is the Operator.....
16

17 MR. STRIKER: Thank you.
18

19 OPERATOR:Don has disconnected.
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, Don, got
22 lost, Operator.
23

24 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We will wait a
27 second for him to reconnect. It sounds like he was
28 about finished with his justification.
29

30 OPERATOR: Please standby as he dials
31 back in.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
34

35 MS. PITKA: It did sound like it was
36 complete.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we'll
39 just wait a moment for him to sign in. Any other Board
40 discussion or deliberation on this.
41

42 MR. STRIKER: Thank you. I think I'm
43 back now, where are we?
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Don, you
46 were just finishing your justification.
47

48 MR. STRIKER: I think I left off at
49 thank you, Mr. Chair.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
2 that. And, again, the floor is open for Board
3 discussion or deliberation on this proposal.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
8 question.

9
10 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call, Tom,
13 please.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is on Proposal
16 WP20-47 request a closure of cow moose season and
17 require the use of a State registration permit to the
18 harvest of moose in Unit 23.

19
20 If Scott could go to the top to the
21 modification it would be helpful -- thank you, Scott.

22
23 Adopt as modified to change the harvest
24 limit from one bull to one antlered bull and to
25 eliminate the RM880 State registration permit
26 requirement portion of the request.

27
28 We'll start with Bureau of Indian
29 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

30
31 MR. PELTOLA: The Bureau of Indian
32 Affairs supports adoption of WP20-47 as modified and
33 justified by the National Park Service in their motion.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

36
37 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
38 Siekaniec.

39
40 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
41 support to adopt WP20-47 as modified and also in
42 deference to the Northwest Arctic and North Slope
43 Regional Advisory Council's desire to see conservation
44 measures implemented regarding this moose population,
45 and for the justification provided by our esteemed
46 colleague at the National Park Service.

47
48 Thank you.

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Can't agree more, thank
2 you very much, Greg.

3
4 Chad Padgett from BLM.

5
6 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. Sorry, I
7 had a little trouble with my mute button. I move to
8 adopt WP20-47 as stated by my colleagues at National
9 Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in deference
10 to the RACs.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Sir, for
15 that.

16
17 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

18
19 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, also support to
20 adopt WP20-47 with the OSM modification and the
21 justification provided by the National Park Service.

22
23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

24
25 Rhonda Pitka.

26
27 MS. PITKA: I support WP20-47 as
28 modified with the justification provided by the
29 National Park Service.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

32
33 Charlie Brower.

34
35 MR. C. BROWER: I support Wildlife
36 Proposal 20-47 with modification.

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: With the -- along with
39 the Park Service striking the registration permit?

40
41 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you,
44 Charlie.

45
46 National Park Service, Donald Striker.

47
48 MR. STRIKER: The Park Service supports
49 for reasons previously identified and with a big thanks
50

1 to the ISC. Thanks, Tom.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: You betcha Don.

4

5 And Chairman Anthony Christianson.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support for
8 reasons stated.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 The motion passes unanimously. That moves us on, Mr.
12 Chair, to Wildlife Proposal 20-49 Eastern Interior,
13 North Slope Unit 25, sheep.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we'll call
16 on the Staff at this time to provide analysis.

17

18 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa, can you
19 hear me?

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Loud and clear,
22 Pippa, you have the floor.

23

24 MS. KENNER: Great. Okay. Hello, Mr.
25 Chair, members of the Board and Council Chairs. My
26 name is Pippa Kenner and I'm an anthropologist for the
27 Office of Subsistence Management. The analysis of
28 Proposal 20-49 begins on Page 1280 in Volume II of your
29 Board materials. It might be helpful for you also to
30 be turned to Page 135 in the State's wildlife
31 regulation book, or Handy Dandy.

32

33 This proposal was submitted by the
34 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and requests that
35 the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area reopen to the
36 harvest of sheep by non-Federally-qualified users, put
37 succinctly, the proponent states that the restriction
38 of sheep hunting to residents of only a few communities
39 is not necessary to accommodate local subsistence uses.
40 The proponent continues: Harvest records indicate
41 residents of these communities rarely hunt sheep and
42 there is no biological reason to preclude sheep hunting
43 opportunities by the public in the Management Area.

44

45 Orville Lind will provide a summary of
46 tribal consultation that occurred between the Board and
47 the Arctic Village Tribal Council.

48

49 We do have some new information.

50

1 In March the Alaska Board of Game
2 amended Proposal 82, which is described on Page 1286,
3 which was submitted by the Eastern Interior Alaska
4 Council. The Alaska Board of Game adopted the
5 following regulation changes within the Management
6 Area.

7
8 It created the eastern Brooks Range
9 Management Area which has the same footprint as the
10 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area and expanded the
11 hunter education requirement formally requirement for
12 hunting in Red Sheep and Cane Creek drainages only to
13 the entire Management Area. It changed the harvest
14 limit under registration hunt 595, which occurs from
15 October 1st through April 30th from three sheep to one
16 ram with three-quarter curled horn or less every four
17 regulatory years. It changed the resident and not
18 resident April 10th to September 30th hunt from
19 requiring a harvest ticket to requiring a draw permit
20 and it changed the resident harvest limit for this draw
21 hunt from one ram with full curl horn or larger per
22 year to every four years.

23
24 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
25 reported to us that if the Federal Subsistence Board
26 rescinded the closure at this meeting, the drawing
27 could happen in the fall of 2020 for a hunt as early as
28 2021 dependent on having the hunter education program
29 in place, which is necessary for anyone hunting sheep
30 under State regulations in the Management Area. Also
31 the number of draw permits available could be five to
32 10 sheep but that number could change, but the number
33 would not be based on harvestable surplus.

34
35 Sheep densities within the Management
36 Area have generally been low compared to some other
37 areas in the Brooks Range. Sheep densities north of
38 Cane Creek have been much higher than those south of
39 Cane Creek, likely abundance of habitat quality.
40 Densities south of Cane Creek have averaged around 0.3
41 sheep per square mile whereas densities north of Cane
42 Creek have averaged around 1.3 sheep per square mile.
43 In 2016, when the most recent survey was conducted,
44 density within the entire Management Area was likely at
45 about 0.7 sheep per square mile, which is comparable to
46 other areas across the Brooks Range.

47
48 The Management Area was traditionally
49 occupied by Neets'aai Gwich'in, who continued their
50

1 nomadic way of life into the 1950s when they
2 established more permanent settlement at Arctic Village
3 and Venetie. They followed to the Arctic Coast routes
4 that were situated within the Management Area for the
5 purposes of trade. Families went into the mountains to
6 hunt sheep and caribou, traders went forward to the
7 Barter Island area to exchange hides for Western goods
8 from whalers. People preferred the Phillip Smith
9 Mountains for sheep hunting, which is the source of
10 many East Fork Chandalar tributaries including Red
11 Sheep and Cane Creek and other drainages situated
12 within the Management Area. This trade continued
13 irregularly until about 1928.

14
15 Red Sheep Creek was a recognized
16 favorite sheep hunting area on the route to the Arctic
17 Coast. Food and tools were cached in the mountains in
18 the Red Sheep Creek drainage for returning traders and
19 for future trips indicating the cultural importance of
20 the area. Native allotments covered the confluence of
21 Red Sheep and Cane Creek with the East Fork Chandalar
22 River. Another Native allotment is situated further up
23 Red Sheep Creek. The Red Sheep Creek allotments were
24 not conveyed until 1996 and prior to this time the
25 confluence was a site of a large guiding camp. This
26 allotment contains a large airstrip identifiable from
27 the air and another smaller airstrip is situated
28 between the two Red Sheep Creek allotments. The source
29 of community concerns is trespassing and guides and
30 hunters creating air and foot traffic in areas with
31 prehistoric, cultural and scientific value.

32
33 Traditionally after caribou, mountain
34 sheep are the most important large land mammal for food
35 and moose were scarce. Neets'aii Gwich'in relied upon
36 sheep as a food source primarily in late summer or
37 whenever caribou were scarce. Arctic Village residents
38 generally harvest sheep in early fall from late August
39 or early September and in November. Sheep are
40 considered best in the fall. Residents generally
41 travel to hunt sheep by boat, then by foot from hunting
42 camps in the fall or by snowmachine in late fall, but
43 not in the winter, given the dangerous terrain and
44 winter weather.

45
46 Since 1993 Arctic Village residents
47 have noticed to the Board the plane traffic has
48 interfered with their ability to successfully hunt
49 sheep in the Red Creek and Cane Creek drainages.

50

1 Residents report that plane flyovers spook sheep, which
2 climb to higher elevations making them more difficult
3 to hunt. They explained that Red Sheep and Cane Creek
4 are both very narrow valleys and consequently flights
5 through the area disturb sheep.
6

7 Since 1995 Federally-qualified
8 subsistence users have been able to get a Federal
9 registration permit to hunt sheep in the Management
10 Area, but we must take care when using these data as it
11 is likely that many hunters have not reported their
12 harvest efforts. Since 1995 they have requested 40
13 Federal permits. The Alaska Department of Fish and
14 Game maintains a harvest reporting data base where
15 hunters using State harvest tickets or permits report
16 their hunting efforts. A description of hunter effort
17 and success within the Management Area at the uniform
18 coding unit level, or drainage level can be described,
19 although harvest site documentation is not precise and
20 is an approximation. Using State harvest tickets and
21 permits from 2006 to 2010 approximately 22 sheep
22 harvests, about four sheep annually, were reported in
23 the area north of Cane Creek while it was open to the
24 harvest of sheep by non-Federally-qualified users, from
25 August 10th to September 30th each year.
26

27 The Office of Subsistence Management's
28 conclusion is to oppose the proposal.
29

30 Sheep populations in the Management
31 Area situated south of Cane Creek continue to exist at
32 low densities and should remain closed to the non-
33 subsistence uses in order to protect healthy
34 populations of sheep as mandated in ANILCA Section
35 .815(3). Since 1995 the Board has continued to hear
36 substantial testimony and ethnographic evidence
37 demonstrating the importance of Cane Creek and Red
38 Sheep Creek drainages to Federally-qualified
39 subsistence users, especially Neets'aii Gwich'in, who
40 occupied the area historically and continue to occupy
41 the area today. In 2012 the Board reiterated that the
42 closure was needed to ensure the continuation of
43 traditional subsistence uses of sheep by Arctic Village
44 hunters, and, again, in 2014, and 2018. This area
45 should remain closed to non-subsistence uses in order
46 to protect the continuation of subsistence uses as
47 mandated in ANILCA Section .815(3).
48

49 Thank you.
50

1 That's the end of my presentation. I'm
2 available to answer questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
5 Pippa. Any questions for Staff.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
10 thank you. We'll go on to the.....

11
12 MS. PITKA: Pippa.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

15
16 MS. PITKA: Pippa, this is Rhonda.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda, yes,
19 you have the floor.

20
21 MS. PITKA: Okay. Thank you for that
22 analysis. And, also, how long is the Administrative
23 Record for this particular proposal in this area?

24
25 MS. KENNER: It goes back to 1990, I
26 believe.

27
28 MS. PITKA: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
31 questions for Staff.

32
33 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
34 Greg.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, you have
37 the floor.

38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Pippa, do
40 you know of, you know, I think in 2018 the Board,
41 through me, primarily, suggested a working group become
42 established and the Regional Advisory Committee Chair
43 thought that, you know, they would work on trying to
44 gather a group together that would potentially come up
45 with an alternative to this, do you know what
46 activities took place in and around them pulling
47 together a working group through the Regional Advisory
48 Committee, Arctic Refuge, State of Alaska, at all?

49
50

1 MS. KENNER: I am somewhat familiar
2 but, no, I do not know all the details. I'd like to
3 refer this question to another OSM Staff member who
4 knows more.

5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Greg, maybe.....

7
8 MS. MAAS: Yeah, Pippa, this is Lisa, or
9 Doolittle.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, you can go ahead,
12 Lisa.

13
14 MS. MAAS: Okay, sorry, jump in Tom if
15 I misspeak. But, yeah, the Eastern Interior Council
16 tried to form a subcommittee at one of their meetings
17 between the State and Arctic Village residents and
18 Eastern Interior Council members, and at a Federal
19 Subsistence Board teleconference call where you
20 deliberated several special actions this past summer
21 you also considered Eastern Interior Council's request
22 to form that subcommittee and that request was denied
23 or deferred, but it did not happen. So if anyone else
24 have more specific information regarding that
25 subcommittee formation, feel free to jump in.

26
27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Lisa.

28
29 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, sorry, I
36 was listening to conversation.

37
38 MS. WESSELS: Sorry. This is Katya
39 Wessels, may I speak?

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Katya, go
42 ahead.

43
44 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. I just have a
45 little bit of information on the formation of the
46 subcommittee that Eastern Interior had requested. They
47 requested the subcommittee to be formed during their
48 meeting, fall meeting of 2019 and their proposal was
49 put together and presented to the Board at one of the
50

1 meetings in November and the Board requested more
2 information on the formation of the subcommittee and
3 OSM is supposed to collect this information from the
4 Eastern Interior RAC to find out exactly what the scope
5 of the work of the subcommittee will be and supposed to
6 present it to the Board when this document is ready.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
13 floor, Greg.

14

15 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Thank you for those answers. I think if I remember
17 correctly, and there's certainly guarantee of that,
18 that we agreed that a subcommittee would not be
19 appropriate due to, I believe some Federal Advisory
20 Committee Act concerns or considerations, but a working
21 group was certainly something that could be, you know,
22 implemented or put together. I'm concerned that, you
23 know, for whatever reason, I don't know why this is
24 taking so long and we're having so much difficulty in
25 perhaps getting a working group together and not
26 getting -- (indiscernible - cuts out) engage, perhaps,
27 the villages of Arctic Village or those that would
28 depend on this area, but I also will look forward to
29 hearing from the State, maybe they have more
30 information as well.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Greg, this is Tom, if I
37 could answer this and I can put some closure to parts
38 of this, I think. Through the Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom,
41 please, I would turn it over to you.

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. And Ken Lord can
44 also verify this. The creation of a working group is
45 something that, by terminology, is something that the
46 State organizes and are very costly -- are very costly
47 sorts of process and, again, would meet approvals that
48 would be difficult through regulations and relative to
49 FACA, however, the creation of a subcommittee to a RAC

50

1 is something that's well within the purview and
2 something that's normally done. But when the Eastern
3 Regional Advisory Council asked to create a
4 subcommittee, the Board did decline that, with pending
5 more information to form it. So not to play on the
6 semantics between working groups and subcommittees but
7 the subcommittees are something that are well within
8 the scope and normally get approved as an advisory body
9 to issues to the Regional Advisory Councils, but
10 working groups are far more formalized and costly
11 process, a good example would be the Western Arctic
12 Caribou Working Group and those working groups usually
13 sanctioned through the State and are not done as
14 commonplace.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and for the
17 comments to Mr. Siekaniec.

18
19 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
20 Greg.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, go
23 ahead.

24
25 MR. SIEKANIEC: Tom, thank you for that
26 explanation. I'll be real frank, I'm pretty
27 disappointed that we have not been able to move this
28 discussion between the Eastern Advisory Committee, the
29 Arctic Refuge, State of Alaska and the communities
30 involved. I think we've had, you know, more than ample
31 time. I understand we're waiting for some level of a
32 report back, I would really like to see this get the
33 attention that we thought it would be getting.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Can you hear me?

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, is that
44 you Zach?

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: It is, Mr. Chair. This
47 is Zach Stevenson with the Office of Subsistence
48 Management.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Zach, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. STEVENSON: If I may, I'd like to
5 read for the record a two page document that was
6 submitted on November 7th, 2019 responding to the
7 request raised during the November 2019 Federal
8 Subsistence Board teleconference addressing the
9 question posed by the Board -- or raised by the Board,
10 if I may?

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
17 Zach.

18
19 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. The
20 document opened with expectations and the expectations
21 were as follows:

22
23 One. For users of the area and Alaska
24 Native peoples to develop a working relationship that
25 does not exist at this time.

26
27 Two. The State of Alaska to develop
28 and implement a hunter ethics course.

29
30 Third. To gather information
31 pertaining to sheep management from local users in the
32 area to be submitted to the Eastern Interior Alaska
33 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, Federal
34 Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board of Game.

35
36 Addressing the goals, also requested by
37 the Federal Subsistence Board November 2019
38 teleconference. The goals were to -- and, again, this
39 is a draft document.

40
41 Were to reach agreement and respect for
42 future management of dall sheep in Unit 25A, as in
43 Alpha. An open dialogue in the future is needed to
44 support future management for locals to be informed
45 when issues in the area come up.

46
47 Timeframe. Again, addressing timeframe
48 of an issue requested by the Board. And this is,
49 again, a draft. The subcommittee shall hold two.....
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, a question.
2 Why is a draft presentation being given to the Board
3 instead of a finalized document.
4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think at this
8 time they're trying to just clarify why the process
9 doesn't seem to be where some Board members feel it was
10 and I think Zach's filling in that timeline.
11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. In
13 responding to Member Peltola's question. This process
14 was not completed, but I did just want to clarify for
15 the record and I'm happy to pause or stop at this
16 point, that this information was prepared.
17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair. I'll put
21 closure to part of this discussion relative to where
22 some gaps were, if I may.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Tom.
25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: I totally agree with
27 Mr. Siekaniec and Mr. Peltola. There was a position
28 that was presented to the Federal Subsistence Board to
29 create an advisory committee to the Regional Advisory
30 Council, that was kicked back to OSM for further
31 clarification and for more information, and that the
32 Office of Subsistence Management, in working with the
33 Eastern Regional Advisory Council has not done as
34 timely due diligence as it should have and will take
35 full responsibility and we totally understand the full
36 disappointment that Board Member Siekaniec and Board
37 Member Peltola have both stated.
38

39 Thank you, Sir.
40

41 MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
42 Wessels.
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, for
45 that Tom. Katya.
46

47 MS. WESSELS: Sorry to interrupt. The
48 Chair of the Eastern Interior RAC, Sue Entsminger,
49 she's on line and she wants to talk about that but her
50

1 line is closed, so if we can ask the Operator to open
2 her line, please.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Please,
5 Operator, can you open Sue Entsminger's line please.
6 Thank you.

7
8 OPERATOR: Yes, I can.

9
10 MS. ENTSMINGER: Hello, can you hear me?

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
13 you, Sue, you have the floor.

14
15 MS. ENTSMINGER: In lieu of what Tom
16 just said I think I will wait for my testimony.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
19 you, Sue.

20
21 Any other questions for Staff from the
22 Board.

23
24 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
27 Chad.

28
29 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I just have a
30 quick question, and it might be more appropriate for
31 the RAC. I was just reading through the Board of Game
32 actions on Page 1286. Within that it says the Council
33 states in the proposal that it intends for the proposal
34 to become a joint effort between the Alaska Board of
35 Game, Federal Subsistence Board and Arctic Village
36 residents to find a workable solution to a historically
37 contentious issue and build mutual respect between
38 parties. In that vein, I just want to make sure that
39 I've got a good understanding of pairing the Board of
40 Game action that was taken in March to what action
41 we're doing today. Could somebody help fill me in on
42 that?

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can somebody
45 from Staff have an answer for Chad?

46
47 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue
48 Entsminger, Eastern Interior RAC Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, you have
2 the floor, thank you.

3
4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank you. I'm
5 going to try to answer that. As you guys well know
6 this always continues to come up as long back as 1990,
7 and in an effort to try to get things moving along the
8 Eastern Interior did put that proposal forth and in
9 hopes that something -- this working group would start.
10 You know I have a prepared testimony when it's my turn
11 to talk more to that, but maybe he could be more
12 specific in the questioning because there's a lot
13 that's gone on ever since this started and we could do
14 that in my testimony, I guess.

15
16 MS. KENNER: Member Padgett, this is
17 Pippa Kenner, I had been cut off.

18
19 MR. PADGETT: Oh, thank you, go ahead.

20
21 MS. KENNER: Hi, yes. So the proposal
22 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that we're
23 considering right now is to reopen the area to non-
24 Federally-qualified users.

25
26 Now, our regulations only apply to the
27 residents of those four or five communities that are in
28 the C&T, including Arctic Village. The State's
29 regulations, of course, will apply to all residents of
30 the State and non-residents of the State. So often
31 times when the State is providing a general hunt, it's
32 done with a registration permit, and generally these
33 permits -- there's an unlimited distribution meaning
34 there isn't a number of permits that are given out,
35 they're just given out to whoever asks for them. Now,
36 what the Alaska Board of Game has done is basically for
37 that fall season, it's removed that general hunt, and
38 has replaced it with a draw permit, and that means
39 there will be a specific number of permits distributed
40 and no more, it means they can control how many people
41 are hunting in the area.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. PADGETT: Thank you, I appreciate
46 that clarification.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Pippa.

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is that you,
4 Gene.

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: No, this is Greg.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, go ahead,
9 Greg.

10
11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah, Chad, thanks. I
12 think you read just precisely what I think the
13 expectation is for the -- you know, the State and the
14 Villages and the RAC and the Refuge to all come
15 together and reach some agreement as to how this would
16 be workable and implemented on the landscape. I think
17 the State has moved favorably in the area of a draw
18 permit type system limiting the number of individuals.
19 I'm not sure I understand the registration aspect of
20 what I read in the most recent thing that came out. So
21 my feeling is we're closer but we just haven't gotten
22 there because we now have Regional Advisory Committees
23 that are opposing this action. So I'm trying to figure
24 out what work needs to be done yet to get us to this --
25 out of this continual discussion and have a very
26 workable solution to provide the opportunities for both
27 subsistence harvest as well as meeting the priority
28 public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge system,
29 which is, you know, all people have an opportunity to
30 potentially hunt there but under a very limited
31 circumstance.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
38 Pippa.

39
40 MS. KENNER: I just wanted to clarify
41 that the registration permit within the Management Area
42 will still exist but it will not begin until -- that
43 hunt will not begin until after October.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
46 other discussion for Staff.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
2 Gene.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
5 I understand the desire to get everybody at the table
6 but, yes, this issue has come up and gone year after
7 year and time after time, depending on the composition
8 of the Board of Game, depending on the composition of
9 the Federal Subsistence Board, depending on the
10 Administration of land management agencies and such
11 but, of all the potential discussion to date, I think
12 it needs to be centered upon, why is Arctic Village and
13 the residents who reside there hunt keep coming back
14 and have told the Federal Program time after time
15 again, we typically hunt by boat and via hunting by
16 boat they go up river. The area which has the highest
17 density, and this closure area, for lack of better
18 descriptor at the moment, overall is a low density
19 population, the highest densities are up towards the
20 northern end of the area which happens to be the exact
21 same area which is accessed by the Federally-qualified
22 users who access -- who try to harvest from the
23 population in question, but that also coincides with
24 the two or three viable landing strips that are
25 utilized by the non-local user hence this body, the
26 Federal Subsistence Board, has been told time and time
27 again, they are not able to access, therefore, i.e., a
28 detriment to the Federally-qualified user based on the
29 presence of non-Federally-qualified users in the area.

30
31 So I think that is the question at
32 hand, not necessarily the question of can we all get
33 together at the table. If we don't get at the basis of
34 the desire for residents to utilize these sheep
35 populations, that they are not able to access the sheep
36 because of the non-local use, then everybody's sitting
37 at the table and it is a moot point.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
42 discussion.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I believe we
47 are opening the floor to public testimony.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, I believe we
50

1 have the summary of written public comments.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I thought
4 I called on Katya so summary of public comments,
5 Regional Council Coordinator.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
10 members of the Board. We received no written public
11 comments on Wildlife Proposal WP20-49.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 Katya. Now, we'll open the floor to public testimony,
17 anyone on line.

18

19 OPERATOR: Thank you, Sir, one moment.
20 We have Katie Vanzant [sic], your line is open.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 OPERATOR: Katie, your line is open,
25 please check your mute button.

26

27 MS. LINNELL: For Karen Linnell, Ahtna
28 InterTribal Resource Commission?

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Karen.

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Hi. I got to sit in at
33 some of the Eastern Interior RAC meetings and with the
34 Board of Game through this process in the last few
35 months. I found it interesting that the Eastern
36 Interior RAC submitted a proposal to the Board of Game
37 reducing the bag limits and requiring full curl and
38 then later was modified, it was going to turn into one
39 every four years for a subsistence hunt, and then in
40 the very same turn, the State of Alaska is submitting a
41 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board trying to
42 open Federal lands. To me there's a vested interest
43 happening here, in that it's -- you know, instead of
44 advocating and trying to protect those subsistence
45 needs, that they were trying to reduce them.

46

47 One of the things with the Red Sheep
48 Creek and if you listened to all the folks that were
49 testifying, that, there are low numbers. There are

50

1 lower numbers now than when it was closed before and
2 that those people that are closest to the resource are
3 even refraining from harvesting themselves trying to
4 protect that population. So I'd ask you to not open
5 this area to non-Federally-qualified users and to
6 protect and provide for that preference for rural
7 subsistence users.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Karen for that. Any questions for Karen.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
17 any other public on line that would like to speak to
18 this proposal.

19

20 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa,
21 can you hear me?

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Pippa, I
24 can hear you.

25

26 MS. KENNER: Hi, I think -- I'm just
27 worried that we -- oh, no, we haven't -- I was worried
28 we were jumping over tribal consultation, I'm sorry.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 OPERATOR: Sir, the next comes from
33 Matt Gilbert, your line is open.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 OPERATOR: Matt Gilbert your line is
38 open, please check your mute button.

39

40 MR. GILBERT: Yeah, hello, hi, I didn't
41 expect my turn to come so quickly, I apologize. Yeah,
42 hi. Gwich'in Athabaskan from Arctic Village and I
43 actually am at the very end of an eight year journey of
44 mapping Gwich'in lands and it was all started because
45 of this Red Sheep Creek issue. And, yeah, and because
46 one of the RAC members kind of -- there's no pretty way
47 of saying this, I'll just say it, he kind of like
48 really aggravated me at the testimony back in '08 when
49 he said that -- or '07, that we had no documented use

50

1 of the land and so that set me off on this journey, and
2 I've been an independent contractor the last eight
3 years bouncing around different agencies, all of them,
4 actually, in the Interior, to map the lands with the
5 elders and a lot of these elders are not here no more
6 so these maps -- I'm writing the reports on them, I'm
7 just about done with them, and there is heavy, heavy
8 use of Red Creed Sheep.
9

10 But before my testimony time ends, I
11 don't know if it's timed, but I just want to say that
12 I've lived in Juneau, I've lived in Haines and I talk
13 to many people from Kenai, too, and all those southern
14 towns, and they've told me repeatedly, you know, I
15 don't know if this sounds radical or not, but they've
16 told me repeatedly that their wildlife populations have
17 been decimated even under the management of Fish and
18 Wildlife and so I think that's why you have a lot of
19 Native people up this way that just really, really
20 don't trust the management, don't trust anyone else
21 with their sheep because we've successfully managed
22 them for thousands of years and they're still here so
23 we must have been doing something right.
24

25 There's a story of a Tlingit elder, he
26 told me down there, it's so hilarious and cool, he said
27 there was one Tlingit Chief that was in charge of the
28 eulachon, he told people a long time ago, he told
29 people when to fish, when not to and nothing ever
30 happened to the eulachon population, but he said now
31 you have the whole Staff at Fish and Wildlife and the
32 eulachons are endangered now, so it's kind of like
33 that.
34

35 You know, that's why Native people just
36 are having a very hard time trusting and even feeling
37 safe with outside parties involved in the management or
38 hunting of the sheep, you know, and that's why we're
39 very protective. And I do have all the maps and I hope
40 to get them out soon, they might be published by the
41 University Press. Yeah, if I were to go into them we'd
42 be here for days.
43

44 But I just want to let you know I'm a
45 Gwich'in cartographer and I could tell you that the --
46 this is the end of Indian Country, too, you know,
47 Native American, we're the last chapter, you know, I
48 mean after this there's no other Native American
49 Tribes, so keep that in mind too everyone, sheep --
50

1 it's just really sensitive, really sensitive, and
2 please keep listening to the Arctic Village people.

3
4 Yeah, that's it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
7 that. Any questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
12 appreciate you taking the time to call in today. Any
13 other public on line that would like to speak to this
14 proposal.

15
16 MR. GILBERT: Thanks.

17
18 OPERATOR: The next comes from Curtis
19 Summers [sic], your line is open.

20
21 MR. SUMMER: Good afternoon. My name
22 is Curtis Summer. I'm currently the First Chief for
23 the Native Village of Tanana here in the Interior.

24
25 We are west of Fairbanks on the Yukon
26 River right where the Tanana River meets the Yukon
27 River and I have had a lifetime of living off the land.
28 I used to spend my youth in trapping camps screening
29 out, falling out fish camps, I think I've spent maybe a
30 total of two to three months in a village between
31 trapping camps and fish camps. But I was raised on
32 food off the land and in swimming in the water and also
33 flying in the air, eating the duck eggs in the
34 springtime and stuff like that.

35
36 I see that most of that is gone now and
37 all we have are a bunch of tightly regulated seasons
38 where my people, the Dena' is forced to abide by. With
39 that said, we have a very high price of food here, our
40 half gallon of milk is \$8 here and a dozen of eggs is
41 almost \$6, a loaf of bread is \$6, a little steak is 16
42 to \$20. We pay a high price for gasoline here even
43 though oil is syphoned out of Alaska lands. And right
44 now we have a flood warning here, potential flood where
45 we're going to have to evacuate our elders, our
46 medically challenged residents who live here in Tanana,
47 but for the rest of us we will be staying here to take
48 care of this village if it floods. That means camping
49 out, we'll have maybe generators and freezers but
50

1 limited food. We have a need to go and harvest several
2 moose to pass around between the villagers in order to
3 make ends meet while we're going through this flood
4 situation and after. So food will be needed and
5 freezers and generators and all that. We won't have
6 any access to the store, and possibly to the air
7 field. But we go through this every year. When people
8 are successful they always help other families who are
9 not as successful and pass the food around. We live by
10 a different philosophy than the Colonial philosophy.
11 Our tribal philosophy is us and we, it takes all of us
12 to survive. The Colonial philosophy is me. Me. It's
13 mine, you know, by any means of taking it, and we know
14 by the slaughter of 115 million Natives here in this
15 country alone and many more hundreds of millions of
16 Natives world-wide.

17
18 But, you know, we don't ask for much,
19 we ask for much, all we ask for is enough to live on,
20 and we let others take what they need. And if history
21 is correct, Alaska Natives take one to two percent of
22 the waterfowl, the wildlife, we do not hunt for sport,
23 we don't consider it money, we hunt to survive, and
24 that's something that the Colonial governments have
25 forgotten in their greed. And even I know, just like
26 that gentleman from Arctic Village who just spoke, you
27 know, you guys call this the Last Frontier, but, you
28 know, the State, the Federal governments are busy
29 screwing it up. Before ANCSA, the State and the
30 Federal governments has the entire state surveyed for
31 minerals and then they rammed ANCSA down the Natives
32 throats and jumped on all the mineral rich lands and
33 left us with nothing. That's what this mad rush to get
34 that Ambler Road project going for, is off of that.

35
36 But getting back to wild game, you
37 know, these Natives here in the Interior, when they
38 need meat, they don't have no store to go to, all they
39 have are White Man's rules to live by and they got to
40 live by them or go to jail. So I think what I'm asking
41 for is for you all to consider the people, the Natives,
42 and the non-Natives that live in the villages, they
43 don't live on the road system, they don't live in a big
44 city with a supermarket down the block, we only have
45 one store and that is priced out of our range for the
46 most part, but we do need help and for you guys to make
47 good decisions on our behalf, you might hear us
48 complaining, but for us, it's the only way for us to
49 maintain our way of life.

50

1 Thank you for listening to me.

2

3 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Chief Summer,
4 for your testimony.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm sorry I got
7 cut off here for a second. Appreciate the.....

8

9 MR. SUMMER: Do you want me to repeat
10 it?

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I got it
13 all, I just literally missed the last second there. I
14 appreciate you calling in Chief and sharing the
15 concerns of your community. We're all facing this
16 together and I hope the best for you and your community
17 and good luck with that flood there.

18

19 Operator, was there anybody else on
20 line.

21

22 OPERATOR: Yes, the next comes from
23 Charlene Stern, your line is open.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 OPERATOR: Charlene Stern, your line is
28 open, please check your mute button.

29

30 MS. STERN: Okay. Can you hear me
31 okay?

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, loud and
34 clear, you have the floor.

35

36 MS. STERN: Okay. All right. Thank
37 you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. My name is
38 Charlene Stern, and I am the Vice President of Tanana
39 Chiefs Conference. I am here today to respectfully
40 offer comments on Wildlife Proposal 20-49 in support of
41 Interior Tribes.

42

43 Your decision significantly impacts our
44 people, communities and our well-being. The TCC region
45 covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior
46 Alaska which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire
47 state, and just slightly smaller than the State of
48 Texas. We encompass six subregions, the Lower Yukon
49 subregion, the Upper Kuskokwim subregion, the Upper

50

1 Tanana subregion, the Yukon Flats subregion, the Yukon
2 Koyukuk subregion, and the Yukon Tanana subregion.
3 Within our six subregions are 37 villages. Our mission
4 is to provide a unified voice in advancing sovereign
5 tribal governments through the promotion of physical
6 and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic
7 development and the culture of the Interior Alaska
8 Native people.
9

10 Alaska Native hunting and fishing
11 practices including the harvesting and sharing of fish
12 and game and other resources and the ceremonies which
13 accompany these practices are essential to the social,
14 cultural, spiritual, and economic well-being and
15 survival of Alaska Native people. Alaska Natives have
16 served as the stewards of their traditional lands and
17 resources maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems
18 for thousands of years and maintain the belief that
19 human beings are an integral part of naturally
20 functioning ecosystems not separate from them.
21 Maintaining a balance in population dynamics has always
22 been a critical element of indigenous management
23 practices.
24

25 TCC opposes Proposal WP20-49 and any
26 attempt to open a non-subsistence hunt in the Arctic
27 Village Sheep Management Area. As a tribal member
28 citizen of Arctic Village, the men in my family,
29 including my grandfather and uncles were raised with
30 sheep hunting as part of their seasonal subsistence
31 cycle. The Gwich'in people of Arctic Village have
32 inter-generational knowledge about the sheep of Red
33 Sheep Creek and Cane Creek area and have consistently
34 opposed efforts to open it to non-subsistence hunting.
35 This area is included in our customary use area and is
36 critical historical and spiritual site, including
37 burial grounds. Any proposed change to the management
38 of sheep must be discussed in advanced consultation
39 with the Arctic Village Council and Venetie Village
40 Council and Native Village of Venetie Tribal
41 Government.
42

43 The Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek area
44 has a long history before any of us, in terms of State
45 and Federal managers got involved. We have lots of
46 countless testimonies over the years by tribal citizens
47 of Arctic Village on record, and there have been, just
48 this year alone, three tribal consultations alone on
49 this proposal during the Interior Regional Advisory
50

1 Committee meeting and November consultation and then
2 here again on Monday with the FSB. The Arctic Village
3 people have never wavered in the protection of the
4 sheep in the area. It is clear that our people, and
5 our traditional hunters observe that the sheep
6 population is insufficient to provide for our needs,
7 let alone non-subsistence hunting opportunities.
8

9 Sheep populations by ADF&G estimates
10 are lower than in previous years, and so we firmly
11 believe that there is no biological reason for an
12 opening at this time.
13

14 Additionally, there are no current
15 surveys from Cane Creek or Red Sheep Creek to be able
16 to make a determination on sheep population.
17

18 In addition to our stated biological
19 concerns, we are gravely concerned about the political
20 nature and the persistent pressures placed on this
21 proposal, the threat of litigation by the ADF&G
22 Commissioner at the March Board of Game meeting in
23 Fairbanks broadcasts a hostile environment towards this
24 proposal. The contradictory administrative record
25 indicates land management ambivalence on this proposal
26 and questions regarding the integrity of the core
27 mission of U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The disagreement
28 between the leadership of the agency and its own
29 resource Staff suggests the political influence and the
30 official position of the agency rather than an decision
31 rendered on the basis of a disciplined approach
32 supported by systematic biological and cultural
33 historical documentation. The issuance of a favorable
34 position on this proposal by the agency before
35 obtaining renewed tribal consultation is misaligned
36 with the statutory and regulatory environments of the
37 Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan and poses a
38 conflict of interest.
39

40 It is critical that the Board oppose
41 this proposal and the tribes officially requested
42 consultation with ADF&G at their March Board of Game
43 meeting. We envision a tribal consultation process
44 which would result in more accurate sheep data.
45 Consultation with tribes and local residents will give
46 both ADF&G and OSM the opportunity to verify and
47 improve data and address this ongoing concern so we do
48 not end up here again in another two years.
49
50

1 TCC offers an invitation for Board
2 members to coordinate village visits to better be able
3 to understand the impacts of your decision on the
4 people of the Interior. We urge the Board and OSM to
5 implement your adopted Tribal Consultation Policy,
6 which would allow us to address many of our
7 longstanding issues that continually come up before you
8 again, together in respectful consultation we are more
9 likely to develop solutions that we can all advance.

10

11 I want to thank the Board and the
12 Chairman for the opportunity to offer this testimony on
13 behalf of TCC.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
18 Thank you for taking the time to call in today and
19 clearly articulate that position, I appreciate it.

20

21 Any questions from the Board.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
26 thank you for calling in. Operator is there any other
27 public on the line that would like to speak specific to
28 this proposal?

29

30 OPERATOR: Thank you. The next comes
31 from Tonya Garnett, your line is open.

32

33 MS. GARNETT: Hi, can everybody hear
34 me?

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tonya, you
37 have the floor.

38

39 MS. GARNETT: Thank you. Thank you to
40 the Board and Chairman for allowing us this time to
41 testify. My name is Tonya Garnett. I work for the
42 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government as well as
43 I'm a tribal member, and we have other people on the
44 line as well who are waiting to testify and I hope that
45 you're able to get to all of them, including elders and
46 chiefs and councils.

47

48 First, I'd like to open with a concern
49 that we evaluate the decisionmakers and any conflicts

50

1 of interests. We're concerned about this proposal
2 being fairly and equitably considered as it has a
3 contentious history with the State publicly threatening
4 to sue pending the FSB decision and the U.S. Fish and
5 Wildlife making public comment in support of providing
6 non-subsistence opportunity and without any tribal
7 consultation.

8
9 The Arctic Village Council -- I also
10 work for Arctic Village Council. The Arctic Village
11 Council and the Native Village of Venetie Tribal
12 Government are Federally-recognized tribes that oppose
13 Wildlife Proposal 20-49, which seeks to open the Arctic
14 Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A to the
15 harvest of sheep by non-Federally-qualified users.

16
17 As you know Arctic Village has long
18 opposed such efforts. Our tribal representatives met
19 with five members of this Board as recently as November
20 2019 to discuss this position. Today, together with
21 Native Village of Venetie Tribal government, we own 1.8
22 million acres of land south of the Management Area and
23 we represent tribal members from both Venetie and
24 Arctic Village.

25
26 Some of our key points to consider for
27 opposing this proposal, for over 29 years the Federal
28 Subsistence Board has deliberated over decisionmaking
29 on whether to keep the Arctic Village Sheep Management
30 Area open or closed for the harvesting of sheep by non-
31 Federally-qualified users. The Federal Subsistence
32 Board is the record to consider.

33
34 Over the years Arctic Village residents
35 have continually testified at numerous EIRAC meetings,
36 tribal consultations, and the FSB meetings to close
37 non-subsistence hunting in the Cane Creek and Red Sheep
38 drainages. That record of contains important
39 observational data as well as traditional and cultural
40 use of sheep. In our language we call sheep, divii, to
41 the Neets'ait Gwich'in people of Arctic Village and
42 Venetie. This Management Area and the resources upon
43 it are part of our traditional and customary use area.
44 We have been stewarding these resources for far longer
45 than any other manager and we have significant concerns
46 with the changes being proposed before this body.

47
48 There are no current surveys from the
49 Cane Creek or Red Sheep area to inform a proposed
50

1 change to current management. According to the ADF&G
2 estimates, sheep populations are lower than previous
3 closures. The Office of Subsistence Management
4 reported at the 2012 FSB meeting indicated that a sheep
5 population density of 1.7 sheep per square mile in 2006
6 and then .8 sheep per square mile in 2007. At the
7 March 2020 Board of Game meeting biologists reported
8 that the last surveys of the Arctic Village Sheep
9 Management Area showed sheep density estimates of .67
10 sheep per square mile. The sheep density population is
11 declining since the closure in 2012. There is no
12 biological reasoning for any opening at this time.

13
14 The most current population data is
15 actually from our Arctic Village elder Edward Sam, who
16 was quoted at the 2019 EIRAC meeting by tribal
17 representative David Smith and myself. Edward Sam's
18 directive was not to hunt because of the low and
19 unhealthy population of the sheep in the Cane Creek and
20 Red Sheep area. Local observations of low sheep
21 populations are one of the strongest indicators of the
22 need to allow resources to replenish so as to allow
23 future subsistence use. Based on these observations,
24 Federally-qualified users have practiced self-imposed
25 conservation and should be the first user group to be
26 afforded the harvest opportunities when the sheep
27 population is once again healthy and stable.
28 Stewardship practices such as these described are, in
29 fact, acts of subsistence. These principles were
30 recognized by Anthony Christianson at the 2014 FSB
31 meeting before a vote on Wildlife Proposal 14-51, he
32 stated: "The foundation of the testimonies that we
33 heard is that it's cultural and spiritual connection
34 that the people have with the resource, the level of
35 spirituality people have and the act of subsistence. I
36 think the resource is responding to the people in the
37 region who care about the resource."

38
39 The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has
40 previously supported closure of Red Sheep and Cane
41 Creek drainages reporting a long history of cultural
42 subsistence use and essential to residents of Arctic
43 Village. This position was contradicted in a recent
44 letter to the Board of Game on February 4th, 2020 which
45 supported Proposal 82 rescinding closure, yet, remained
46 neutral on Federal proposals on the Arctic Village
47 Sheep Management Area.

48
49 Our tribes and tribal members have had
50

1 to continually monitor the sheep management in this
2 area. At the 2018 FSB meeting, Greg Siekaniec
3 requested to defer Wildlife Proposal 18-56 until the
4 Board of Game cycle because: "We've had it, sounds
5 like the same discussion over and over, and so I would
6 like to look for a way that we have further discussion
7 around it, and I agree with Karen, we may not get to an
8 answer that's agreeable with the State, or my
9 perspective on the Refuge, but at least we would have
10 some additional dialogue and information to make a
11 decision."
12

13 We believe that the answer to request a
14 moratorium that would prevent this issue from being
15 prematurely being revisited again and again before the
16 sheep population has had an opportunity to stabilize,
17 and before we have current and accurate surveys of the
18 Red Sheep and Cane Creek areas, which can conform (ph-
19 muffled) a management change.
20

21 The Arctic Village Council and the
22 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government are united
23 in our opposition to Wildlife Proposal 20-49.
24

25 We also ask that this conflict of
26 interest be addressed, the threat of litigation by the
27 ADF&G Commissioner at the recent Board of Game meeting
28 broadcasted a hostile environment on this proposal, the
29 contradictory administrative record indicates land
30 managing ambivalence on the proposal and questions the
31 integrity of the core mission of the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service, which is the conservation management
33 and, and where appropriate restoration of the fish,
34 wildlife and plant resources. In the Arctic National
35 Wildlife Refuge there is an additional mission of
36 managing to honor the land, the wildlife and the Native
37 people with respect and restraint. The disagreement
38 between the leadership of the agency and its own
39 resource Staff suggest the political influence and the
40 official position of the agency, rather than a decision
41 rendered on the basis of a disciplined approach
42 supported by systematic, biological, and cultural
43 history documentation. The issuance of a favorable
44 position of the agency on proposals before obtaining
45 renewed tribal consultation comment is misaligned with
46 the statutory and regulatory environments of the Refuge
47 Comprehensive Conservation Plan and poses a conflict of
48 interest.
49
50

1 This conundrum and agency expertise
2 qualifies that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency seat
3 to be recused from voting on the Wildlife Proposal 20-
4 49.

5
6 Thank you, again, to the Board and
7 Chairman, for allowing me to testify, and, again, I
8 hope that our elder, Chief, and Councils and tribal
9 members are to testify today as well.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
12 taking the time to call in on this issue, any questions
13 from the Board.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 appreciate your comments today. Operator, next public
19 please.

20
21 OPERATOR: Thank you. Jessica Black,
22 your line is open.

23
24 MS. BLACK: Thank you. Can you hear
25 me?

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I can hear
28 you Jessica, you have the floor.

29
30 MS. BLACK: Okay. Thank you, Chairman
31 and members of the Board. My name is Jessica Black. I
32 am a Gwichyaa Zhee tribal member from Fort Yukon, and
33 my partner, Danny Lee, is from Vashraiik'oo Arctic
34 Village and a tribal member. I also grew up in the
35 village of Nenana.

36
37 I would like to start by saying that I
38 am opposed to the proposal, WP20-49, and any attempt to
39 open non-subsistence hunts in that Arctic Village Sheep
40 Management Area.

41
42 My partner, Danny and I, have been
43 educated by our elders and Danny's Uncle, Edward Sam,
44 is a Gwich'in elder from Arctic Village, and he
45 continues to talk with us and educate us and emphasize
46 the significance of Red Sheep Creek. He asks that we
47 share this history and current situation with our
48 daughter and he talks about why this area is so
49 important to our Gwich'in people. Gwich'in people have
50

1 been connected spiritually to this place for thousands
2 of years. Edward has hunted in this sacred area for
3 decades, all of his life, and has witnessed significant
4 changes. He shared a story with us that approximately
5 60 years ago there was around 70,000 sheep from Kobuk
6 to the border, fast forward 60 years later, there are
7 approximately 2,300 to 2,500 sheep left. Edward shared
8 that after hunting at least 36 years in a row he didn't
9 get one sheep. He was in Red Sheep Creek for two weeks
10 this past year and only saw one ram but he let it go to
11 repopulate.

12
13 This is the kind of management he and
14 our Gwich'ins of the area engage in, respect. Respect
15 for the animal so it can repopulate.

16
17 He shared with us that he walked up one
18 valley and he walked up another valley and he only saw
19 ewes and lambs. Edward said we need to be mindful of
20 all of this and we need to continue to care for the
21 animals that give themselves to us and that we have a
22 spiritual relationship with.

23
24 I'm not sure why this proposal
25 continues to be brought up. The people of the area,
26 the Gwich'in people have resoundingly asked that it
27 remain closed to non-subsistence users. And we know
28 this area intimately because we have been here for
29 10,000 plus years, and our stewardship is based on our
30 traditional and customary use of the area.

31
32 Thank you, very much for your time.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Thank you for taking the time to call in today. Any
36 questions from the Board.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
41 appreciate your comments today. Operator, is there
42 another caller.

43
44 OPERATOR: Bruce Irvin your line is
45 open.

46
47 MR. IRVIN: Hello, Chair and members of
48 the Board, can you hear me okay?

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Bruce, you
2 have the floor.

3
4 MR. IRVIN: Okay. I'll make my
5 testimony quick. I oppose WP20-49, the Arctic Village
6 Gwich'in people have been managing the subsistence
7 since time and immemorial, and with that long history
8 and the recommendations of closing the Arctic Village
9 Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A from the tribal
10 consultation testimony that Arctic Gwich'in
11 representative gave on April 20th, 2020, there's
12 clearly not a surplus harvestable animal to reopen this
13 hunt without jeopardizing future Federally-qualified
14 user subsistence hunt opportunities. This is a
15 Federally-qualified issue opportunity to provide much
16 needed testaments for the Arctic Village Gwich'in who
17 rely on the sacred (indiscernible-muffled). If they
18 decline to hunt sheep in the Arctic Valley Sheep
19 Management Area because of a critically low population
20 of 0.67 sheep per square mile, and it is disrespectful
21 and unsustainable to suggest opening this opportunity
22 to non-Federally-qualified users.

23
24 I urge you to respectfully support the
25 Arctic Village Gwich'in people and keep the Arctic
26 Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A closed to
27 non-Federally-qualified users.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
32 taking the time to call today, appreciate it. Any
33 questions from the Board.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
38 thank you very much for calling in. Operator, is there
39 another public on the line.

40
41 OPERATOR: Thank you. The next comes
42 from Tiffany Yatlin, your line is open.

43
44 MS. YATLIN: Hi, can you hear me?

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tiffany, I
47 can hear you, you have the floor.

48
49 MS. YATLIN: Hi, my name is Tiffany
50

1 Yatlin. I am the tribal administrator for the Arctic
2 Village Council. I would like to keep the Arctic
3 Village Sheep Management Area closed due to the outside
4 hunting, due to not enough sheep and we use the land
5 for subsistence hunt, we also have tribal members that
6 own allotments in that area. If it opens to the
7 outside hunting it will make our job more difficult
8 dealing with outside hunters. We also use the meat as
9 medicine, and when the sheep population is low, we do
10 not hunt.

11
12 So, again, I would like the Arctic
13 Village, Red Sheep area closed.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MS. GARNETT: I also have -- we're on
18 the same line here, and I have my Council member Faith
19 Gimmell, if she can testify.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we'll take
22 her now, thank you. Please state your name for the
23 record again.

24
25 MS. GIMMELL: I'm Faith Gimmell, Arctic
26 Village Council member.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your
29 call today and we'll wait for you.

30
31 MS. GIMMELL: I'm right here. Thank
32 you for taking comments on this important issue.

33
34 I am speaking today in opposition to
35 20-49, which would open up the Red Sheep Creek, Cane
36 Creek area to outside hunters within the traditional
37 homelands of the Neets'aiti Gwich'in. We are currently
38 in crises with Covid-19, the coronavirus. This virus
39 is impacting all Alaska Native communities and our
40 ability to food from cities. We now rely on the land
41 for our food security more to address the disparity.
42 We cannot afford to jeopardize the sheep population as
43 it is more needed for subsistence hunting during this
44 time of crises.

45
46 The primary concern I have about this
47 issue is that from my understanding the current
48 population of the sheep in the area is low, as we have
49 heard from all the previous speakers, and following our
50

1 own traditional hunting laws we do not hunt when the
2 numbers are low, which begs the question, why should it
3 be open to other hunters? What is the motivation in
4 this? Instead of protecting and preserving our
5 important subsistence resource of sheep, opening the
6 area would serve only towards depletion of this
7 important subsistence resource. The abnormal weather
8 we've observed recently would also serve to lower the
9 numbers further, in my opinion. As we have noted rain
10 recently, and cold immediately after would serve to
11 create icy conditions on the mountains, which in my
12 opinion will impact pregnant sheep this year. The
13 nourishment they need will be harder to reach thereby
14 impacting the health of pregnant females and that will
15 further lower the numbers. I believe biologists would
16 come to the same conclusion in the near future.

17
18 The Gwich'in are the ones that have
19 always been the stewards of this region. We are the
20 ones that live here and monitor the game in our area,
21 and always have, and our traditional law, when we take
22 from the lands, we only take what we need, with the
23 forward insight of always ensuring the resource would
24 be available for people after. When we are hunting on
25 our land, we are taught to be very respectful, we
26 handle our hunt in a respectful way. We do what we can
27 to keep the area clean and we always give proper thanks
28 for what we take. If the area is opened, outside
29 hunters, who do not understand traditional law, would
30 compete with our subsistence hunters. Many times we
31 are told of the waste they leave. The area where they
32 hunted is not left clean. The hunting practices are
33 not respectful. We ensure the continuance of our
34 reciprocal relationship with the land and animals when
35 we observe our customary and traditional laws, outside
36 hunters do not, and, thereby, jeopardize our hunt as
37 well in the future. Outside hunters are there to take
38 for trophy, usually. We are there to provide food
39 security for our community. We need this subsistence
40 resource to feed our community. If the area is opened
41 up, the activity of airplanes in the area would
42 negatively impact our ability to hunt.

43
44 In the past when the area was open
45 there was extensive history of conflict of non-
46 Federally-qualified hunters and local subsistence
47 hunters. This needs to be taken into account in the
48 decision as well. We should not have to compete with
49 outside interests when we need the traditional foods
50

1 for our survival. A healthy sheep population is
2 necessary for our customary and traditional use of
3 sheep.
4

5 I strongly urge that the closure remain
6 in effect. It is necessary for the conservation of
7 healthy populations of the sheep to provide for our
8 subsistence needs. Opening the area will adversely
9 affect our subsistence access and ability to harvest
10 sheep disqualifying the meaningful preference for
11 Federal subsistence users.
12

13 I strongly oppose 20-49 and strongly
14 support a moratorium to be put in place to allow the
15 sheep to replenish its population.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 (In Native)
20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
22 that good testimony. Any questions from the Board.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I thank you for
27 taking the time to call in and speak to this.
28 Operator, any other public on line that would like to
29 speak to this proposal.
30

31 OPERATOR: Thank you. The next comes
32 from Deborah Lind, your line is open.
33

34 MS. LIND: Good afternoon, Chair, and
35 members of the Board. My name is Deborah Lind. I work
36 for Tanana Chiefs Conference. Today I speak as an
37 anthropologist.
38

39 I read through eight proposals spanning
40 29 years of the Federal Subsistence transcripts, and
41 this is my conclusion, I am opposing Proposal WP20-49,
42 and my reason is to first support Dr. Charlene Stern
43 and Tonya Garnett, and Dr. Jessica Black's testimony.
44 They gave a complete record of reasons that I support.
45

46 I will provide additional information,
47 which is going to refer to surveys conducted on sheep
48 populations. The current sheep population does not
49 support this hunt. I will reference OSM's well written
50

1 Staff analysis found in your meeting book starting on
2 Page 1280.

3
4 The first evidence I will reference is
5 this Board's history on both to open up the area to
6 non-Federally-qualified users. One proposal was passed
7 in 2007 to open the area for non-qualified users, and
8 seven proposals failed to open the hunt for non-
9 qualified users. This historical vote, of one to
10 seven, is a failed vote to open the area to non-
11 qualified users in the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek
12 drainage. This public process is comparable to a work
13 group that concludes this Board's decision to keep the
14 area closed, so it should be considered and respected.

15
16 The other evidence that I would like
17 for you to consider is that a healthy sheep population
18 is the core and foundation for confirming conservation
19 and biological concerns, subsistence opportunity, along
20 with the cultural religious and health of the community
21 that depends on it. So I want to provide to you a
22 timeline using the surveys that were reported from your
23 meeting transcripts that referenced the Cane Creek and
24 Red Sheep population and reports are as follows:

25
26 In 1991 the sheep density in this area
27 was 2.25 per square mile.

28
29 In 2006 was the next survey and the
30 sheep density was reported at 1.7 per square mile, a
31 decline of 24 percent in the sheep population.

32
33 In 2007 the sheep density was .8 per
34 square mile, another decline and 40 percent of the
35 sheep population, and that was the year that Proposal
36 WP07-56 opened the hunt to non-Federally-qualified
37 users.

38
39 In 2012 Proposal 12-76 closed the hunt
40 to non-Federally-qualified users.

41
42 In 2015 at the State Board of Game, the
43 State biologist reported that the sheep density in 2015
44 was .67.

45
46 So to summarize, the total sheep
47 population that has been continuously declining from
48 1991 to the very last survey in 2015 reveals a total
49 decline of 70 percent of the sheep population in the
50

1 Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek population. In
2 addition, numerous public testimonies, as noted by
3 other testimonies that we've heard today, that the
4 elders in the area have spoken of this decline and
5 instruct hunters to not hunt, this is why it is always
6 referenced that there is no harvest being taken, it is
7 because they are in a conservation management decision
8 by their elders as a traditional suggestion to protect
9 the sheep for the recovery of the population.

10

11 In closing, I would like to oppose this
12 proposal, WP20-49, and ask that it should remain closed
13 to non-Federally-qualified users for conservation
14 reasons for there is no surplus to allow this hunt, and
15 to protect and ensure a healthy sheep population and to
16 ensure subsistence opportunity as mandated by ANILCA
17 Section .815(3), and most importantly to preserve
18 sacred ground for cultural and health of the
19 communities that rely on them for their well-being.

20

21 Thank you for your time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 Thank you for calling in with your testimony today.
25 Any questions from the Board.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Thank you
30 and appreciate it. Next, Operator, is there another
31 public on the line.

32

33 OPERATOR: Thank you, the next comes
34 from Bob Sattler, your line is open.

35

36 MR. SATTLE: Good afternoon, everyone.
37 I'd like to confirm that you can hear me.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Bob, you
40 have the floor.

41

42 MR. SATTLE: Okay, thank you. Bob
43 Sattler, I'm an environmental policy analyst with
44 Tanana Chiefs Conference and work with some of the
45 folks that you've heard from today. And I wasn't
46 planning to testify because I don't have a laid out
47 comment, but I would like to bring up the procedural
48 question that was raised a little bit before this.

49

50

1 I'm new to this. I don't understand
2 all the nuances, I have to admit that right up front.
3 I'm not a lawyer, but it's been quite an education
4 listening to the testimony and the Staff report that
5 started this.
6

7 And, particularly, you know, in my work
8 I did review the administrative record on this and I do
9 understand that it's sort of a long controversial
10 issue, this Red Sheep Creek area, and in the review of
11 that I have noticed that the Refuge has positions on
12 both sides of this. The expertise of the resources
13 Staff has issued some opposition, but yet the
14 leadership has taken a position in favor of this
15 proposal. And it's not clear how the agency makes
16 decisions in this, or how they have made a decision,
17 and it just strikes me in my, outside, sort of a third-
18 party review of it, until the land managing agency is
19 more explicit and more forthcoming about how they make
20 decisions, that perhaps they should be recused from
21 voting on this issue.
22

23 And since I didn't have prepared
24 testimony I'm going to keep it fairly short, and that
25 concludes my comments.
26

27 Thank you, for the opportunity,
28 Chairman and the Board.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
31 Thank you for taking the time. Questions from the
32 Board.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
37 thank you again. Operator, are there any more on line
38 that would like to testify to this specific proposal.
39

40 OPERATOR: Thank you, Sir. The next
41 comes from Sara James, your line is open.
42

43 MS. JAMES: Thank you for the
44 Subsistence Department, and Eastern Regional Board, and
45 every individual that have spoke strongly on it,
46 against it. Hunting within Red Sheep Creek, outside
47 user, unqualified user.
48

49 I just want to start out saying that we
50

1 are Neets'aii Gwich'in, we're proud to be Neets'aii
2 Gwich'in. That means this side of ocean, Arctic Ocean,
3 to the Yukon, to the White Mountain. I have to speak
4 in my language times just to make it clear that I'm
5 coming from -- where I am from.
6

7 My name is Sara James, and my dad is
8 from Birch Creek, and he knew that area and got married
9 to my mother, she's from Arctic Village, and she grew
10 up up here, and she know the area, so I'm pretty well
11 covered. And we live through those area in my
12 lifetime, and we still do. We go to Fort Yukon, we go
13 to Birch Creek, we got relatives scattered all over the
14 place so we haven't leave yet, we're here to stay.
15

16 We're talking about trophy for outside
17 user, unqualified user, no respect to our country,
18 that, we don't want to allow that, we never did.
19

20 We're talking about Red Sheep Creek and
21 Cane Creek. It's our spiritual area. Our name four --
22 four item that's very important to Red Creek Sheep in
23 my language -- (In Native) when we talk about (In
24 Native) we know we're talking about something that's
25 sacred. And then when we talk about (In Native) we
26 know we're talking about sacred. And then when we talk
27 about (In Native), we know we're talking about sacred
28 place. And then when we talk about (In Native) I know
29 we're talking about sacred place.
30

31 So to talk about all these sacred
32 spiritual connection we have, I'm -- I am considered
33 elder to Arctic Village Neets'aii Gwich'in, and we're
34 all Neets'aii Gwich'in, we always kept that name
35 Neets'aii Gwich'in from way back before bow and arrow,
36 before they even got there, we were all Neets'aii
37 Gwich'in, so we're not leaving anybody out.
38

39 Caribou, moose, even bugs, fish, they
40 got special place to get their mineral needs into their
41 body and that's what we call (In Native), and this
42 place, Red Sheep Creek, when they were talking about
43 allotment way back when we were applying to allotment
44 we only have certain time to do it, again, we were
45 directed to, and at that time I remember people got
46 together and said all these places is our place, we got
47 to apply to places that we know that are sacred to us
48 to survive, it's like a security area. So that's what
49 they pick out first, they said this is -- these are the
50

1 sacred area, okay, and then they said, okay, who
2 originate from that area, who was there doing their
3 subsistence living, they going to apply for that place
4 so my sister, my family would go into the mountain for
5 -- sometime we pick out one summer maybe you could do
6 that and then come back with bunch of sheep, meat and
7 share, and that's our medicine. I know the medicine
8 part of the sheep. It's very important to me. When we
9 go sheep hunting, these young guys, I said the last
10 time, my testimony, a young guy had been living in
11 Fairbanks all over the place, he did this and that but
12 he wants to go to the spiritual place and go hunting,
13 and he moved up here in fall time, okay, when are we
14 going to go sheep hunting, and I said, no, it's low
15 population, he moved here just to do that. I seen lot
16 of young people that I went sheep hunting with, got
17 into the mountains, it's like sacred ground to them, it
18 is sacred. Nothing is impossible for them, that's how
19 spiritually the place is. When we were coming back, we
20 went to the mountains up that way for 20 days, we hate
21 to come back, we hate to come back to the so-called
22 civilization, when we were around the bend from the
23 village, they said, we don't want no, and then we came
24 around that bend they said turn the light off, you
25 know, that's how well connected they were to it
26 spiritually.

27
28 Because I want to talk about the
29 spiritual connection because that is very important to
30 us. It's our medicine. There's a part of a sheep that
31 we take in as a food, it's good for running and it's
32 good for high altitude, because it's high altitude up
33 into the mountains. And that's how we are connected.

34
35 So for last few years, I don't know how
36 long now, we're facing climate change. When I said (In
37 Native) that mean red ink, and before the bow and arrow
38 days, people used to come from miles and miles just to
39 get our red ink, we got it up here. Because of climate
40 change it got erode away, some part of it. Our river
41 was three -- three days red. Climate change. It's in
42 our subsistence way of life. It's like that all over
43 Alaska. Right now we're facing uncertain challenging
44 and that plays a very -- Red Sheep Creek, Cane Creek,
45 that's our food security, and now it's a low
46 population. Why do we even have to talk about non-
47 qualified user, which I don't like to see the red sheep
48 ram up in somebody I don't know, in their house, up on
49 their wall just to look at it, just to be -- I don't
50

1 know, they like to go for something unique, I don't
2 know why, even if it's the last thing they going to
3 get, last tiger, last lion, last hippo, I just don't
4 see any value in that. It's been a hard winter here in
5 Arctic Village, all over Alaska with lots and lots of
6 snow. We think about that, right now we're thinking
7 about how the sheep is, we're not talking about, oh,
8 we're going to go sheep hunting this fall and I'm going
9 to get my ram, no, we think about the environment, what
10 condition it is, what's going on in the world right
11 now, nothing is good. We don't have an answer. It's a
12 challenging time.

13
14 So at that time when they were picking
15 out allotments, they said we want to hold on to that
16 Old John Lake, everybody's spread out now where we can
17 all put our names on to apply, we did that. So on our
18 own, we move to Old John Lake, walking, boat, whatever,
19 and we claim the whole Old John Lake because that fish
20 in Old John Lake is very special to us as Red Sheep
21 Creek is. It's very hard to be a ram, it takes a long
22 time to be a ram. It's long time to be an Old John
23 Lake trout, 40 years to be. See, we think down in the
24 future, we're not talking about today, how good a
25 hunter we're going to be, how good a carver we're going
26 to make, that time, we kind of pray but before we take
27 -- pray when we get the meat, pray and tell each other
28 about the parts and tell a story, story about the area,
29 story about the hunt before, we got an excellent story
30 about Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek. This guy lives
31 into the mountains so much where there's no tree, he
32 loves that place, it's a spiritual place. And when he
33 leave down to treeline, he runs back into the mountain
34 and said the enemies are coming, let's not be the
35 enemy, let's be happy with our spiritual connection
36 which make us who we are, makes us strong and be proud
37 to be Neets'aii Gwich'in. I'm proud to be Neets'aii
38 Gwich'in. Nobody -- you know, God put us here to be
39 Neets'aii Gwich'in, to take care of this part of the
40 world, and I think we did fine. That's our
41 responsibility from our Creator.

42
43 So I don't know what else I can tell
44 you about the culture, spiritual connection and it's,
45 you know, there's more story. I just got done talking
46 to Honorable Trumble Gilbert, Reverend Trumble Gilbert,
47 he's the traditional chief in Arctic Village,
48 traditional chief for Tanana Chief, he said what about,
49 you know, the population is low, it's almost one week
50

1 they've been talking about it, that doesn't sound okay
2 so just tell them, you know, it's our security and
3 right now it's -- the population is low, and all our --
4 all us elders are staying home because there's not very
5 many of us and for life, for our children, for a
6 generation, that's why we're staying home, and that's
7 what we're talking about.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, thank you
12 for calling in, I was really talking on mute there.
13 Appreciate your testimony today, heartfelt testimony.
14 I always value, especially elder testimony, it really
15 gives us an idea and a place on what value system that
16 we utilize in rural Alaska and how we reflect that and
17 hand it down through generations and so I appreciate
18 that perspective today. Thank you very much for
19 calling in.

20

21 Are there any questions from the Board.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
26 we'll move on, Operator, are there any more on line for
27 the public, and, again, we are.....

28

29 OPERATOR: At this time, Sir, there are
30 no further public comments.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
33 you. I appreciate that. And I appreciate everybody
34 that called in on that for the testimony and it gives
35 us a really good feel on how.....

36

37 MR. GILBERT: Hello.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, hello.
40 Hello, we're having a teleconference.

41

42 MR. GILBERT: No, no, no, yes, I talked
43 to the operator about being in line about testifying.
44 I am the First Chief of Arctic Village.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay,
47 you'll be the last one, so thank you for asking to be
48 recognized, go ahead, what was your name for the
49 record?

50

1 MR. GILBERT: Awesome, I'm happy I'm
2 the last one. I am Galen Gilbert. I am the current
3 first chief of Arctic Village.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
6 Welcome to the Board, you have the floor, and we've
7 been asking people to take 10 minutes, so thank you.

8
9 MR. GILBERT: Yes, thank you. First of
10 all, I would like to thank everybody that testified,
11 not only that I felt their testimony but, you know, I
12 also heard them as a Chief, and most of them took the
13 words right out of my mouth. But, you know, as a Chief
14 to my people I got to speak my two cents about the
15 situation. What our elder, Sara James, said about my
16 Grandfather Trimble Gilbert, that he couldn't believe
17 that we're still talking about this, about our Red
18 Creek Sheep situation, yeah, it's unbelievable.

19
20 I mean the population is way down. I
21 mean the human mind, human body should, you know,
22 common sense, you should, you know, not bother them,
23 their population is way down, and, you know, it sounds
24 to me that the people that want to open the 20-49 area,
25 they obviously don't care, so that being said, the
26 sheep not only that it's sacred to us as a Neets'aai
27 Gwich'in, you know, we want them around for our next
28 generations to come. I mean I'm a father of three and
29 I have a lot of nieces and nephews and I treat all of
30 them equal and I want the best for them for their
31 future, and I want the subsistence lifestyle to be
32 their way of life, like it was ours, now these days,
33 and, you know, when we say subsistence lifestyles, you
34 know, these days it is still alive, very much alive,
35 because you know for example we still trade, you know,
36 like how long time ago they used to trade food, you
37 know, like I just wanted to bring this up as an example
38 that we still trade, you know, like for -- because we
39 don't get salmon up here, for example, we get caribou,
40 we're caribou people, so, you know, we dry meat and
41 that's very valuable to the people that don't get
42 caribou so, you know, the same with the salmon, and we
43 trade dry meat for salmon and, you know, that trading
44 stuff is still very much alive and, you know, we -- we
45 -- you know, honestly money ain't really in our -- our
46 deals, our trading deals. You know that's the old way
47 and a lot of people these days are still for the old
48 ways and so am I. I am 32 years old and I love my old
49 ways and I will always love it and God forbid I'm going
50

1 to give it to my girls, my three girls and my nieces
2 and nephews, I'll teach them what I know, you know, as
3 far as I go and, you know, I'm here as a Chief for -- I
4 don't know how long but, you know, the people put me
5 here for a reason and I'm very honored for my village
6 and I'm very honored that my people elected me as
7 First Chief. I've been a First Chief on and off since
8 2015, so that makes me a five year Chief and probably
9 10 years of being in politics.

10

11 So, you know, with my Grandfather
12 Trimble's statements being said that we're still on
13 this issue, it's unbelievable. It's just -- we should
14 be concentrating and the people that want to open it
15 should just think about -- sit back and think about the
16 people that are living a subsistence lifestyle, I mean
17 we have enough on our plate already, that we're
18 surviving, and like what the gentleman said from
19 Tanana, the First Chief Curtis Summers, we only got one
20 store here and, you know, the prices there are just --
21 it's really out of our range because of no income in
22 the village sometimes. Summertime is our work season
23 and that's when we make money then but, you know, the
24 wintertime is mostly about subsistence and we do what
25 we can to survive and, you know, get our income.

26

27 So, again, on Curtis Summers' remarks,
28 you know, for example, at the store, I did this middle
29 of winter sometimes, I looked at a steak, it was 27-
30 something and some change, and a box of bullets is \$26
31 at the store. And there was enough people for me there
32 to show them that, you know, I gave them the option,
33 and I said which one would you pick and their choice
34 was obvious, you know, it was a box of bullets. So
35 that there is a true example of what we go through with
36 our, you know, stores, that you can't -- we can't go to
37 the store and just, you know, get what we need, we use
38 the land and Sara James' statements, you know, 90
39 percent of our diet is from the land, it's from
40 subsistence, it's from the land, so that is very much
41 true because, you know, God Bless my Grandfather
42 Trimble Gilbert, he -- I talk to him every day and he
43 tells me like how to -- what to do and like how to do
44 it and on raising my daughters and, you know, he tells
45 me, for example, make sure they eat their Native food
46 once a day and I do my very best and I make sure they
47 do every day. And like what -- long time ago, probably
48 it's two or three years ago, my brother Daniel, rest in
49 peace his soul, Daniel Tritt, he said one time that,

50

1 you know, the (In Native), you know that's like our
2 candy, you know, and so that took -- I took that very
3 -- I took that in and I used that statement for a lot
4 of my testimonies because, you know, that divii is --
5 it's so rare because of the population but, you know,
6 we're lucky sometimes if our hunters get divii, and
7 they do that out of their own pocket, and that we very
8 much respect them for. They love it so much that they
9 even pay out of their pocket to get the plane ride over
10 there, to over and back. They don't fly around and
11 hunt the sheep, you know, they go where they're
12 supposed to and they hike the rest of the way to get
13 their sheep and they pack it also. It's a lot of work,
14 but, you know, it's just a love they have for their
15 subsistence lifestyle. And going back to the sheep
16 meat, it's really rare, you know, that is like -- you
17 know, they come back and share that meat with their
18 people, you know, and we know as Neets'aii Gwich'in
19 that that's really rare, that, you know, they ziplock
20 the meat that they gave to us, you know, and we don't
21 cook it up right there and, you know, eat it for
22 dinner, you know, we put that away, we store it, you
23 know, for hard times, like in -- like also what Sara
24 said, you know, we had a really rough winter. I mean
25 it was really rough. You know some people were out of
26 wood and we had no choice, 50, 60 below, we had to go
27 out and get wood and let me tell you this, it's not fun
28 man, it's serious, it's for real, I realize that when I
29 went out at 60 below to get some wood for myself and my
30 old lady's grandmother.

31
32 And that being said, you know, it's
33 like gold, you know, going back to that meat, you know,
34 we know we have it put away, you know, and for example,
35 me, I'll take it out for a special occasion, one of my
36 daughter's birthdays, for Christmas, at a community
37 potluck or something, you know, and I'll share it, you
38 know, generously. And what we want back is just we
39 want -- when we feed people, you know, good food, you
40 know, and that puts a smile on their face, hey, man,
41 I'm all smiles too and I'm glad I got the opportunity
42 to feed that person and I shared them with what was
43 given to me and our tradition, you know, when you do
44 good like that that good will come back to you; it's
45 called good luck.

46
47 So, yes, I'm very much -- I'm 200
48 percent against, you know, the reopening of that.

49
50

1 I'd like to thank each and every one of
2 you on the Board and thank you, again, for everybody
3 that testified. I really heard and I got your message
4 and, you know, as the Chief of Arctic Village, I'd like
5 to say (In Native), and I always say (In Native) and
6 that's the Lord Above Us, and thank you for hearing me
7 and you all have a good day and stay healthy.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
12 I appreciate you calling in and speaking on behalf of
13 your people. Appreciate that. That will conclude our
14 public testimony today unless there's any questions
15 from the Board.

16
17 MS. PITKA: Thank you, Chief Gilbert,
18 for your testimony. I appreciate you calling in and
19 taking the time today.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
22 appreciate that. That was a really good public
23 testimony and it's good to have that involvement from
24 the public like that and come out and really speak to
25 the proposals, in support of or opposition of, and so
26 thank you, that really is the essence of the Federal
27 Subsistence Board Program and wanting to hear the
28 people that we represent, is a priority for me, and so
29 I appreciate the people who take the time to call in.

30
31 Again, next is the Regional Advisory
32 Council recommendation, Chair or designee.

33
34 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, can you hear me,
35 this is Sue Entsminger, Eastern Interior.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, you
38 have the floor.

39
40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you. I
41 prepared a little bit of information besides what's in
42 the book. But the Eastern Interior took up this
43 proposal 20-49, we opposed it.

44
45 The Council members engaged into a
46 lengthy discussion with the tribal representatives from
47 Arctic and Venetie, which you have heard a lot of them,
48 they were the same ones at our meeting. The Council
49 noted, according to tribal representative's testimony,

50

1 observation show that there are low sheep numbers.
2 Council members pointed out although harvest records
3 cited by the State may indicate the residents of these
4 communities rarely hunt sheep, these records might not
5 reflect the actual reality of the situation.
6

7 I would like to add one piece of
8 information. In my tenure on this RAC, former Council
9 member from Fort Yukon, Richard Carroll, had spoke to
10 the importance of reporting to the managers and he felt
11 very strongly and adamantly that people should be
12 reporting. The Council noted that Arctic Village and
13 Venetie tribal representatives desire to continue to
14 dialogue about the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
15 and to have more in-depth government to government
16 consultation on the issue, which has been a reoccurring
17 concern for many years. The Council requested to have
18 a more detailed tribal consultation with all of the
19 involved citing the lack of local outreach. The
20 Council voted to send a letter to the Board to form a
21 subcommittee, a working group, composed of its
22 stakeholders. You already talked about that.
23

24 But you know I've served on this
25 Council 19 years, I've been the Chair for 13. This
26 issue has come up many times. I want to let you know
27 that I have lived 43 years near Mentasta and I have
28 become adopted family to many of the villages, so I
29 feel like I understand Native people. I have a mutual
30 respect with them and I have incredible mutual respect
31 for the people that have testified. This issue has
32 been very sensitive due to the cultural and spiritual
33 concerns of the people there.
34

35 The Eastern Interior RAC met in Arctic
36 Village in 2006, we met a lot of the people and we
37 really appreciated all the people that we met. I even,
38 personally met, Edward Sam, he explained to me that
39 these sheep hunts in this Arctic Village Sheep
40 Management Area, the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek
41 area, and we shared a lot of our sheep hunting stories
42 because I, too, am very passionate about sheep hunting.
43 Over the years I've had the pleasure to meet many of
44 the people and I deeply appreciate them. And this lack
45 of communication has caused so much frustration,
46 multiple (indiscernible-background noise) for dialogue
47 for a working group occurred over and over and over
48 since 1976 [sic]. When I look back at the record in
49 1976 they complained that there was no dialogue between
50

1 them and the State. 10 years goes by and in 2006
2 Arctic Village reiterated their need of a meeting and
3 some more communication. And the Eastern Interior RAC
4 requested the formation of a working group then. The
5 people's request continued throughout the following
6 years. Our RAC, once, again, requested a working group
7 in October 2019 which was brought before the Board. I
8 was a bit disappointed in how that panned out, I know
9 you've already talked about it, but it just seemed so
10 sad that the need for working with people and to let it
11 fall through the cracks. I don't remember ever having
12 to really get Board's approval in the past to do
13 subcommittees and that kind of thing but that was what
14 we were asked to do.

15
16 Now, in the past our region has had
17 good working relationships with State and Federal
18 agencies regarding Federal subsistence. The Fortymile
19 Caribou Coalition is an example. With the closure
20 review process, this issue is likely to continue to
21 come up. The importance of reaching out to the people
22 would go a long way to building bridges. Maybe it could
23 be as simple enough as to having local and State and
24 Federal agencies working with the people together. At
25 our last RAC meeting in Fairbanks, we voted to write a
26 letter to present to the Board of Game asking for this
27 working group or subcommittee at their last meeting.
28 The Board's letter was supposed to be provided also to
29 you, the Board members. Our letter was to push the
30 Department to work on that orientation class that the
31 Board passed years back. The class was never
32 developed.

33
34 There seems to be a bloody standstill
35 here.

36
37 Face to face working with people gains
38 respect and understanding of each other. But with the
39 closure review process, this issue will continue to
40 come up. When I put myself in their shoes, the people
41 in that region, it's no wonder they are so against
42 this, I would feel the same way.

43
44 The Eastern Interior RAC did put a
45 proposal before the Board of Game to put the area on a
46 permit draw. The proposal before the Board, when we
47 took it up, it only addressed the winter season. We
48 were concerned about the winter hunt of three sheep in
49 the Arctic Refuge which allows all State residents,
50

1 under the State regulations, to hunt three sheep in the
2 winter for a long season. That's a concern of ours,
3 it's a conservation concern and we pushed -- even
4 though it -- the proposal said one sheep when it was
5 put forth, we amended it to say, destruction of horns.
6 When this all started, that regulation for three sheep
7 in the winter, the State was managing for rural
8 preference and it was not intended to be for the whole
9 state, but once the State lost the battle for rural
10 that's how it turned out.

11

12 Our RAC was very concerned about the
13 conservation issue. The drawing concept was an attempt
14 to restrict the amount of sheep hunters that would hunt
15 in that Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

16

17 I wanted to say my membership on the
18 Council is to represent commercial/sport, even though
19 I'm also a subsistence user, I try really hard, I mean
20 really hard to do a good job representing both. This
21 is a very difficult and it's really hard on me,
22 especially as I get older, I do have a heart for the
23 local people, more than I can really say, I truly
24 deeply respect them, and their culture. For this
25 reason I will continue to push for some type of working
26 group so people can be respected of their culture.

27

28 That is all I have for today.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 appreciate you taking the time today to give us that
34 report. Any questions for the Chair.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, and
39 appreciate that. Is there any other Regional Council
40 Chair recommendation.

41

42 MS. KENNER: Yes, there will be from
43 the North Slope Council.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Pippa. Will North Slope please.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
2 the floor.
3

4 MS. PATTON: Hi, good afternoon, this
5 is Eva Patton, Council Coordinator for the North Slope
6 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Just wanted to
7 check on teleconference and see if the North Slope RAC
8 Chair, Gordon Brower, is still connected on line with
9 us today.
10

11 (No comments)
12

13 MS. PATTON: Okay, thank you. Mr.
14 Chair, members of the Board, he may have gotten
15 disconnected. I can read the North Slope Subsistence
16 Regional Advisory Council recommendation on Proposal
17 WP20-49. For the record this is Eva Patton, Council
18 Coordinator for the North Slope RAC.
19

20 The North Slope Subsistence Regional
21 Advisory Council opposes WP20-49. The Council
22 expressed support for residents of the community of
23 Arctic Village and Venetie recognizing the importance
24 of sheep in their subsistence and traditional way of
25 life. Maintaining the closure will help ensure
26 continuation of subsistence uses and traditional
27 hunting practices without conflict with other users.
28 The Council discussed that the North Slope community of
29 Kaktovik, which has customary and traditional use
30 within this region, currently primarily hunts on the
31 north side of the Brooks Range and the Council would
32 like to defer to the Eastern Interior Subsistence
33 Regional Advisory Council since they are more directly
34 involved with the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.
35

36 The Council's vote is to oppose WP20-49
37 and that also aligned with the home region Council
38 recommendation.
39

40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41

42 That concludes the North Slope Regional
43 Advisory Council comments.
44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.
46 Any questions for Eva from the Board.
47

48 (No comments)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
2 hearing none, we'll move on to the Tribal/Alaska Native
3 Corporation comments, Native Liaison, Orville.

4
5 MR. LIND: Yes, Mr. Chair, can you hear
6 me?

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I hear you, you
9 got the floor Orville.

10
11 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair and Board
12 members and RAC Chairs. Orville Lind, Native Liaison
13 from the Office of Subsistence Management. During our
14 September 23rd consultation we did have one member from
15 the Native Village of Venetie and she wanted to speak
16 to the Red Sheep Creek issue and she is not sure why it
17 is really going on and she is wondering why it would be
18 open to the public and this is a really huge concern to
19 her. And she states that they should leave it alone
20 because the sheep are declining and they should leave
21 it alone until the sheep populations have increased.
22 It is a traditional hunting ground for the people
23 living in the area so this is very concerning to her.

24
25 The second opportunity of consultation
26 we had was September 30th and we did have one person
27 from the Village of Kaktovik and he wanted a brief
28 overview of the WP20-49, which was given to him by OSM
29 Staff.

30
31 Our third consultation was held
32 November 26, 2019 and as follows:

33
34 The Arctic Village Tribal Council
35 requested to consult with the Federal Subsistence Board
36 concerning this proposal. Five members of the Board,
37 or their delegates, representatives met with six Arctic
38 Village tribal representatives in the teleconference.
39 And of course the tribal representatives supported the
40 continued closure to the harvest of sheep by non-
41 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the Arctic
42 Village Sheep Management Area. Also the tribal
43 representatives said that the Red Sheep Creek drainage
44 situated in the Management Area is sacred to the
45 Gwich'in people. And according to oral heritage [sic]
46 Red Sheep Creek drainage is home to the distinctive
47 sheep with red stripes on the back due to local
48 minerals in the soil. Periods of high water cause
49 erosion that results in the creek running red. The red
50

1 soil is part of those who the sheep are, making them a
2 spiritual and intrinsic value to the Gwich'in people.
3 Tribal representatives emphasized that we all need to
4 weigh the potential loss of this unique assembly of
5 sheep and landscape. Gwich'in people traversed in this
6 long stretch of Brooks Range where they have detailed
7 knowledge of the sheep and other animals, inhabitants
8 and populations. The people residences are situated at
9 the site of modern day Arctic Village due to the
10 influence of Western culture and the site of the
11 school. Several representatives reported traveling to
12 the Red Sheep Creek drainage to harvest subsistence
13 resources and to visit grave sites of family members.
14 One said the last time she was at Red Sheep Creek
15 hunters came and went for many days at a time searching
16 for sheep and caribou. When it was time to return to
17 Arctic Village, she and others did not want to return,
18 but they had employment and school obligations for
19 which they must return.

20
21 The Gwich'in people have been taking
22 care of the Red Sheep Creek drainage for a long time
23 and sheep have been providing food for them for a very
24 long time. The area must be cared for so that the
25 children can experience it. For example, when tourists
26 are in the area, sheep are absent. Sheep populations
27 have been reduced in other areas and residents of the
28 Arctic Village, they do not want this to happen in the
29 Red Sheep Creek drainage.

30
31 Tribal representatives said that the
32 State of Alaska allows non-residents of the state to
33 deplete its resources, sheep included, for little
34 benefit in return. They've identified a decline in
35 sheep and moose populations in the Brooks Range. Sheep
36 and moose populations were negatively affected by a
37 January 2013 heavy rain event. The Refuge manager
38 reported that many affected animals perished,
39 additionally sheep populations in the area have
40 declined since the 1940s, based on documented aerial
41 surveys, few sheep remain compared to before 1940s. The
42 Lacey Act instructs tribes, the State of Alaska and
43 Federal agencies to work together towards consensus
44 addressing problems. The tribe is a co-manager of the
45 Refuge lands, there is work to be done, and the tribe
46 and agencies must work together to protect the Refuge.

47
48 Tribal representatives said that for
49 the Gwich'in people, subsistence is a matter of
50

1 survival. They live far from cities and it is
2 expensive to bring in Western food items. They rely
3 heavily on the land for moose, caribou, smaller animals
4 and sheep, which are especially important in their
5 diets. Residents of Arctic Village need sheep
6 populations to stay at numbers that allow subsistence
7 hunters to be successful. They often travel within the
8 Management Area in search of sheep, moose and caribou
9 to harvest even though there's no guarantee of
10 harvesting.

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participant not muted)
14

15 MR. LIND: Sheep populations are far
16 away from the village and it takes a lot of time for a
17 hunter to get to them. The Gwich'in people have always
18 managed wildlife in their traditional territory by only
19 taking what they need during special seasons. They
20 regulate themselves and this is why sheep exist in the
21 area today. No one else should manage the wildlife
22 like they do -- or no one else would manage the
23 wildlife like they have. When the Management Area is
24 open to other hunters, Gwich'ins are forced to compete
25 in order to obtain needed resources. Those other
26 hunters use technology, such as GPS trackers, high
27 accuracy scoped rifles, and it is hard for local
28 hunters to compete. Tribal representatives said that
29 some especially older people do not regularly use
30 computers and do not request permits or report their
31 harvest on line, not everything important is written
32 down in black and white and this does not mean that
33 tribal members don't care, community members do care
34 and they often speak to a range of issues at meetings.
35

36 Tribal representatives also said people
37 need to continue to monitor the Management Area in
38 order to protect it. Residents of Arctic Village take
39 pride in the behavior of local hunters who carry out
40 all meat from animals they have harvested. They often
41 smoke meat for several days to make it lighter and
42 easier to pack back to base camp, they would continue
43 to move across the land, staying at Red Sheep Creek
44 hunting and gathering for subsistence. But as they
45 described, obligations have prevented them from leaving
46 the village for long periods and a charter to Red Sheep
47 Creek costs about 600 one way.

48
49 However, the land there belongs to the
50

1 Gwich'in people, they want to teach their children to
2 hunt sheep there. Some hold Native allotments in the
3 area and trespassing needs to be monitored also.
4

5 Tribal representatives said that it is
6 not necessary to make sheep into trophies, sport hunters
7 do, this is why sport hunting should not be allowed.
8 Air traffic in and out of the area creates too much
9 noise and sheep move to avoid the noise, sometimes
10 becoming isolated. This is not good for sheep. Some
11 non-local hunters shoot moose, caribou and sheep and
12 use only the hindquarters leaving the rest of the
13 animal. They also leave litter that attracts bears.
14 This behavior harms the health of the wildlife
15 populations. There is only one Red Sheep Creek in the
16 world and it needs to be protected. Sheep have been
17 overharvested, allowing only subsistence hunting
18 contributes to this protection.
19

20 Tribal representatives invited Board
21 members and the Fish and Wildlife Service Staff to come
22 to Arctic Village to work on a conservation plan for
23 the area.
24

25 That concludes the consultation
26 summary.
27

28 Mr. Chair, thank you.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
31 that Orville. Any questions or comments for Orville.
32

33 (No comments)
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 thank you, Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game
37 comments, State Liaison.
38

39 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 For the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish
41 and Game.
42

43 The Department supports its proposal to
44 open up this area, you know, in consultation with our
45 area biologist, they do feel that the population is of
46 a size enough that it could handle this additional
47 harvest and we've listened, I mean, personally, just in
48 the last year since I've been here, have listened to
49 the concerns and I know that the education program is
50

1 important and even just this earlier, last month, I
2 know the Board of Game may not have done everything,
3 but they did listen to numerous public comment on the
4 proposal that was in front of them and the issue with
5 this area, hence, why they took the action they did to
6 further ratchet down what would be any harvest from non-
7 Federally-qualified users. So on our side, we do see,
8 you know, at least some sort of recognition, maybe not
9 the full way, to try to address some of the concerns
10 from folks.

11
12 And I guess a final comment will be is
13 we stand ready to get together with a group -- we were
14 at the Eastern Interior RAC when we all got together, I
15 know we sat at the table alongside the RAC and listened
16 to the folks from Arctic Village and Venetie, and then
17 we were, again, at the Board of Game meeting listening
18 to their testimony.

19
20 I know this is a long time issue and if
21 we can reach some sort of, you know, compromise
22 decision, we look forward to it.

23
24 That's my comments.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
29 Any questions for the State.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
34 hearing none, we'll move on to InterAgency Staff
35 Committee comment, ISC Chair.

36
37 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 The InterAgency Staff Committee agrees with the Eastern
39 Interior and North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
40 Councils and the OSM conclusion to oppose this
41 proposal.

42
43 Harvest records for the area are
44 incomplete and unreliable as identified in the OSM
45 analysis, tribal consultations and public meetings. A
46 very low reported harvest may not be reflective of true
47 harvest and is important to consider. Stressing the
48 need for better harvest reporting is appropriate.

49
50

1 The current sheep population within the
2 Management Area is unknown and the last survey was in
3 2016. A current survey would be helpful prior to
4 opening, as the most recent declines between 2012 and
5 2015 were influenced by winter conditions and changes
6 in habitat that may be related to climate change.

7
8 A precautionary approach to opening may
9 be warranted to ensure the slow density population is
10 robust enough to sustain harvest beyond Federally-
11 qualified users.

12
13 In March, the Alaska Board of Game
14 assessed Proposal 82 submitted by the Eastern Interior
15 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. The Board of
16 Game decision on Proposal 82 may be important for the
17 Board to consider when assessing the outcome for WP20-
18 49.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
28 open the floor for Board discussion with Council
29 Chairs and State Liaison.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Jack
32 Reakoff.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
35 floor, Jack.

36
37 MR. REAKOFF: Supplementary information
38 for the Board to consider. This is the third bad
39 winter in the Brooks Range and I want to corroborate
40 what the people in Arctic Village are saying. We just
41 went through a week of range and the mountains are
42 soaked and now it's 14 degrees and all that snow is
43 crusted. You can barely see a windblown ridge. The
44 sheep have had a heck of a winter. So that -- I would
45 admonish the Refuge and the State of Alaska to do sheep
46 surveys this next summer to get a good population of
47 that. Last fall when I hunted -- I hunted 16 days, I
48 glass the mountains all the time, I didn't see one
49 sheep. There are sheep, but the sheep numbers are very
50

1 low. These are the lowest numbers I've ever seen.

2

3 So I wanted the Board to be aware of
4 that.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
9 that Jack. Any other discussion from the Board,
10 questions, comments.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
15 we'll open up the floor for Federal Board action on
16 this proposal.

17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, Greg
19 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Greg, you
22 have the floor.

23

24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 I'd like to move to adopt Proposal WP20-49. The
26 proposal language is shown on Page 1283 of the Board
27 book. Following a second, I will provide justification
28 for why I intend to oppose my motion consistent with
29 the Eastern Interior and North Slope Regional Advisory
30 Councils.

31

32 MR. PADGETT: Second.

33

34 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. You know,
37 the intent of ANILCA to provide for other uses when
38 there is no conservation concern or risk to the
39 continuation of traditional subsistence uses is
40 important. Based on biological data for the sheep
41 population in this area, I think it is uncertain or
42 perhaps unwarranted that additional harvest would be
43 appropriate at this time. There does not appear to be
44 substantial evidence that the sheep populations have
45 increased enough to lift the closure and to continue
46 conservative -- and a continued conservative approach
47 is likely warranted. I believe based on our most
48 recent assessments in 2017 by Refuge biologists, the
49 sheep population in the Management Area situated south

50

1 of Cane Creek continue (indiscernible-muffled) at low
2 densities.
3

4 I'm not going to belabor this, I think
5 everyone knows that my interests are in trying to find,
6 you know, whether we do it through a cooperative
7 working group or through, you know, good relationships
8 with all of the interested parties, I think it was best
9 said earlier today by our friends from the Tanana
10 Chiefs Conference, that we need to develop solutions
11 that we can advance and at this point in time I feel we
12 have failed to develop a solution that we can advance,
13 although I do thank everybody for the dialogue that has
14 been initiated and begun.
15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Greg. Any additional discussion, deliberation on this
20 proposal.
21

22 (No comments)
23

24 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
27 called. Roll call, Tom, please.
28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 This is Proposal WP20-49 request to open the Arctic
31 Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A to the
32 harvest of sheep by non-Federally-qualified users.
33

34 I'll start with Rhonda Pitka.
35

36 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda Pitka.
37 I oppose WP20-49. It is detrimental to meeting the
38 needs of subsistence users. There is a need for
39 further harvest data. The low density of sheep and
40 overwhelming public testimony to oppose by locals.
41 And, also, the cultural, religious and traditional uses
42 of the Neets'aai Gwich'in will be impacted by the
43 opening.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
48

49 Charlie Brower.
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Good afternoon. I
2 oppose WP20-49, the recommendation from the Eastern
3 Interior and the North Slope and my colleague from the
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommendation.

5
6 I oppose it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

11
12 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

13
14 MR. SCHMID: I also oppose WP20-49 with
15 the justification provided by the Fish and Wildlife
16 Service. Also appreciate Greg's frustration at times,
17 and ours on not being able to effectively, maybe
18 communicate or cooperate, and hope that we can find
19 something better in the future. But I also really
20 defer, at this point, to both of the RACs and the
21 overwhelming public testimony we heard.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I just got
28 word that Tom Doolittle dropped the call, Eva, are you
29 available to continue?

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm still on,
32 you can kind of tell when people get dropped, so are
33 all the Board members still on.

34
35 MR. PADGETT: Chad's here.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: BIA here.

38
39 MS. PITKA: Yes.

40
41 MR. C. BROWER: Yes.

42
43 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, Dave's on, did you
44 catch my vote?

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I heard
47 you in opposition in deference to the RACs and to the
48 overwhelming testimony today.

49
50

1 So we'll give Tom a minute to get back
2 on.

3
4 (Pause)

5
6 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. If Mr.
7 Doolittle is having trouble connecting, we can see if
8 Eva Patton is on the line and she is prepared to take
9 over for Tom if needed.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Well,
12 we'll give him another 30 seconds and we'll check with
13 Eva.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Yes, hello, Mr. Chair.
16 This is Eva Patton standing by if you need me to
17 proceed with the roll call vote.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.

22
23 (Pause)

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Ma'am.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There you are,
28 Tom, you got the floor. We left off with your last
29 vote with Dave in opposition in deference to the RAC
30 and that's where we were -- we're still right where you
31 were.

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. Yeah, that was my first drop of the day, but
35 thank you for everybody's patience.

36
37 I'll move on from Dave Schmid to BLM,
38 Chad Padgett.

39
40 MR. PADGETT: Thanks, Tom. I oppose
41 WP20-49 in deference to the RAC and the overwhelming
42 testimony that we heard today. I deeply respect what
43 the folks out there had to say.

44
45 However, I will note that the Staff
46 Committee says a precautionary approach is warranted to
47 ensure that the population is robust enough to sustain
48 harvest by non-subsistence users. The State, as the
49 wildlife manager, has stated that the population is

50

1 robust enough to sustain harvest but survey data is not
2 complete. I'm concerned that keeping the area is
3 closed does not meet the criteria of ANILCA, and may
4 violate Section .815. As such, I hope that a group
5 will move forward in a cooperative way with the State,
6 the RACs and the affected communities to finally
7 resolve this issue and I stand ready to help in that
8 effort in any way.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
13 Chad.

14

15 National Park Service Don Striker.

16

17 MR. STRIKER: Thank you, Tom. The Park
18 Service is opposed to WP20-49 in deference to both of
19 the RACs and the overwhelming local opposition.

20

21 I will say that I'm very sensitive to
22 the extensive public comment on the work required for
23 everybody to constantly review this. And I'll just
24 throw out another idea, I think a very similar
25 situation in 2013 when I came to Denali National Park
26 and I heard from an exhausted Board of Game at the
27 State level about constant Park Service's request for
28 review of a wolf buffer. The Board of Game placed a
29 moratorium on hearing any further wolf buffer proposals
30 out of respect for the time of the Board members and
31 the stakeholders who need to be responsive. It really
32 kind of worked as a kind of cooling off process and an
33 alternative to sort of ever changing seemingly
34 competing proposals that keep coming at you. So I just
35 throw that out there as another tool in our tool box.
36 I think the Vice President, maybe from Tanana Chiefs,
37 similar referred to, maybe we take a one or two cycle
38 time out while we take the time that we need to
39 assemble the group, whatever we need to call it, and
40 really come to terms in a productive way, and the Park
41 Service stands by ready to help in that effort to in
42 any way we can.

43

44 Thank you, Tom.

45

46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
47 Don.

48

49 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greg

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1 Siekaniec.

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MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I oppose WP20-49 in deference to the Eastern Interior and the North Slope Regional Advisory Councils and the justification that I provided. And I do appreciate and agree with my colleagues on, you know, that we really do need to find a solution to this, and, you know, maybe the Board should entertain something like a moratorium until such time as a solution that we can collectively advance is brought forward, may be warranted.

Thank you.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg, for that.

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

MR. PELTOLA: Yes. The Bureau of Indian Affairs opposes WP20-49, and I'd like to justify my vote.

One. We've heard from the Western Interior Chair and the presentation from OSM analysis and the public comment that the population in question is either a low density and/or a decreasing population.

Two. Traditional knowledge and experience expressed on a recent hunt by a hunter stipulated that he had seen only one ram on the hunt and chose not to harvest it.

Three. Title VIII of ANILCA establishes subsistence as a priority consumptive use.

For the aforementioned reasons, a closure remains necessary for reasons of conservation and the continued subsistence use, which should be adequate enough to address the .815 closure requirement.

And, lastly, and more importantly, we vote to express deference to the Eastern Interior and North Slope Regional Advisory Councils.

Thank you.

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much,
2 Gene.

3
4 Chairman Anthony Christianson.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I oppose in
7 deference to the RAC. Thank you.

8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: The motion fails. Mr.
10 Chair, the next proposal on line is WP20-50.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
13 At this time we'll call on the Staff to provide the
14 analysis. Thank you.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
17 members of the Board. For the record my name is Lisa
18 Maas and I'll be presenting a summary of the analysis
19 for Wildlife Proposal 20-50, which begins on Page 1314
20 of your meeting book.

21
22 WP20-50 was submitted by the Eastern
23 Interior Council and requests that Federal and State
24 hunt areas, seasons and harvest limits for moose in
25 Unit 12 remainder be more closely aligned. Please
26 refer to Pages 1333 and 1334 of your meeting books for
27 maps of the current and proposed hunt areas.

28
29 The proponent states that BLM lands in
30 Unit 12 remainder have different seasons and antler
31 restrictions under State and Federal regulations, and
32 that distinguishing land ownership in the field is
33 impractical. Aligning State and Federal regulations in
34 this area would reduce user confusion and require
35 registration permits in the intended hunt areas.

36
37 In 2012 when the Federal Subsistence
38 Board established a joint State/Federal registration
39 permit for moose in Unit 12 remainder, the BLM lands in
40 this hunt area were selected, meaning they were not
41 managed as Federal public lands, however, these lands
42 have since become unencumbered, meaning they are now
43 Federal public lands, which resulted in misalignment
44 between State and Federal regulations for these BLM
45 lands.

46
47 Overall the Unit 12 moose population
48 appears stable and bull/cow ratios in Unit 12 remainder
49 meet State management objectives. Unit 12 moose
50

1 harvest is within sustainable levels, a majority of the
2 moose harvest takes place near the highway system and
3 the Tok, Little Tok, and Tanana Rivers due to easy
4 access.
5

6 Adoption of WP20-50 would divide Unit
7 12 remainder into three hunt areas, which would mostly
8 align Yes. and Federal regulations reducing regulatory
9 complexity and user confusion. Again, these hunt areas
10 are depicted in Figure 5 on Page 1334. The pink hunt
11 area labeled RM291 contains 99 percent Federal land.
12 Establishing this hunt area would align the Federal and
13 State RM291 permit area, although the Federal season
14 would remain three days longer than the State season.
15 The only change to this hunt area is the hunt area
16 descriptor.
17

18 The blue hunt area labeled Tok River
19 drainage only contains three percent Federal land,
20 while the grey hunt area labeled Unit 12 remainder only
21 contains two percent Federal public land. The Tok
22 River drainage hunt area has antler restrictions, while
23 both hunt areas would have shorter seasons than current
24 Federal regulations.
25

26 While the moose population is not
27 expected to be affected by this proposal, the Chair of
28 the Western Interior Council who is very familiar with
29 this area stated that local hunters know exactly where
30 this small amount of BLM lands are located and that
31 antler restrictions would burden subsistence users.
32

33 The OSM conclusion is to support
34 Proposal WP20-50.
35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
39 questions for the Staff.
40

41 (No comments)
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
44 we'll move on to summary of public comments, Regional
45 Council Coordinator.
46

47 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
48 members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels
49 with OSM. We received two written public comments in
50

1 support of -- from the Ahtna Customary and Traditional
2 Committee and from the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and
3 Game Advisory Committee.

4
5 The Ahtna Customary and Traditional
6 Committee supports WP20-50 as a housekeeping proposal
7 to clean up description in Unit 12 unencumbered Federal
8 lands. Public members will have a precise description
9 of Federal lands that are surrounded by State lands.
10 Federal subsistence hunters will have a better
11 understanding where Federal public lands are within
12 Game Management Unit 12.

13
14 The Upper Tanana Fortymile AC supports
15 WP20-50. The AC felt that the extension of four days
16 without the antler restriction for the Federally-
17 qualified subsistence users would be sufficient. The
18 AC voted to write a letter of support of the Eastern
19 Interior RAC recommendations. The AC also voted to
20 express in the letter their support for the same season
21 dates as the State season without an antler restriction
22 for the Federally-qualified subsistence hunters that
23 have priority.

24
25 This concludes the summary of the two
26 written public comments.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Katya. Any questions.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
36 hearing none, we'll open the floor to public testimony,
37 Operator anyone on line.

38
39 OPERATOR: At this time there is no one
40 on line for public comment.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
43 Regional Advisory Council recommendations, Chair or
44 designee.

45
46 MS. ENTSMINGER: This is Sue
47 Entsminger, Eastern Interior, do you hear me?

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, you
50

1 have the floor.

2

3

4 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you. Just
5 a little history on why the Eastern Interior put this
6 in.

7

8 Prior to the last 2018/20 regulation
9 book that came out, there were no BLM lands in that
10 remainder, and it was brought to the Eastern Interior
11 RAC's attention that the RM291, which is considered the
12 remainder was only the lands that were in the National
13 Park Service lands down on the Nabesna Road, or half of
14 it's in Unit 11 and half in Unit 12. That went into
15 effect -- that proposal passed and it was in effect for
16 several years now. I was told that -- it must have
17 been because of the shutdown two years ago, that the
18 Federal proposal book that brought these lands on to
19 the book, because they were never in the book before,
20 was late, it did not get to the people when hunting
21 season started. So people were asking for the Federal
22 book and it wasn't available. Although it could have
23 been on line, but people don't tend to do that, and
24 they just go hunting as they knew the seasons and bag
25 limits. And then in the 2019 season, I'm told that
26 there was no one from the -- this permit, the RM291 is
27 issued in Tok at the ADF&G office and in Slana at the
28 Ranger Station, and I was asking questions if there was
29 any people asking about that season and they said there
30 wasn't, people were so used to what the seasons were in
31 the past. So as it turns out, the user, if they did
32 want to hunt in that, they'd have to go get a different
33 permit, that wasn't really intended for those two BLM
34 areas, it was only attended for the lands on the
35 Nabesna Road.

36

37 So this proposal was to try to knock
38 down confusion. And in essence when I saw the map,
39 well, it confused me a little bit, but I knew once they
40 created the new areas in the proposal -- because we get
41 help from Staff to write these proposals, that it did
42 parrot the State season. At our RAC meeting when we
43 took this proposal up, Tom Doolittle told us that if
44 there isn't any conservation concern we have to have
45 some reasonable opportunity for subsistence, and,
46 therefore the Eastern Interior RAC modified it to add
47 three days on the end of the season from 8/17 to 8/20
48 -- September, and then to get rid of the antler
49 restriction, which is on our -- Page 1338 of the Board

50

1 book. In essence, it just takes the Nabesna Road and
2 puts it as one hunt area and then adds the remainder to
3 take in the two BLM lands.

4
5 I will say that the BLM land, the
6 Little Tok drainage, that's a remote area and on the
7 other side of that is the Tetlin Indian Reservation and
8 the people in the Tetlin Indian Reservation have to
9 abide by State law and it would not be advantageous for
10 them to go 14 miles out the village road, go all the
11 way down to the Tok cutoff and try to do a trail system
12 into that when they actually have a trail system from
13 the lake going up into the hills, which is actually
14 near this area. They would -- if that season, the way
15 it is on the Nabesna, that RM291, it extends that
16 season and that area 17 days. That was not a real
17 popular thing to have that conflict with other users in
18 the area. And the other BLM lands up on the northern
19 part of GMU12 is very remote and mostly aircraft
20 access. We aren't aware of any other river system or
21 any other way to get into that country.

22
23 So, therefore, the Eastern Interior is
24 supporting the modifications that I spoke of.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
27 questions for Sue.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll call on
32 any other Council Chair.

33
34 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, members of the
35 Board. My name is DeAnna Perry, I'm the Coordinator
36 for the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. Greg
37 Encelewski, Chair of the Southcentral Regional Advisory
38 Council could not be on the call at this time, he's
39 attending a tribal council meeting, and with your
40 permission I can provide the Southcentral Regional
41 Advisory Council's recommendation on this proposal.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you,
44 appreciate that.

45
46 MS. PERRY: Thank you. On Page 1337 of
47 your meeting book you can see the proposed regulatory
48 language from the Southcentral Regional Advisory
49 Council.

1 The Council supported with
2 modification. The modification was to maintain the
3 harvest limit and season throughout the current Unit 12
4 remainder, and that's August 20th through September
5 20th with one antlered bull and create a separate hunt
6 area for the RM291 hunt as described in the original
7 proposal. The Council believes it should support
8 subsistence preference on Federal public lands per
9 ANILCA. This proposal affects Southcentral subsistence
10 users who have C&T for Unit 13 and who hunt in this
11 area. The Council stated that this would provide for a
12 subsistence priority and it would assure that
13 opportunities for local users is not limited. There
14 was a concern that there would be a reduced harvest
15 opportunity for local people, the antler restriction
16 for Federally-qualified users, and that would make it
17 harder to harvest an antlered bull.

18
19 The proposal was found to be confusing
20 for the user, which led this Council to propose its own
21 modification.

22
23 The Council stated that this would
24 provide for a subsistence priority and assure that
25 opportunities for local users are not limited.

26
27 And, again, you can find the exact
28 language of that proposed modification on Page 1337 of
29 your meeting book.

30
31 That's the recommendation of the
32 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
35 Board.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 appreciate that. Any questions.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
43 hearing none. We'll move on to Tribal/Alaska Native
44 Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

45
46 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair. I just got a
47 note from Orville saying he dropped the call, we might
48 want to check if he's back on line or not.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

2
3 MR. LIND: I'm on.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
6 Orville, you have the floor.

7
8 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board
9 members, RAC Chairs. My name's Orville Lind, Native
10 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.
11 During the September 23rd consultation we had request
12 to review -- or overview WP20-50 and after review there
13 was no comments made.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Orville. And we'll call on the Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game comments, State Liaison.

20
21 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Chair. For
22 the record, Ben Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and
23 Game. The Department supports the proposal as
24 originally written.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
29 Next, we'll call on the ISC recommendation.

30
31 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
32 InterAgency Staff Committee agrees with the intent of
33 the proposal to reduce user confusion within a somewhat
34 complex existing hunt structure for moose in Unit 12
35 remainder. Both the Southcentral and the Eastern
36 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
37 expressed concern that fully aligning State and Federal
38 regulations would not provide a meaningful priority for
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users. These Councils
40 indicated specific concerns that alignment with State
41 seasons would decrease the opportunity of Federally-
42 qualified users to harvest an antlered bull.

43
44 Each offered a modification extending
45 the proposed season length, and the Eastern Interior
46 Council's modification also included removing antler
47 restrictions.

48
49 The Southcentral Council suggested

50

1 maintaining the current Federal season, a continuous
2 season between August 20th and September 20th. This
3 provides four additional days prior to the State
4 season, 10 additional days in the middle of the State
5 season, and three additional days at the end of the
6 State season and aligns with the Federal season in the
7 other portion of Unit 12 remainder.
8

9 The Eastern Interior Council suggested
10 alignment with a split State season but with an
11 extension of three additional days after the end of the
12 State season, and the removal of the antler
13 restrictions.
14

15 Given that moose populations appear to
16 be stable and habitat is not found to be a limiting
17 factor, the ISC agrees with the Southcentral Council
18 modification to maintain the current Federal moose
19 season in Unit 12 remainder to provide a meaningful
20 priority for Federally-qualified subsistence users.
21 The ISC also supports a harvest limit of one bull
22 rather than one antlered bull in Unit 12 remainder,
23 which includes the Tok River Drainage Management Area
24 under Federal regulations. This harvest limit would
25 align the State's resident hunt in Unit 12 remainder,
26 though the RM291 permit would still be applicable in
27 the Tok River Drainage Management Area.
28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
32 questions for ISC.
33

34 (No comments)
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
37 we'll open the floor for Board discussion, deliberation
38 with Chairs and State Liaison.
39

40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue
41 Entsminger. Is it possible to just add a little bit
42 for the Eastern Interior?
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You could at
45 this time, too, you have the floor.
46

47 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank you. I
48 just wanted to respond to the InterAgency Staff
49 recommendation. In that first paragraph I think it's a
50

1 little bit misleading that the Eastern Interior wanted
2 a meaningful priority for Federal subsistence, we were
3 originally wanting to have it the same as the State
4 season, and then we were told that we needed a
5 meaningful, so that was why we did our amendment to the
6 proposal and modification. I think that this could be
7 a little bit misleading also, in that, this is the home
8 region for Eastern Interior, Unit 12, and on the
9 Southcentral, I think it -- it appears to me, and I
10 might be wrong, that they may believe that that was a
11 season that we were restricting, and that isn't the
12 case at all. That's a -- it's a brand new area that
13 got opened to Federal land and it was the Nabesna Road
14 that had the longer season, this area, especially the
15 area -- the BLM land that's in that Tok River drainage,
16 that's a high remote area, it's in a mountain pass on
17 one side and in the State regs it's any bull, one side
18 is not.

19
20 So I just wanted to add that to my
21 testimony and I thank you for that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
24 thank you, Sue. Any other questions for Board
25 discussion or deliberation.

26
27 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
30 the floor.

31
32 MR. LIND: This is Orville. I just got
33 an email from Gloria Stickwan, she's been trying to
34 call in, she's dropped, but she's trying to give a
35 short testimony on this proposal. So I told her to
36 contact the operator again.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll give
39 Gloria a few more minutes then. Is there any other
40 Board discussion or questions or deliberation while we
41 wait for Gloria to try to get on.

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

44
45 OPERATOR: Her line is open.

46
47 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Gloria,

50

1 go ahead you have the floor at this moment.

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: I just want to say that
4 the comments that were written by Ahtna Tena'net, if
5 they had -- we had understand what the proposal was
6 about, they would have supported Southcentral Regional
7 Advisory Council's position.

8

9 And I just want to add my own comment
10 here. I did testify at the tribal consultation on
11 Monday on this proposal. I also -- hello. Hello.
12 Hello.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we still
15 hear you Gloria.

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, we can
20 hear you.

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: Hello. Okay. I did
23 testify on this proposal on Monday and I'm just going
24 to reiterate what I said to keep it short. We want to
25 keep the existing hunting season September 20 and with
26 the new remainder, RM2 [sic] proposed area added into
27 the regulations. This is 54 miles of Federal public
28 lands in Unit 12 remainder of the new proposed area.
29 That's a large amount of land, Federal public lands and
30 as you know in Unit 13 we don't have very much Federal
31 public land and across the river in Unit 11 no one
32 hardly hunts there because it's -- we have to cross the
33 river and it's inaccessible for us to hunt in. To go
34 over there you have to fly or drive up to Nabesna or
35 down to Chitina to hunt. Those areas are inaccessible
36 to us to hunt and so we -- Unit 12 is in the Ahtna
37 region traditional territory. So we are supporting the
38 InterAgency Staff position for a bull moose. We don't
39 think changing it from any bull would be that much of a
40 difference to a bull moose.

41

42 It's important for you -- I'm thinking
43 about the future, 20 years from now, we need to have
44 more Federal lands to hunt in. And I'm going to remind
45 you this is Unit 12, is Ahtna's traditional territory.

46

47 And if you don't mind I would like to
48 speak to WC20-42 right now as well.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gloria, I.....

2

3 MS. STICKWAN: Is that okay?

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, we want to
6 stay specific to these proposals, sorry.

7

8 MS. STICKWAN: Okay. Hopefully I won't
9 get cut off then. But that's my testimony.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
12 you, Gloria, appreciate it. Any other Board discussion
13 or deliberation. I appreciate your call, Gloria, I'm
14 glad you were able to get through and we apologize for
15 all the technical difficulties that we've been
16 experiencing.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Not hearing any
24 other Board discussion we'll open up the floor for
25 Board action.

26

27 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
28 with BLM. Can you hear me?

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
31 have the floor.

32

33 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, I move to
34 adopt WP20-50 as modified by the Eastern Interior
35 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. This proposal
36 is shown on Page 1314 and modification is shown on Page
37 1316 of the Board book. Following a second, I will
38 explain why I intend to support this motion with
39 modification.

40

41 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

42

43 MR. STRIKER: Park Service seconds.

44

45 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. And I
46 apologize if the justification is a bit long so bear
47 with me.

48

49 This would create a separate hunt area

50

1 for the RM291 permit hunt as described in the original
2 proposal, change the moose season dates in Unit 12
3 remainder to August 24th to August 28th and September
4 8th to 20, and change the harvest limit in Unit 12
5 remainder from one antlered bull to one bull. Creating
6 a separate hunt area in the Unit 12 for RM291 permit
7 hunt described in the original proposal will reduce the
8 complexity of the regulations by aligning the State and
9 Federal hunt area descriptions for the RM291 permit.
10 Harvest reporting in Unit 12 remainder would be
11 accomplished using the State harvest ticket, the same
12 reporting mechanism used by those hunting under State
13 regulations in the area. This change is supported by
14 both the Eastern Interior and Southcentral Subsistence
15 Regional Advisory Councils.

16
17 The BLM lands in Unit 12 remainder only
18 recently became unencumbered and thus moose season has
19 long been that which exists in State regulation, not
20 the longer Federal season that applies elsewhere in the
21 unit. According to the Eastern Interior RAC Chair,
22 local people have testified in support of maintaining
23 the previous State season for various reasons
24 including, one, reducing the complexity of State and
25 Federal regulation, 2, reducing user conflicts and
26 competition, especially over the Labor Day weekend,
27 and, 3, reducing the effect of competition for this
28 moose population on the residents of the Tetlin Indian
29 Reservation, which is managed under State regulations
30 immediately adjacent to Federal public lands in Unit 12
31 remainder. Federal public lands in Unit 12 remainder
32 are considered remote and difficult to access but
33 people from other adjoining units are anticipated to
34 increase competition if the longer season is
35 maintained. To provide a meaningful Federal priority,
36 the Eastern Interior RAC recommendation extends the
37 Federal season three days longer than the State season
38 from September 17th through September 20th. The
39 Eastern Interior RAC indicated that having the priority
40 at the end of the season is meaningful because it is
41 typically cooler making it easier to prevent meat
42 spoilage. And, finally, changing the harvest limit in
43 Unit 12 remainder from one antler bull to one bull will
44 align with the State and Federal harvest limits in a
45 portion of Unit 12 remainder, again, reducing
46 regulatory complexity.

47
48 This recommendation is consistent with
49 the recommendation of the Eastern Interior Council and
50

1 with that of the Southcentral Council regarding the
2 RM291 hunt area. I believe it to be the best
3 alternative for providing subsistence opportunity,
4 reducing regulatory complexity, and addressing the
5 subsistence needs of local people.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
10 Chad. Any Board discussion, questions, deliberation.

11
12 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene,
15 you have the floor.

16
17 MR. PELTOLA: So if I understand
18 correctly, the BLM motion stipulates that the three day
19 extension is a meaningful subsistence priority.

20
21 Two, is that the motion was made on the
22 Eastern Interior's receiving comments, but are those
23 comments consistent with what the Eastern Interior RAC
24 voted on and forwarded on to the Board for
25 consideration.

26
27 And with a slight pivot, I would have
28 to ask for a few more minutes to concur with my ISC
29 members if this motion stands to be voted on by the
30 Board.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
35 you, Gene. Any further Board discussion or some
36 clarification for Gene on that.

37
38 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, you have
41 the floor.

42
43 MR. PADGETT: Gene, just to make sure I
44 understood your question, or make sure I clarify. I do
45 have, as part of my justification, that we would
46 provide a meaningful -- to provide a meaningful Federal
47 priority the Eastern Interior RAC recommendation,
48 extend the Federal season three days longer than the
49 State season. Does that help you?

50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, that's what my
2 first question, is the three day extension is a
3 meaningful subsistence priority, okay, thank you.
4

5 And the second question was, you had
6 mentioned during your motion about testimony received
7 by the Eastern Interior, I just wanted to clarify that
8 that testimony received by the Eastern Interior is
9 consistent with what was passed by the Eastern Interior
10 Regional Advisory Council and forwarded on to the Board
11 for consideration.
12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
14 Greg.
15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead.
17

18 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Yeah, Gene, I would agree, I would like to have clarity
20 as to whether or not the, you know, the Eastern
21 Interior Regional Advisory Council's still in alignment
22 with what has just been presented.
23

24 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.
25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Chad.
27

28 MR. PADGETT: I would like that same
29 clarification, thanks, Greg and Gene.
30

31 MS. MAAS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is
32 Lisa.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Lisa.
35

36 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the motion that Chad
37 just presented is to adopt the proposal as modified by
38 the Eastern Interior Council, so it's exactly the same
39 modification that the Eastern Interior Council made.
40 And in addition for the meaningful subsistence
41 priority, the Eastern Interior Council's recommendation
42 also eliminates antler restrictions as originally
43 proposed in the proposal as submitted. So that's
44 another way that it's a meaningful subsistence
45 priority, is there's no antler restrictions.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Lisa.
49
50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Lisa.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
4 Board discussion, deliberation.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
9 I'll call for the question.

10

11 MR. PELTOLA: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
14 called. Tom, roll call, please.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 Wildlife Proposal 20-50, and the motion on the floor is
18 to support with modification the Eastern Interior
19 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
20 recommendation to extend the fall season in Unit 12
21 remainder from September 8 through 17 to September 8
22 through 20 and eliminate the Tok River Drainage Hunt
23 Area which had antler restrictions.

24

25 I'll start off with Bureau of Indian
26 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

27

28 MR. PELTOLA: Tom, can you come back to
29 me, I'm still conferring with my ISC members.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

32

33 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
34 Padgett.

35

36 MR. PELTOLA: I support as stated.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

39

40 National Park Service, Donald Striker.

41

42 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
43 supports this proposal as amended in deference to the
44 RACs and for the reasons so cogently conveyed by Mr.
45 Padgett. Also I'd like to thank my distinguished
46 colleague from the BLM for assuming leadership on this
47 really complicated topic and to Chair Entsminger for
48 helping the Park Service to understand and put this
49 issue in context.

50

1 Thank you, Tom.
2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.
4
5 Rhonda Pitka.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda.
10
11 I'll move from Rhonda, Charlie Brower.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, we've got two
16 missing.
17
18 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.
19
20 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I think I've got
21 this sorted out here, I'm going to go ahead and support
22 WP20-50 as modified and explained and justified by the
23 BLM and in deference to the RAC's input.
24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
26
27 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
28 Siekaniec.
29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
31 support WP20-50 with modification as described by the
32 Bureau of Land Management and in deference to the
33 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory and also supporting
34 the Central -- excuse me, Southcentral Regional
35 Advisory Council.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.
40
41 MR. C. BROWER: I'm back on line,
42 Charlie here.
43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Charlie. Is Rhonda
45 back on line?
46
47 (No comments)
48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, we're still
50

1 waiting for Rhonda.

2

3 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene, are you
4 ready.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Bureau of Indian
7 Affairs votes to support WP20-50 as modified and
8 presented by the Bureau of Land Management and
9 recognizing that there is a difference between the
10 Southcentral and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory
11 Council's modifications although respecting the local
12 desire of the Eastern Interior RAC.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
15 for that clarification as well, Gene.

16

17 Is Public Member Pitka on?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
22 Brower.

23

24 MR. C. BROWER: I support with
25 modification as stated. Thank you.

26

27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

28

29 Operator, is Rhonda Pitka back on line
30 yet?

31

32 OPERATOR: She has not rejoined at this
33 time, Sir.

34

35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Mr. Chair, we'll
36 take a pause waiting for Board Member Pitka.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
39 we'll take another one minute, we'll wait a minute
40 here. We haven't taken a break this afternoon at all.
41 I anticipate that we'll probably going to go at least
42 another hour, if not a little longer, and so if Rhonda
43 isn't back on in a few minutes then we just may take a
44 couple minute break.

45

46 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

49

50

1 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell,
2 we've been trying to get through. We've talked to the
3 Operator and we -- the same as Gloria, we've been
4 sitting here for quite some time trying to speak to
5 this issue but the vote is already in process.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We
8 apologize, Karen, about that, we've been -- towards the
9 end of the day it seems like things are getting
10 difficult to manage for the Operator so apologize about
11 that.
12

13 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. Just for the
14 record, the Mentasta -- the community of Mentasta is
15 closer to this area and so it should be aligned with
16 the hunt in that area, the Nabesna Road versus trying
17 to align it with the Tetlin Refuge side. And then the
18 modification with the removing the antler restrictions,
19 I agree with. So I just wanted to put it out there.
20 I've been wrestling with the Operators for a few
21 minutes now so I don't know what -- where you're at in
22 this process but thank you.
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
25 Karen. We're waiting for Member Pitka to get back on
26 line so we could take her vote. We're at the final
27 vote, so thank you for that perspective though.
28

29 (Pause)
30

31 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad,
32 do you mind if we take a quick break.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, since Ms.
35 Pitka's not on and we're in the middle of this vote,
36 let's take a five minute break real quick and everybody
37 could take a bathroom break or something because we've
38 been going pretty steady here now for several hours.
39 So let's take a few minute recess and we'll come back
40 here in a few minutes.
41

42 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.
43

44 (Off record)
45

46 (On record)
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, are you back
49 on line.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I'm on
2 line.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, good. If we need
5 to we can complete this vote because we do have quorum,
6 and we do need to extend our phone call beyond 5:30 for
7 an hour or so, so Operator could you please make sure
8 that there's support Staff for an extension of this
9 call?

10
11 OPERATOR: Yes, Sir, I will stay with
12 you for the duration until you're finished today.

13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, very much
15 for your patience.

16
17 OPERATOR: You're welcome.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
20 So, yes, if everybody's back let's go ahead and
21 reconvene the meeting and we'll finish up this vote and
22 just apologize that Rhonda lost her connection.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. Rhonda, I'm going
25 to doublecheck to see if you're on line.

26
27 OPERATOR: I'm showing she has not yet
28 dialed back in.

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

31
32 OPERATOR: We do have someone waiting
33 to rejoin and that may be her.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

36
37 (Pause)

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, is that
40 Rhonda?

41
42 OPERATOR: I have placed the line in,
43 Rhonda, have you rejoined us?

44
45 MS. PITKA: Yes.

46
47 OPERATOR: Thank you. I'm sorry it's a
48 little difficult to hear you.

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hi, Rhonda.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Has Rhonda rejoined us,
7 Operator?

8

9 OPERATOR: Ma'am, you're currently in
10 the conference call, we're unable to hear you.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 OPERATOR: I'm not getting any sound
15 from that line, Sir.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Chairman
18 Christianson, I'll ask for your vote on WP20-50.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support in
21 deference to the RACs.

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: To the Eastern Interior
24 RAC?

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, as
27 proposed by Chad.

28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chair. That moves us out of the regular proposals.
31 The last proposal that's on line is WP18-19, a deferred
32 proposal.

33

34 MS. WORKER: Mr. Doolittle, if I might
35 interrupt. I think what we need to do next is adopt
36 the consensus agenda before we move on to the deferred
37 proposal just to button up this year's proposals.

38

39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. Thank you very
40 much for that clarification, Suzanne.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

43

44 MR. DOOLITTLE: We'll move on to the
45 consensus.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you,
48 Suzanne, yes, I think the next order of business is
49 that, Tom, so go ahead and entertain that and open the

50

1 floor at this time to adopt the consensus agenda as
2 presented by Staff.

3

4 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
7 have the floor.

8

9 MR. PELTOLA: BIA, I move to adopt the
10 consensus agenda with the Wildlife Regulatory Proposals
11 as listed by the OSM Staff.

12

13 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
16 made and seconded, any questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Deliberation.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
25 I'll call for the question.

26

27 MR. STRIKER: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
30 called, thank you. Roll call, Tom, on the consensus
31 agenda.

32

33 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'll start with
34 National Park Service, Don Striker.

35

36 MR. STRIKER: Support, thank you.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thanks, Don.

39

40 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
41 Padgett.

42

43 MR. PADGETT: Support.

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

46

47 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
48 Siekaniec.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Support motion to
2 approve consensus agenda. Thank you, Tom.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: You bet, Greg.

5
6 U.S. Forest Service, Dave Schmid.

7
8 MR. SCHMID: I support.

9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Indian
11 Affairs, Gene Peltola.

12
13 MR. PELTOLA: Support to adopt.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Looking to see if
16 Charlie Brower, are you on?

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Charlie Brower, are you
21 on?

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Rhonda
26 Pitka, are you on?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
31 Christianson.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I support
34 the consensus agenda as presented.

35
36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. We may have lost
37 Charlie at the break, and we still had quorum and the
38 motion carries.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
41 Okay, we'll move back to WP50, or.....

42
43 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, I think it's
44 18-19.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I mean 18-
47 19, thank you, Chad.

48
49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes.

50

1 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
2 members of the Board. This is Chris McKee, can you
3 hear me?
4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chris, you
6 have the floor, thank you.
7

8 MR. MCKEE: Okay, thank you. The
9 analysis for deferred Proposal WP18-19 can be found in
10 your supplemental materials packet. I'm not going to
11 go over the biology and harvest history for the species
12 in area of question as that was already done when this
13 proposal was originally deliberated by this body during
14 the last cycle. Rather, I would like to give the Board
15 an overview and history of how we got to the point
16 we're at now.
17

18 Proposal WP18-19 requested that the
19 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission be allowed to
20 distribute Federal registration permits to Ahtna tribal
21 members for the Federal caribou season in Units 13A,
22 13B and 13 remainder. The proposal also requested that
23 the Ahtna Advisory Committee be added to the list of
24 agencies and organizations consulted by the Bureau of
25 Land Management, Glennallen Field Office Manager when
26 announcing the sex of the caribou to be taken in Units
27 13A and 13B.
28

29 During the Southcentral RAC meeting in
30 November 2017, the Council, along with representatives
31 of Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission and Staff from
32 OSM discussed possible alternatives to what was
33 originally requested in WP18-19 so that legal concerns
34 associated with AITRC issuing Federal registration
35 permits would be alleviated. During this discussion a
36 modification was drafted to allow for a hunt via
37 community harvest systems for caribou and moose in
38 Units 11 and 13. In an effort to consolidate the three
39 proposals submitted by AITRC, the hunts for moose in
40 Unit 11 and for caribou and moose in Unit 13 were added
41 to the species subject to the community harvest system
42 in Proposal WP18-19.
43

44 The OSM conclusion for WP18-19
45 presented to the Board at its April 2018 regulatory
46 meeting was to support WP18-19 with modification to
47 establish a community harvest system on Federal public
48 lands for moose in Unit 11 and moose and caribou in
49 Unit 13 to be managed by AITRC and open to Federally-
50

1 qualified subsistence users living within the Ahtna
2 traditional use territory subject to a framework to be
3 established by the Federal Board unless the Ahtna
4 Advisory Committee would not be one of the entities
5 consulted with -- with the Federal manager during
6 administration of this hunt and the modified regulation
7 can be found on Page 33 of your supplemental handout.
8

9 During it's April 10 through 13th, 2018
10 wildlife regulatory meeting, the Federal Subsistence
11 Board deferred action on WP18-19 and instructed OSM to
12 use the deferral time to work with AITRC, the Regional
13 Advisory Councils, Federal land management agencies and
14 ADF&G, as necessary to cooperatively establish a
15 framework for a workable community harvest system for
16 moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13. The expectation
17 was that once a workable framework was developed, AITRC
18 would then submit a special action request for the
19 Board's consideration.
20

21 Despite this, AITRC submitted a special
22 action request on April 17th, 2018, prior to developing
23 a workable framework for the proposed community harvest
24 system. In an attempt to validate the special action
25 request submitted by AITRC, OSM sought clarification
26 from the proponent on the proposed basic components of
27 the community harvest systems such as quota, season
28 dates, species and eligibility for participation.
29 Despite a meeting and several email communications
30 AITRC never submitted a framework for a community
31 harvest system that included eligibility that was
32 compatible with Title VIII of ANILCA. In a final
33 iteration, AITRC requested that eligibility be limited
34 to "Federally-qualified rural tribal members residing
35 within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory." In a
36 letter sent on August 27th, 2018, OSM informed AITRC
37 that the Board had determined that the special action
38 request that they submitted was invalid because of
39 limited participation in the Federal community harvest
40 system based on tribal membership, which is not within
41 the statutory authority of the Board.
42

43 Prior to the letter being sent to AITRC
44 with regard to the special action request, the Board
45 met for a work session in Anchorage on August 8th where
46 the issue of WP18-19 and the AITRC special action were
47 discussed at length. At the end of the discussion, the
48 National Park Service proposed that representatives of
49 the Park Service, BLM, AITRC and OSM meet in Glennallen
50

1 to work out details of the community harvest system
2 with an eligibility that was within the bounds of the
3 Board's authority under Title VIII of ANILCA as it
4 related to the Southcentral RAC's modification of the
5 original proposal, WP18-19. There was agreement amongst
6 the Board that the special action request was not
7 valid, and so that avenue was not seen as a viable path
8 forward.
9

10 On March 27th, 2020, the Federal agency
11 representatives met with representatives of AITRC to
12 present a new framework of eligibility for a community
13 harvest system that identified Federally-qualified
14 subsistence users living in specific communities within
15 the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory that could be
16 deemed eligible to hunt moose and caribou in Units 11
17 and 13. This amended language can be found on Page 67
18 of your supplemental handout. However, this framework
19 was ultimately rejected by AITRC.
20

21 So, Mr. Chair and members of the Board,
22 that's all I have for my general overview and I'd be
23 happy to entertain any questions that you might have.
24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Chris, for that presentation. Any questions for Chris
29 from the Board.
30

31 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene.
34

35 MR. PELTOLA: So, Chris, I was looking
36 at the definition of 50 CFR 110.(D)(6) and it
37 stipulates the Board may delegate to agency field
38 officials authority to set harvest and possession
39 limits, and it goes on. So furthermore you have this
40 cite of 50 CFR 110.(D)(6), but what is the actual.....
41

42 MR. MCKEE: Yes.
43

44 MR. PELTOLA:official definition
45 of agency field official?
46

47 MR. MCKEE: I've asked -- I think this
48 question might be better asked of our regulations
49 specialist, Theo Matuskowitz, I've asked him to be
50

1 prepared to step in, so I'll see if he's able to get on
2 the phone call.

3
4 MS. PITKA: It's Rhonda, I'm back on
5 line.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, Rhonda,
8 you're back.

9
10 MS. PITKA: Yes, sorry about that, I
11 had a massive power outage here.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, it's good
14 to have you back, I was just getting worried, so
15 welcome back to the meeting.

16
17 Okay, Chris, we were asking for
18 somebody else to get on line, Operator.....

19
20 MR. MCKEE: Yes. Our regulations
21 specialist is stating he's trying to get on right now.
22 But in answer to your question, Gene, my first
23 inclination on my read of the regulation, when it
24 refers to agency field staff, I would assume that it's
25 referring to Federal agency Staff. I'm not sure if
26 that's getting to the actual heart of your question,
27 though.

28
29 MR. PELTOLA: And I know it's been a
30 point of discussion in the past but I want to make sure
31 that we're all clear on what that legal definition is,
32 and.....

33
34 MR. MCKEE: Uh-huh.

35
36 MR. PELTOLA:actually if you look
37 up the regulation it says, agency field officials. And
38 the reason I ask is, a strict interpretation may fall
39 along the lines of what you mentioned, i.e., Federal
40 government employees, but the program has, in the past,
41 allowed non-Federal entities to distribute permits on
42 behalf of the Federal program.

43
44 MR. MCKEE: I'm not certain that the
45 issue is the distribution of the permits, issuance of
46 the permits, and, again, that.....

47
48 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: This is Theo
49 Matuskowitz, am I on?

50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Sir.

2

3 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Would you like me to
4 speak to this issue at this time.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, please. I was
7 asking for if you look up and read the definition of
8 CFR 100.10(D)(6) and I was just scrolling down but I
9 moved my cursor away -- sorry about that -- but it
10 stipulates that the Board may delegate to agency field
11 officials the authority to set harvest and possession
12 limits, define harvest areas, specify methods or means
13 of harvest, specify permit requirements and open or
14 close specific fish or wildlife harvest seasons within
15 a framework established by the Board.

16

17 So my question was, because it has been
18 a point of discussion, and in field meetings, what the
19 actual definition of agency field officials was, and
20 recognizing that the Federal Subsistence Program has
21 utilized entities other than Federal government
22 personnel to distribute Federal permits.

23

24 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Okay. In discussions
25 on this subject with our Solicitor's Office, the agency
26 field officials are defined as a Federal agency. In
27 this case, the Federal agency does not specifically
28 have to be an agency involved in the Federal
29 Subsistence Program. For example, there was an
30 instance in the past where we had official or an
31 official from the U.S. Postal Service in a rural
32 community issue permits. That was sort of a one time
33 deal based on a special circumstance, but it was still
34 a Federal official.

35

36 Other times it has been done for
37 community type hunts. The Board historically has done
38 it a number of ways, sometimes it's in regulation,
39 sometimes they've done it by letter authorizing a
40 community hunt and they've done it where they either
41 work with field -- the in-season -- or I'm sorry, the
42 land manager to work out, you know, the details of
43 harvest limits and a few of the other permit details.
44 But no actual Federal permit is issued for those
45 community hunts.

46

47 Now, we can. We could.

48

49 But historically we haven't.

50

1 It's just basically a letter or
2 something in regulations and then that community, if
3 they so desire, they can make their own permit,
4 whatever method they decide to use to control or to
5 track who is hunting and the results and, you know,
6 other biological data that we would require to be
7 gathered. I know some communities have done it as
8 simple as a simple chart, or a piece of paper on a
9 bulletin board and they track when the hunters go out,
10 you know, what the results were and then at the end
11 they send us the end results.

12
13 So basically for the permit, if, you
14 know, however the Board or, you know, wants to set up a
15 framework for this community hunt, they can make it as
16 simple or as complex as they want, but generally we
17 kind of historically left it up to the community how
18 they track it. The Board would tell them, all right,
19 this is the information we need, we need, for example,
20 the person's name, their hunting license number, number
21 of days hunted, were they successful or not, and then
22 occasionally there's other biological data that might
23 be requested. But as far as issuing an actual permit
24 through our Federal Subsistence permitting system, no,
25 we have not done that.

26
27 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you for that. So
28 by looking at the key points then, I think that 50 CFR
29 110.(D)(6) might be misleading because if I understand
30 your definition, you're talking more along the lines of
31 a delegation of authority as opposed to actually the
32 ability just to distribute Federal permits.

33
34 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Well, it's not my
35 definition, it's the.....

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Well, no, I mean what
38 you've -- and, yeah, I don't mean to put you on the
39 spot, but what you had conveyed in your explanation it
40 sounded to me more like a delegation of authority as
41 opposed to just the ability to distribute Federal
42 permits.

43
44 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken, may
45 I weigh in?

46
47 MR. PELTOLA: Please.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Ken,

50

1 please thank you.

2

3 MR. LORD: Yeah, sure. The key word
4 there is delegation. Inherent in that word is a
5 transfer of authority to make a decision. So when
6 you've got 110 refers to delegation to agency
7 officials, that is a delegation of authority to make
8 those decisions that are listed in that regulation, and
9 that is very different than simply allowing some entity
10 other than a Federal entity to distribute the permits
11 or track, you know, track information relevant to the
12 hunt, they're not making a decision. Only Congress has
13 the ability to delegate authority to outside of the
14 Federal government, the Board does not have that
15 authority.

16

17 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
24 questions for Staff.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
29 Chris, appreciate that presentation.

30

31 We'll move on to summary of public
32 comments, Council Coordinator.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
35 members of the Board. For the record, Katya Wessels
36 with OSM. We received two written public comments on
37 WP18-19. Both comments are in support, one from the
38 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission, and the other
39 one from the Bristol Bay Native Corporation.

40

41 The Ahtna InterTribal Resource
42 Commission supports WP18-19 that would allow it to
43 distribute Unit 13 Nelchina caribou hunting permits to
44 Ahtna tribal members for Federally-qualified, customary
45 and traditional use hunters. The Ahtna InterTribal
46 Resource Commission has management capacity to
47 distribute Unit 13 Nelchina caribou permits to tribal
48 members. Ahtna, Inc., Staff who are on loan to the
49 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission has coordinated

50

1 the Copper Basin community subsistence hunt since the
2 year 2009. The Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission
3 has experienced Staff to distribute Nelchina caribou
4 permits and ensure tribal hunters return caribou
5 permits.
6

7 Bristol Bay Native Corporation supports
8 the intent of Wildlife Proposal WP18-19 authorizing the
9 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission to distribute
10 Federal registration permits for caribou to Ahtna
11 tribal members and adding AITRC to the list of
12 organizations that the BLM consults with when
13 announcing the sex of the caribou that can be
14 harvested. BBNC says, if adopted, WP18-19 would allow
15 AITRC to distribute Federal registration caribou
16 permits to Ahtna tribal members for Game Management
17 Unit 13 and would require BLM to consult with AITRC
18 when establishing the sex of caribou that can be
19 harvested in Game Management Unit 13. BBNC supports
20 the intent of this proposal. It introduces a long
21 overdue change that is necessary to preserve Ahtna
22 tribal members access to caribou in their traditional
23 use areas. Ahtna tribal members are facing ever
24 increasing competition for harvesting caribou from
25 Anchorage and Fairbanks hunters who can easily access
26 the Nelchina Caribou Herd by road and off road
27 vehicles. Consistent with the mandates of ANILCA Title
28 VIII discussed above, it is incumbent on Federal
29 agencies to prioritize the subsistence take of this
30 resource by rural Alaskans. The measures in WP18-19
31 offer a sensible means to do so.
32

33 Thank you.
34

35 That concludes the summary of the
36 written public comments.
37

38 Thank you for your attention.
39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
41 Katya. With that we'll open up the floor to any public
42 on line who want to testify to this proposal
43 specifically, and we'd ask again to be mindful of 10
44 minutes. Thank you.
45

46 OPERATOR: We do have public comment
47 from Erin [sic] Linnell, your line is open.
48

49 MS. LINNELL: Hi, this is Karen Linnell
50

1 with a K, representing Ahtna InterTribal Resource
2 Commission, and eight Federally-recognized tribes. Our
3 membership also includes the two land owners in our
4 traditional territory Ahtna, Incorporated and Chitina
5 Native Corporation.
6

7 As you all know, and that I've stated
8 many times, we have an MOA with the Department of
9 Interior to cooperatively manage wildlife on Federal
10 lands. The issuance of a community harvest permit --
11 to AITRC to issue permits for its tribal communities
12 has been on our agenda since the signing of that
13 agreement. We submitted a special action request by
14 pulling language directly out of the MOA that was
15 negotiated by Mr. Ken Lord and other folks with Ahtna's
16 attorney, Mr. John Sky Starkey. And so we were
17 surprised and shocked that it wasn't possible coming --
18 and those words coming from Mr. Lord himself, saying it
19 can't be done, when he was a part of the negotiations.
20

21 Then we took to heart your words about
22 negotiating with the land owners and developing a
23 framework, so we submitted a framework to BLM and
24 National Park Service and we copied OSM on it in August
25 of 2018. And we met with Mr. Bert Frost to discuss
26 this framework and it included a definition of
27 community that works for us, that includes folks like
28 -- that are still Federally-qualified but we don't have
29 to live within a specific boundary for that community.
30 For example, myself, I live in Glennallen but I'm a
31 Cheesh'na tribal member and so Chistochina would be the
32 community, and I would still be eligible to
33 participate, I am Federally-qualified, and to hunt
34 under the BLM regulations as it is now, all it would do
35 would allow me to hunt under the Ahtna InterTribal
36 Resource Commission managed community harvest permit.
37

38 So Mr. Frost said that he would get
39 back to me, he wanted to talk to some folks about that
40 definition of community.
41

42 We also submitted it to the BLM
43 Regional Director, and Karen, and her name slips my
44 mind again, it's been two years, almost three, she
45 ended up being transferred as well.
46

47 I got no response on that framework
48 from anybody since August of 2018.
49
50

1 You know, we're looking at community
2 membership, we have many members in our communities
3 that are non-tribal citizens but they are a part of our
4 community. We also have folks who live within our
5 community boundaries who do not participate or are a
6 part of our community, they just occupy the space there
7 and are contrary to a lot of the activities that happen
8 within our communities. So we thought that this
9 afforded that latitude. They share food with us, they
10 participate in our community events, and dog races and
11 softball tournaments, et cetera, they're a definite
12 part of our community, they mourn with us, they help us
13 to bury our dead, you know, and they help us celebrate
14 life. Those are members of our communities.
15

16 And so when Mr. McKee said that, you
17 know, we weren't trying to work with them, we've been.
18 But this is a negotiating point, not an all or nothing.
19 We could have had a meeting to negotiate this stuff.
20 They submitted a framework without us, and they didn't
21 call us once, and I didn't find out about that
22 framework until I went to the Southcentral RAC meeting
23 last month in Anchorage. I went to Fairbanks, Eastern
24 Interior, reported on all of our activities here at
25 AITRC, the growing Staff that I have, I have two
26 wildlife biologists on staff, I have an anthropologist,
27 I have a fisheries biologist on staff, and so I'm --
28 you know, we're growing and building capacity to
29 wildlife management. So I reported that at Eastern
30 Interior and told them we hadn't had any movement on
31 that local advisory committee charter that you, the
32 Federal Subsistence Board, passed over three years ago.
33 And there was no proposed rulemaking. There's been no
34 other activity on the other end of this agreement.
35

36 And so when I went to Anchorage to
37 report that same thing, it wasn't even five minutes
38 after I got done talking, one of the OSM Staff brought
39 me a framework and said this is -- here's what we
40 developed, and it was developed by the InterAgency
41 Staff Committee. Again, not including me. I would
42 have preferred for me to be able to meet with, as you
43 directed, meet with the Regional Directors to negotiate
44 this out. And so it's been an all or nothing with them
45 for quite some time and I'm quite frustrated with this
46 whole process, and the lack of attempt to work on this
47 negotiation.
48

49 So I believe that we've been working in
50

1 good faith and working towards this negotiation and I
2 thought we were getting somewhere with Mr. Frost before
3 he left. We did, just a few weeks ago, have a
4 teleconference, and I think it was the deadline of this
5 meeting that actually made this happen, between the
6 National Park Service, BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.
7 So, you know, I think it was like, oh, crap, we didn't
8 do what we said we would do and then they started
9 hustling to try to get a meeting together. And of
10 course the coronavirus put a stop to face to face
11 meetings.

12
13 But I do want to say that we've been
14 trying and working through this system and trying to
15 make it work. I do want to say that 50 CFR
16 110.10(D)(6) says that you may delegate to other
17 agencies but it doesn't say that you only can delegate
18 to those agencies. And so I'd like you to consider
19 that we have this agreement that allows for cooperative
20 management and, therefore, it allows you to delegate to
21 us, the ability to handle this community harvest
22 permit.

23
24 With that, I think I'm going to take
25 any questions.

26
27 I do have Jim Simon, who's been a
28 consultant with me on this, and, Jim, did I leave
29 anything out?

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. LINNELL: Jim, did I leave anything
34 out.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Operator, is Mr. Jim
39 Simon on the call?

40
41 OPERATOR: Sir, that line is open.

42
43 MR. SIMON: Hello, this is Jim Simon.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Jim,
46 Karen just finished her testimony and was asking if you
47 had any additional.

48
49 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I think the only
50

1 thing I have to add is it might be beneficial for OSM
2 Staff to resend that August 27th, 2018 letter that was
3 referenced in the introduction for this proposal
4 because to my knowledge, AITRC has not received that
5 response to the community hunt frameworks that have
6 been presented previously.

7
8 I don't have anything else to add at
9 this time, thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 questions from the Board, or for Karen.

13
14 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

15
16 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. Oh, go
17 ahead, Chad.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Chad.

20
21 MR. PADGETT: Karen, I just wanted to
22 clarify a couple of things, or put a couple of things
23 on record because I did come out and meet with you and
24 I know that my Staff was on the phone so this wasn't
25 anything that, at least, on my part was being done last
26 minute. So I just want to make sure that we're clear
27 on, you know, that we have been trying to work this
28 through and so I just wanted to clarify that point.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MS. LINNELL: Is that Mr. Padgett?

33
34 MR. PADGETT: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Karen.

37
38 MS. LINNELL: Okay, thank you. Yeah,
39 and we met it was the last minute, you came, we had
40 lunch, we had an hour, or so for lunch here at my
41 office. And I thought, you know, this was our first
42 getting to know each other, let's build a relationship
43 so we can get to that point, so thank you for coming
44 out, I appreciate that. But in the timeframe that you
45 were here we didn't have enough time to go through this
46 issue.

47
48 MR. PADGETT: Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA, if I may.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
4 floor.

5
6 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Good evening, Karen. so what we have before us today
8 is the analysis for WP18-19, which is the original
9 proposed regulation and ISC modification that
10 identifies a community harvest. And I was going to ask
11 if you would be willing to accept that maybe harvest
12 structure management recommended by OSM as a starting
13 point and then if you had a commitment from the Federal
14 leadership, of the agencies involved in the land areas
15 and the traditional Ahtna harvest area and continued to
16 work with you towards something that, if at all
17 possible, get closer to what your organization had
18 desired, then I think that might be a bit unfair now
19 that Mr. Simon came on and said that you haven't seen
20 that letter yet, and asked that it be resent.

21
22 And the reason I ask that is that we
23 have a couple options. The Board can review, get your
24 comments imputed and we could vote up or down what's
25 before us, or if there are still issues and you feel
26 like moving forward, although not having the Board vote
27 something down, we could try to get the Federal
28 involved agencies to commit to make that time to try to
29 improve the product and the Board address and then
30 maybe in the future, so I'm just curious of what your
31 thoughts are on any of those options.

32
33 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Peltola.
34 I just want to say, you know, we're interested in
35 anything to start moving things forward. We've been
36 trying to do what we can on this side and like I said,
37 and with the Board's direction, was supposed to be a
38 negotiation point to get moving, but I would rather see
39 us get something started so that this MOA actually
40 means something and move forward towards our common
41 goal, which is healthy sustainable populations.

42
43 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA again,
44 could I get a followup.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene.

47
48 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
49 Karen with you saying that you'd like to get something
50

1 in place, does that mean that if the Board was to act
2 on the proposal before us as recommended by OSM with
3 the community harvest, you'd be willing to accept that
4 with the understanding that you'd like to see a firm
5 commitment from the Park Service direct leadership, and
6 in addition BLM leadership to continue to work with you
7 in a meaningful capacity to try to advance this if the
8 program could provide for something that's closure to
9 what you and your organization desire, or do you mean
10 by get something started, by continue to work with
11 meetings and not have the Board deliberate something
12 today?

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 MS. LINNELL: Oh, sorry, if I wasn't
17 clear on that, no I would love for the Board to pass
18 this and get something on the books.

19

20 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Karen. Thank
21 you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
24 structuring that question there, Gene, appreciate that.
25 Thank you, Karen.

26

27 Any other questions from the Board for
28 Karen.

29

30 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
33 the floor.

34

35 MR. MCKEE: Yeah, this is Chris McKee
36 again. I just wanted to make clear that once we --
37 after we got the special action request submitted by
38 AITRC after the Board's 2018 meeting, we did sit down
39 with AITRC, on, I believe, the 11th of May, to discuss
40 their special action issues regarding eligibility to
41 issue the permits and et cetera, and I think we made it
42 pretty clear, you know, what our sideboards were, what
43 the limitations in Title VIII of ANILCA were
44 particularly in terms of eligibility. I know after
45 that, I'd have to go through the variety of emails we
46 got, there was a lot of back and forth between OSM and
47 AITRC about eligibility and we did get, at least one or
48 two different attempts that AITRC made a lot of hard
49 work towards trying to meet the provisions of Title
50

1 VIII. But every eligibility framework that we got
2 after that initial meeting was never compatible with
3 what is within the Board's statutory authority.
4

5 So I just want to reiterate that OSM
6 and a lot of other Federal Staff have made, you know,
7 more than one attempt to try to come to an agreement on
8 the eligibility that would be satisfying to AITRC and
9 is within the Board's statutory authority.
10

11 MS. LINNELL: So to that, you also told
12 us that we had to take all of the non-residents in
13 those communities and that is not what we're saying.
14 Those folks have other opportunities to get their
15 permits at BLM.
16

17 Like I said, we have a few people that
18 live within our communities that are not part of our
19 communities and are contrary to -- their
20 extractionists, they take, take, take, and wouldn't
21 care, they moved into our community, they wouldn't care
22 if they took everything of a species and that there was
23 nothing left for generations to come, and so we didn't
24 want those people to be a part of our community and it
25 was sounding like an all or nothing. And what we're
26 trying to say, that this is an option, we're creating
27 this community harvest permit, there is still plenty of
28 opportunity to participate under the Federally-managed
29 hunt with BLM or the National Park Service.
30

31 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Karen. But I
32 also think what we made clear, though, is that if.....
33

34 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA, if I may.
35

36 MR. MCKEE:the.....
37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, please
39 interject, Gene.
40

41 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, thank you. I
42 understand that perception is each individual's
43 reality, although I think we were at a common point
44 about five to seven minutes ago, I would like the
45 Federal Subsistence Program to proceed from that point
46 on.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: And if I can, Mr.
49 Peltola, this is Tom Doolittle, Deputy Assistant
50

1 Regional Director, I would like it to commence, too,
2 through the Board, and not through our Staff at this
3 time.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we're on the
6 public. Is there any other questions for Karen or Jim
7 at this time.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
12 Operator, were there any other additional public
13 testimony on line that would like to speak to this
14 specific proposal.

15
16 OPERATOR: Once, again, if you have
17 public testimony please press star then one.

18
19 One moment, Sir.

20
21 (Pause)

22
23 OPERATOR: At this time I'm showing no
24 further.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
27 you. We'll move on to the Regional Advisory Council
28 recommendation, Chair or designee.

29
30 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. Members of the
31 Board.....

32
33 OPERATOR: Sir, I apologize, we do have
34 Gloria Stickwan who has cued up, would you like to go
35 ahead and take that at this time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, we'll
38 listen to Gloria, thank you.

39
40 OPERATOR: Thank you, Sir. Ma'am, your
41 line is open.

42
43 MS. STICKWAN: Good afternoon. I just
44 want to support Karen's position and that we -- that
45 the Federal Board pass this today, it's been going on
46 for several years. Our understanding is the MOA, as it
47 was written, we were allowed to do permits, we were
48 allowed to -- the agreement as written allowed for us
49 to do the permits, create our own hunt for our people,
50

1 the tribe, it nowhere say that we would include all
2 communities, so I just want to say that I support Karen
3 and AITRC's position.

4
5 That's it, good bye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
8 Gloria, for calling in and testifying today. Any
9 questions for Gloria.

10
11 MS. STICKWAN: Hello.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello.

14
15 MS. STICKWAN: Did you have a question?

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I was just
18 asking if anybody had a question, appreciate you
19 calling in Gloria, thank you. Operator, were there any
20 others on line who would like to testify to this
21 proposal.

22
23 OPERATOR: At this time, Sir, I'm
24 showing no others.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
27 appreciate the public calling in and hopefully we'll
28 remedy this here today.

29
30 All right, we'll move on to Regional
31 Advisory Council recommendation, Chair or designee.

32
33 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair, members of the
34 Board. This is DeAnna Perry. Again, I'm standing in
35 for Greg Encelewski, Chair of the Southcentral Regional
36 Advisory Council who could not be on the call at this
37 time. On Page 39 of your supplemental materials for
38 deferred Proposal 18-19, you'll find the Regional
39 Advisory Council's recommendation.

40
41 The Southcentral Alaska Subsistence
42 Regional Advisory Council supports WP18-19 with
43 modification to establish a community harvest system
44 for moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13 to be managed
45 by AITRC and open to Federally-qualified residents of
46 the Ahnna Traditional Use Territory.

47
48 That was the recommendation of the
49 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
2 Board.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
5 questions from the Board.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
10 we'll move on, Eastern Interior.

11
12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tom, was there
16 two RACs on this one?

17
18 MS. WORKER: Mr. Chair, there was only
19 one Regional Advisory Council that weighed in on this
20 proposal, I believe.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
23 you, appreciate that. We'll move on, Tribal/Alaska
24 Native Corporation comments, Native Liaison.

25
26 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Orville Lind, Native Liaison for the Office of
28 Subsistence Management. During the consultation held
29 on April 10th we had two comments.

30
31 One from the Ahtna InterTribal Council,
32 very important there's a need to protect cultural and
33 subsistence way of life. We heard from another person
34 from the InterTribal Village, Gulkana, Mr. Simon is
35 very in support of WP18-19.

36
37 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
40 Orville. Moving on to the Alaska Department of Fish
41 and Game comments, State Liaison.

42
43 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Chair. Ben
44 Mulligan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The
45 Department is neutral on this proposal and we do
46 emphasize though, the need for harvest reporting.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Ben.
2 InterAgency Staff Committee comment, ISC Chair.

3
4 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
5 ISC comment for deferred proposal WP18-19 is quite
6 long, it's several pages long and it contains a
7 substantial amount of regulatory language. I can
8 either read the comment in its entirety, it is part of
9 the administrative record as it begins on Page 67 of
10 the supplemental materials, but I can also provide a
11 summary to the Board. I'll wait for feedback on which
12 the Board prefers.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, with
15 concurrence from the Board, I think a summary would
16 work at this time, you know, it's already getting to be
17 a quarter to 6:00 and so I would appreciate a summary.
18 If there's any opposition to that at this time, I'll
19 just state so and we'll go through the whole motion.

20
21 (No opposition)

22
23 MS. WORKER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
24 Chair. The ISC comment includes two modifications for
25 WP18-19 relative to the 2018 OSM conclusion and the
26 modifications included in the ISC comment were also
27 included in the framework that the ISC developed this
28 spring.

29
30 The first modification is to name the
31 individual communities in Units 11 and 13, unit
32 specific regulations and deleting the broader
33 definition of Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. This
34 modification is made as the result of the review of
35 past Board actions involving rural determinations and
36 customary and traditional use determinations. In these
37 determinations the Board has treated the concept of a
38 community as being geographically based and involving
39 all residents of the community. In creating a
40 community harvest system then, the relevant community
41 must be geographically defined and all residents of the
42 community must be eligible to participate in the
43 community harvest regardless of tribal membership.

44
45 The second modification is to add a
46 December 1st to December 31st may be announced season
47 for moose in Unit 13. This modification was
48 recommended by the Southcentral Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council for a related proposal WP18-18. The
50

1 proponent withdrew WP18-18 with the concurrence of the
2 Board and the understanding that its provision would be
3 included in the community harvest system recommended in
4 the Southcentral modification of WP18-19.

5
6 So that's a summary of the
7 modifications that are including in the ISC comments
8 and, again, I'll just state that the full comment
9 begins on Page 67 of your supplemental materials and it
10 does include the specific regulatory language that the
11 ISC is suggesting.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
16 Susan, appreciate that. Any questions from the Board
17 for Susan.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
22 we'll open up the floor for Board discussion with
23 Council Chairs and State Liaison.

24
25 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Chad, you
28 have the floor.

29
30 MR. PADGETT: Just real quick, I'm not
31 sure if anybody knows this, has the Department weighed
32 in on the MOA at all, I don't know if anybody would
33 know that or not.

34
35 MS. PITKA: Do you mean the Department
36 of Interior?

37
38 MR. PADGETT: Correct. Recently, have
39 they weighed in on the MOA, because I think there was a
40 question that was posed to the Department as well.

41
42 MR. STRIKER: Not since this
43 administration.....

44
45 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ken,
48 please.

49
50

1 MR. LORD: Yeah, so the original MOA
2 was signed by Michael Bean, who was then the Assistant
3 Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, but this
4 Administration has taken something of a hands off
5 approach to this. I know that Karen has met with Steve
6 Wackowski at least, I think on several occasions, and I
7 don't know if that's happened recently, but other than
8 that, as far as I know it's been radio silence.
9

10 MR. PADGETT: Through the Chair, this
11 is Chad.
12

13 MR. STRIKER: Park Service.
14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Don.
16

17 MR. STRIKER: Yeah, so, Chad, the other
18 thing that's important to note here is that this
19 proposal is not the only way to comply with the intent
20 of that MOU signed by the former Administration, so I
21 think all options are available to us.
22

23 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, thank you.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
26 discussion or deliberation.
27

28 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Don Striker
29 with the Park Service.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Don, you
32 have the floor.
33

34 MR. STRIKER: This is a complicated
35 issue and words are important and words are important
36 in ways that we, as Department of Interior, at least,
37 have not sorted out yet. What we're learning on this
38 front and on other fronts is that there is a big
39 statutory difference between co-management and
40 collaborative or cooperative management. And I think
41 that this might be something that is at heart in the
42 difference between what we've heard described as
43 decisionmaking regarding who participates in the hunt
44 and a delegation of distributing permits that does not
45 involve decisionmaking, and that's a terribly important
46 set of definitions to get our head around.
47

48 I will say I understand fully Ahtna's
49 frustration because this does go on for years, but
50

1 there is no ill-intent, certainly not on the part of
2 the Park Service, we have continued to explore this, we
3 continue to explore this, and, if anything, we are
4 willing to take any and all creative alternatives, but
5 we're just not sure that we can do something that's
6 beyond our statutory authority.

7

8 Thank you.

9

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

12

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
17 we'll open up the floor for Federal Board action on
18 this proposal.

19

20 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
23 floor, Chad.

24

25 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I move to
26 adopt WP18-19 as submitted by the Ahtna InterTribal
27 Resource Commission. This proposal is shown on
28 supplemental page 1 of the supplemental Board book.
29 Following a second, I will explain why I intend to
30 oppose this motion.

31

32 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

33

34 MR. STRIKER: Second.

35

36 MR. PADGETT: My justification is the
37 following. The framework for a community harvest
38 system includes eligibility that is not compatible with
39 Title VIII of ANILCA. The request is not within the
40 Federal Subsistence Board's authority. We can continue
41 to explore options to design a management framework and
42 BLM will commit to continue to work with AITRC to try
43 and resolve this problem, but under the current
44 framework, I just don't see a statutory way forward.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 (Pause)

49

50

1 MS. PITKA: Am I still on line?

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, there was
4 silence there, uh.

5

6 MS. PITKA: Yeah. I don't know who is
7 still on.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Maybe we're the
10 last two standing.

11

12 MR. SIEKANIEC: This is Greg, I'm still
13 here.

14

15 MR. SCHMID: We're all on.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tony, are you on, this
20 is Tom.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

23

24 MS. PITKA: I'm on.

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: Rhonda, you might have
27 to.....

28

29 MR. C. BROWER: I'm on.

30

31 MR. DOOLITTLE:take over part of
32 the discussion. Oh, is Tony back on -- Tony just got
33 dropped he's dialing back in.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm on.

36

37 (Pause)

38

39 OPERATOR: Mr. Christianson has
40 rejoined the call.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Mr. Chair, this is Tom.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Tom,
45 sorry, I was kicked off.

46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: We're at the stage
48 where Board Member Striker -- or excuse me, Board
49 Member Padgett provided a motion on the floor and a

50

1 justification not to adopt.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.

4

5 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any Board
8 discussion before we call for the question.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair, BIA.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, go ahead.

13

14 MR. PELTOLA: So as the motion has been
15 made, this would kill the proposal and if Ahtna still
16 wanted to pursue they'd have to go through another
17 wildlife cycle which means we're more than two years
18 out from this point on because we just went through a
19 boat load of wildlife proposals, and I do not intend to
20 speak on Karen Linnell's behalf, but I thought I heard
21 during her comment period that she's willing to accept
22 something similar to the ISC framework, if that was
23 still the case, we'd still be at a better point than
24 starting all over and there may be only a few points of
25 contention between what Ahtna InterTribal Resource
26 Commission wanted to see and what our current
27 definitions could provide.

28

29 My concern is if we vote this down
30 we'll be in the same position the next wildlife cycle
31 still wondering what we can and can't do.

32

33 With that being said, and, maybe, Mr.
34 Chair, you could confirm with Ms. Linnell, that I
35 thought I heard her say she was willing to accept the
36 ISC framework presented to the Board for consideration.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 MR. STRIKER: Point of order. If we
41 voted this down, couldn't you make an alternative
42 proposal.

43

44 REPORTER: So wait a second, this is
45 Tina, the court reporter, who just said that?

46

47 MR. STRIKER: That was National Park
48 Service, Don Striker.

49

50

1 REPORTER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. C. BROWER: With the concurrence of
4 the second you can remove your motion.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, BIA,
7 Gene. In the absence of a second, the motion would
8 fail and a replacement motion could be made.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, I guess
13 we're at the point right now where we have a motion on
14 the floor that is to not support the proposal as
15 written, but, again, Gene, you had a point there that
16 I'd like to hear if Karen is still on the line. I
17 thought I heard the same thing about her willingness to
18 go with the ISC recommendation as a starting point,
19 which would blend us with a place to begin trying to
20 support their efforts, you know, albeit within the
21 framework and within our authority.

22

23 And, so, if Karen is still on, I'd just
24 like to hear her feedback on, again, that what is being
25 presented is a starting point and was supported by the
26 Ahtna.

27

28 OPERATOR: Sir, her line is open.

29

30 MR. DOOLITTLE: And, Tony, there was no
31 motion -- I mean no second to that motion. Thank you.

32

33 REPORTER: Tom, there was a.....

34

35 MR. STRIKER: But there was a second,
36 there were two seconds to that motion.

37

38 REPORTER:second, more than.....

39

40 MR. STRIKER: Sorry.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: I'm sorry, and I didn't
43 hear that Don, excuse me.

44

45 MR. STRIKER: Right.

46

47 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,

50

1 Charlie.

2

3 MR. C. BROWER: This is Charlie, I'm
4 one of the seconders, I concur.

5

6 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair, this is Karen
7 Linnell.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Karen, go
10 ahead, you have the floor.

11

12 MS. LINNELL: Yes, I do agree, it's not
13 everything that we want but it is a good step forward.
14 I would hate to wait another two years to get something
15 going. So I will agree to the ISC framework.

16

17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
18 Greg.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead.

21

22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Sir. So now
23 I'm getting a little confused that how would we turn
24 the framework into, I believe what we have is a
25 proposed regulation. Maybe I need some legal
26 perspective on that if there is. I'm just getting
27 confused as to what it is we're actually offering up
28 here or discussing.

29

30 MS. WORKER: Mr. Siekaniec, I might be
31 able to answer that question for you, this is Suzanne.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Suzanne, go
34 ahead you have the floor.

35

36 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

37

38 MS. WORKER: The modification that the
39 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council offered, I
40 closed the document, but it says that users living
41 within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, for those
42 users, the community harvest system for moose is
43 authorized, and under the ISC framework, anyway, the
44 unit specific regulations would read: For Unit 11, for
45 instance, for Federally-qualified subsistence users
46 living within the Ahtna Traditional Communities of
47 Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana,
48 Mentasta Lake and Tazlina, a community harvest system
49 for moose, if moose is authorized on Federal public

50

1 lands within Units 11 subject to a framework to be
2 established by the Federal Subsistence Board.
3

4 And that speaks to the point that the
5 ISC made about the Board's history of treating
6 communities as geographically based places and so the
7 regulation reflects that.
8

9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Suzanne. So
10 that's geographically based places as well as then
11 where all rural residents within those communities are
12 considered?
13

14 MS. WORKER: Yes, that's correct.
15

16 MR. SIEKANIEC: Okay, thank you.
17

18 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, this is Ken.
19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ken, go ahead,
21 thank you.
22

23 MR. LORD: Point of order on the
24 motion, the motion was made in the negative, which we
25 know from past experience leads to confusion when we
26 have double negatives and people vote no and it's
27 unclear as to whether or not they're voting in favor of
28 the ISC recommendation so I would ask that the motion
29 be withdrawn and rephrased in the positive.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, I
32 was going to say that too because the motion was so --
33 if the second would concur and the maker of the motion,
34 just for the order of process, whether we vote in the
35 positive or negative, if we could make the motion to
36 the affirmative, and then we can place our
37 justification on the record to reflect our wishes.
38

39 MR. PADGETT: So hang on just one sec,
40 I'm going back to it here.
41

42 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
45 Gene.
46

47 MR. PELTOLA: I have a procedural
48 question of either you or Ken, so if the original
49 motion which was seconded, which we all agree to now
50

1 was framed in the negative but we normally do them in
2 the positive and since this could be withdrawn and
3 restated, would it be appropriate to restate the motion
4 to be I move to adopt WP18-19 as modified by the Office
5 of Subsistence Management and incorporating the ISC
6 comments so we can get to where we want to be, which
7 the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission has agreed to
8 accepting as a starting point.

9
10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11
12 MR. LORD: Mr. Chair, yes, that would
13 be a possibility.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
16 that legal feedback. And then to the maker of the
17 original motion, there's a suggestion of wording.

18
19 MR. STRIKER: As a point of order the
20 original motion was not to accept the modified, nor was
21 it phrased in the negative, unless I heard incorrectly.
22 This is Park Service, Don Striker. It was a motion to
23 adopt the original proposal and.....

24
25 MR. PADGETT: Correct.

26
27 MR. STRIKER:if seconded, Chad
28 was going to explain why he was going to vote to oppose
29 it.

30
31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
32 Greg, I agree with that, that's what I heard.

33
34 MR. STRIKER: So what we have is a
35 motion to adopt the original proposal, and I'm all for
36 like however administratively we like drop this one and
37 go for a different motion that maybe Gene can
38 recommend.

39
40 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
43 what we're just trying to clean it up here
44 procedurally, Don, so we get it right on the record.
45 So, go ahead, Gene.

46
47 MR. PELTOLA: So if I understand
48 correctly and so we're all in agreement, that the
49 wording of the original motion by BLM was accurate, so
50

1 could we not enter a motion to amend that original with
2 a different direction, vote on the amendment then that
3 would change the original and then vote on the modified
4 original?

5
6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Gene, this is Tom, that
7 is the correct process is that you would have an
8 amendment to the original motion. Vote on the
9 amendment. And then go back to the original motion
10 with your inserted amendment, but address the amendment
11 first.

12
13 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, you have
16 the floor.

17
18 MR. PADGETT: Okay. Sorry, let me back
19 up here. I believe my motion was done in the
20 affirmative, I did say move to adopt, that said, if it
21 would help the process and if it works better, I would
22 withdraw that and this is my question, if I withdrew
23 that motion and we backed up and looked at a deferral
24 would that help the process?

25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: And I believe Ken can
27 correct me but the original person proposing a motion
28 can propose to withdraw that motion.

29
30 MR. LORD: Concur.

31
32 MR. PADGETT: Okay, that said, sorry, I
33 did not mean to -- excuse me, Mr. Chair, Chad. I did
34 not mean to get the process muddled here. So rather
35 than muddy the process any further, I will withdraw my
36 first motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Does the second
39 concur.

40
41 MR. C. BROWER: Second concur.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
44 you. We withdrew that motion. Okay, so it currently
45 stands with the floor open to make a new original
46 motion with the concurrence of the second. The floor
47 is open.

48
49 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett
50

1 with BLM.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, you have
4 the floor.

5

6 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I move to
7 defer WP18-19 as submitted by Ahtna InterTribal
8 Resource Commission. This proposal is shown on
9 supplemental Page 1 of the supplemental Board book.
10 Following a second, I will explain why I intend to
11 defer this motion until January 2021 Federal
12 Subsistence Board Fish Regulatory meeting.

13

14 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Gene.

17

18 MR. PELTOLA: Personally, the Bureau of
19 Indian Affairs hopes that we do not get a second on
20 this motion. I don't believe there could be any
21 benefit made from a deferral when we have a
22 recommendation from the ISC, which is willing to be
23 accepted by the proponent of the original proposal that
24 is before the Board.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we still
29 have the motion on the floor that needs a second. Go
30 ahead, Rhonda.

31

32 MS. PITKA: I would also oppose a
33 deferral.

34

35 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
38 Charlie.

39

40 MR. C. BROWER: Point of order, you
41 can't discuss unless someone seconds it and it hasn't
42 been seconded so if there's no second and the motion
43 dies.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I'm
46 waiting to see if it gets a second, and we haven't had
47 that yet. So thank you for that point of order
48 clarification, Charlie.

49

50

1 (Pause)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So with a motion to defer, not hearing a second, the motion will die on the floor right now. I will continue to entertain a motion to the affirmative on this proposal so we can actually vote it up or down or maybe get some clarification or recommendations on how we move forward to provide an opportunity to work with Ahtna.

(Pause)

MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad. Give me just one second here.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Chad, thank you for the patience.

MR. STRIKER: Well, point of order, Gene, you seem to have this, you can make the motion.

MR. PELTOLA: I completely understand that here at BIA but my preference was since Chad has been actively engaged in the process that he continue.

(Pause)

MR. PADGETT: Through the Chair, I'm just trying to pull up my original motion.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, we'll give you a moment there, Chad.

(Pause)

MR. PADGETT: Okay, sorry about that. Okay, so I will reiterate.

I move to adopt WP18-19 as submitted by the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission. This proposal is shown on supplemental page 1 of the supplemental Board book. Following a second, I will explain why I intend to oppose this motion.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Was there a second.

MR. SIEKANIEC: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, there was
2 a second for that motion there, Chad, you have the
3 floor.

4
5 REPORTER: Wait a minute.

6
7 MR. PADGETT: Okay, thank you.

8
9 REPORTER: Wait a minute, this is Tina,
10 could you tell me who made the second, I think it was
11 Greg.

12
13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Fish and Wildlife
14 Service.

15
16 REPORTER: Thank you, Greg.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, go ahead,
19 thank you. Chad, you have the floor.

20
21 MR. PADGETT: Okay, thank you. My
22 justification is the following:

23
24 The framework for a community harvest
25 system includes eligibility that is not compatible with
26 Title VIII of ANILCA. The request is not within the
27 Federal Subsistence Board's authority. However, we can
28 continue to explore options to design a management
29 framework with AITRC and BLM will commit to continue to
30 work with them on the proposal.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, you have
37 the floor.

38
39 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
40 the motion that BLM just made is exactly the same as
41 their very first motion and since we have a second it's
42 open for discussion, and if I assume correctly, that,
43 the ISC recommendation includes and has been vetted by
44 our Solicitor, which includes the concerns which BLM
45 has raised for their reason to oppose the original
46 motion, it includes communities which are legally
47 supported, it does not include the two additional
48 communities which Ahtna had originally hoped would be
49 included on, and everything is included in the ISC

50

1 modifications to address the community harvest within
2 the parameters that can be provided by the Federal
3 Subsistence Program at this time.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. The
8 floor is open for discussion.

9
10 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, point of
11 order, Park Service.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Park Service,
14 go ahead, Don.

15
16 MR. STRIKER: I'm really confused now,
17 is this the original proposal that you're supporting or
18 is this the proposal as modified?

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That question
21 is for Gene?

22
23 MR. STRIKER: That question is for
24 Chad.

25
26 MR. PADGETT: Can you repeat that, Don,
27 through the Chair -- sorry.

28
29 MR. STRIKER: Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm just
30 confused if this is -- if your proposal is to support
31 the original WP18-19 or to support the WP18-19 as
32 modified.

33
34 MR. PADGETT: Sorry, Don, it was to --
35 well, sorry now my language is getting confused. It
36 was the original.

37
38 MR. STRIKER: So that's the same as we
39 started with a little while ago.

40
41 MR. PADGETT: Correct.

42
43 MR. STRIKER: I think maybe -- Gene,
44 were you suggesting that somebody make a motion to
45 propose the WP18-19 as modified by our ISC?

46
47 MR. PELTOLA: Yes. Thank you, BIA.
48 Yes, my recommendation was, since we already have the
49 proponent agreeing to accept the recommendation from
50

1 the ISC that the motion be to support WP18-19 as
2 modified by the InterAgency Staff Committee.

3
4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5
6 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
9 Rhonda, you have the floor.

10
11 MS. PITKA: I'd like to amend the
12 original motion to include the language as modified by
13 the ISC.

14
15 MR. STRIKER: Second.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There's a
18 motion on the floor to amend the original motion to
19 include the modified language by the ISC with a second,
20 any discussion on the amendment to the original motion,
21 the floor is open for Board discussion.

22
23 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, go ahead.

26
27 MR. PELTOLA: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. And so I don't mean to be a stickler, but if we
29 have the motion to accept the ISC modifications,
30 there's still the question, was deferral mentioned in
31 this most recent motion by the Bureau of Land
32 Management, I recall their Director talking about
33 deferral, was deferral mentioned in his motion?

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Chad.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, go ahead.

40
41 MR. PADGETT: Gene, to answer your
42 question, no, deferral was not mentioned in my motion.

43
44 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Chad.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, we're on
47 the motion to amend the original motion. Discussion,
48 does anyone want to be recognized at this time?

49
50

1 MR. STRIKER: No, thanks, Rhonda, and I
2 call the question on the amendment.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
5 called. Roll call, Tom, please on the amendment to the
6 original motion to include the ISC recommendations.

7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is the amendment,
9 a vote on the amendment on WP18-19 on the original
10 proposal to incorporate the modified -- to incorporate
11 -- okay, here we go. Let's see, now you guys got me
12 going.

13
14 Again, this is to accept the proposal
15 as modified by the ISC to provide a framework through
16 the Federal Subsistence Board.

17
18 Okay, we'll start with, on the
19 amendment -- this is, again, for the framework as
20 provided by the ISC, through the Federal Subsistence
21 Board, we'll start with Donald Striker.

22
23 MR. STRIKER: I support the amendment
24 in deference to AITRC and I think every member of this
25 Board as spearheaded by Gene's desire to really move
26 forward on this issue.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Don.

31
32 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
33 Siekaniec.

34
35 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
36 support.

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.
39
40 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

41
42 MR. PELTOLA: Support.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Gene.

45
46 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

47
48 MR. SCHMID: I also support and hope
49 this is a path towards progress.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.
2
3 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
4 Padgett.
5
6 MR. PADGETT: I support.
7
8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.
9
10 Rhonda Pitka.
11
12 MS. PITKA: Support.
13
14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
15
16 Charlie Brower.
17
18 MR. C. BROWER: I support.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.
21
22 Chairman Christianson.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.
25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you. Now, we can
27 go to the amendment to the original motion, and I'll
28 just -- Scott, if you could put that back up, thank
29 you.
30
31 MR. STRIKER: The amended motion.
32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: The amended motion did
34 pass, and so this is WP18-19 adopt with modification of
35 naming individual communities and deleting the broader
36 definition of Ahtna Traditional Use Territory, the
37 modified regulation would read:
38
39 Unit specific regulations for
40 Federally-qualified subsistence users living within the
41 Ahtna Traditional Communities Chistochina, Chitina,
42 Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake and
43 Tazlina, a community harvest system for moose is
44 authorized on Federal public lands within Unit 11
45 subject to a framework to be established by the Federal
46 Subsistence Board;
47
48 And the unit specific regulations for
49 Federally-qualified subsistence users living within the
50

1 Ahtna Traditional Communities of Cantwell, Chistochina,
2 Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake
3 and Tazlina, a community harvest system for caribou and
4 moose is authorized on Federal public lands within Unit
5 13, subject to a framework to be established by the
6 Federal Subsistence Board.

7

8 We'll start on the vote.

9

10 National Park Service, Don Striker.

11

12 MR. STRIKER: National Park Service
13 supports as amended. Thank you.

14

15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

16

17 Bureau of Land Management, Chad
18 Padgett.

19

20 MR. PADGETT: I oppose for reasons
21 stated.

22

23 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Chad.

24

25 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg
26 Siekaniec.

27

28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Tom. I
29 support because I believe this actually does provide a
30 framework for us to move forward on this in light of
31 the discussions that have been happening between BLM
32 and the National Park Service.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

37

38 Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gene Peltola.

39

40 MR. PELTOLA: BIA supports.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you.

43

44 U.S. Forest Service, David Schmid.

45

46 MR. SCHMID: I support.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Dave.

49

50

1 Rhonda Pitka.

2
3 MS. PITKA: I support, thank you.

4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.

6
7 Charlie Brower.

8
9 MR. C. BROWER: I support.

10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Charlie.

12
13 And last but not least, Chairman
14 Anthony Christianson.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support.

17
18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you everybody,
19 that's seven yeas and one nay, and the motion passes as
20 amended.

21
22 Thank you, everybody.

23
24 And, Mr. Chair, this is Tom, we have
25 met the regulatory obligations for the Federal
26 Subsistence Board for all the proposals that we've
27 addressed. If we take a look at the wildlife closure
28 regulations, to defer those to the future, the ones
29 that are remaining, they are status quo decisions, they
30 would not be published until the unified agenda can be
31 changed publication in 2021 but a decision at some time
32 in the future can be made on those. So if one of the
33 decisions of the Board is to recess the meeting to meet
34 at another time to address the closure reviews or those
35 at a later date, to address the other agenda items,
36 which include the RFR and the Fortymile Caribou Herd
37 plan plus in the near future to discuss the special
38 action requests and relative to food security that has
39 been brought up by multiple people.

40
41 But that would require -- and, Ken,
42 maybe you can step in, do we need to set a date if we
43 recess the meeting or can we repoll the Board to make
44 sure that we have an agreed upon date to continue this
45 meeting to the other items.

46
47 MR. LORD: So, Tom, you're talking
48 about recessing this meeting rather than adjourning it,
49 correct?

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: That's correct, Ken.

2

3 MR. LORD: Then you would have to pick a
4 date specific.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Ken,
7 for that. So at this time if the.....

8

9 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, go ahead, through
12 the Chair.

13

14 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One second Tom,
17 yeah, go ahead Charlie.

18

19 MR. C. BROWER: Okay, Tom, go ahead,
20 I'll wait.

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, if the Board does
23 choose to recess the meeting they do have to set a
24 specific date to meet and we do have a big item, which
25 are the special action requests on food security, and
26 then also we have an action item on the Fortymile
27 Caribou Plan, and also an RFR to consider.

28

29 Please keep in mind that on the
30 wildlife closure reviews, is that, they can be decided
31 upon at any time here in the near future, that aren't
32 as time sensitive as I would expect the food security
33 special action part of this meeting.

34

35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
38 that insight to the schedule that we have before us. I
39 know it's been a long day, I could tell we've been --
40 this last one stretched all of our capacity to the max,
41 I appreciate the patience of all of you on the Board
42 here in trying to manage the work schedule we have
43 ahead of us.

44

45 I'm looking, you know, to hopefully
46 continue to talk about this, I don't want to put off
47 the food security issue too long and I don't know what
48 the window, our timeframe is, for us to -- a time to be
49 determined. I know we must allow our Staff a little

50

1 time on these SARs to do diligence on them and I'm just
2 wondering if sometime next week would be appropriate.

3
4 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: BIA, go ahead,
7 Gene.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Don't we already have a reserved date set up for May
11 1st to address the Kusko, and if the Board was to
12 reconvene in the morning from this Board, would four
13 hours give us enough time to address what's remaining
14 on this agenda and then in the afternoon pick up on the
15 special actions for the Kusko.

16
17 Just a thought, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Do you mean
20 tomorrow, Gene?

21
22 MR. PELTOLA: Oh, no May 1st, next
23 Friday -- isn't May 1st next Friday.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
26 what I was thinking that's why I said some time next
27 week so I concur with that. You know it would give our
28 Staff time to handle all the business we have and then
29 we could add this stuff to that time to be determined
30 next week.

31
32 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, because I thought
33 that Ken had stipulated that we have to give a date
34 when we reconvene to finish this up and, you know, so I
35 just thought if we already reserved part of May 1st, we
36 could pick this up in the morning and then finish out
37 what we can on this agenda and then follow through with
38 the Kusko special actions at 1:00 o'clock as we're
39 scheduled on May 1st for the Kusko special actions.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 MR. PADGETT: Mr. Chair, Chad Padgett.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Chad, go ahead.

46
47 MR. PADGETT: Thank you. I think
48 there's a precedent, for call for the Chair, so like I
49 don't think you have to, under that, have a specific
50

1 date, I may be wrong but I don't think you have to have
2 a date for that, it's a call from the Chair, that way
3 it might give us a little more time to at least get a
4 solid date.

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair, this is
7 Greg.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg, go ahead.
10

11 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 I think we need to pick out a date. You know, in my
13 opinion, either Monday or Tuesday to address the
14 special action requests. I understand there are Board
15 members that are not available tomorrow. The special
16 action request, in my mind, needs a little bit of time
17 because of what we're developing for the in-season
18 manager, I guess, the letter, and we're working with
19 the Department, so I think we could probably satisfy
20 that tomorrow and then early next week we could
21 probably be back together to go over it with the Board.
22

23 Ken, does that seem like a timeframe
24 that would work based on what you've been doing?
25

26 MR. LORD: Yes, I think so.
27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So right now
29 I'm hearing, there's two.....
30

31 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka. I
32 would be willing to meet on Monday or tomorrow, and I
33 believe that we also need action on the consensus
34 agenda items.
35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We did the
37 consensus, Rhonda, when you were off, and we had
38 consensus and it was unanimous, Rhonda, so apologize
39 for missing you on that but we were trying to get the
40 order of business accomplished.
41

42 So right now on the floor we have two
43 dates, I'm hearing Rhonda's available Monday, I'm
44 hearing suggesting Monday or Tuesday to give the Staff
45 a few days to pull together and concur and confer with
46 the Department, and I think sooner than later would set
47 a good tone for the public and the urgency that we
48 heard through all of the public testimony all week
49 about the food security issues. And so I think it
50

1 would behoove us to maybe recess the meeting until
2 Monday.

3
4 MR. C. BROWER: Sounds great to me.

5
6 MR. STRIKER: This is Don Striker, I'll
7 make this priority, you call the ball.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, okay,
10 thank you. So I'm thinking we're going to recess this
11 until 9:00 a.m., Monday morning.

12
13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Is everybody relative
14 to that recess, make sure we have all consensus on
15 that, please.

16
17 MR. C. BROWER: Concur.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, so Charlie you're
20 concur, I heard Don concur.

21
22 MS. PITKA: I agree.

23
24 MR. DOOLITTLE: How about you, Greg.

25
26 MR. SCHMID: Hey, Tom, this is Dave, I
27 can push most stuff around, Wayne or Tom may have to
28 cover a little bit on Monday, I'm booked up but this is
29 a priority so I'll see what -- between Wayne and I, we
30 can make Monday.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, good, Dave.

33
34 How about you.....

35
36 MR. PELTOLA: BIA concurs.

37
38 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA's good.

39
40 Rhonda, you're good Monday.

41
42 MS. PITKA: Yes, thank you.

43
44 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep. Tony's good
45 Monday. How about you, Chad.

46
47 MR. PADGETT: I was just looking, I
48 will try and make it work, did you say 9:00?

49
50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, we can make it at
2 0900.

3
4 MR. PADGETT: Any chance we could push
5 it to 10:00.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: 10:00
8 o'clock.....

9
10 MR. PADGETT: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: 10:00 o'clock
13 Monday.

14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: 10:00 o'clock.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, time to be
18 determined, we'll recess the meeting, this Federal
19 meeting, the time to be determined 10:00 a.m., on
20 Monday.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Hey, Greg, you were the
23 last one I didn't get to, are you good with that, too?

24
25 MR. SIEKANIEC: Absolutely. I'll
26 arrange my schedule to make this work, this is a
27 priority.

28
29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay, thank you, Sir.

30
31 MR. C. BROWER: So noted, we'll see you
32 guys Monday at 10:00.

33
34 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thanks, Charlie.

35
36 MR. STRIKER: Tom, do we think this is
37 going to be the same call in information?

38
39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, it will be the
40 same call in information and same passcode.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Meeting is
43 recessed and thanks to the Operators.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

48
49
50

