

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

PUBLIC REGULATORY MEETING

VOLUME III

EGAN Convention Center
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

April 12, 2018
9:36 o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson, Chairman
Charles Brower
Rhonda Pitka
Karen Mouritsen, Bureau of Land Management
Greg Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bert Frost, National Park Service
Lynn Polacca, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Wayne Owen, 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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(Anchorage, Alaska - 4/12/2018)

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(On record)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning
8 everybody, sorry for the late start. We'll go ahead
9 and get this started this morning with public testimony
10 on non-agenda items. So first off this morning we have
11 Enoch.

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MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, good morning,
Attamuk here for the Northwest Alaska.

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Thanks.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Enoch.

Next we have Ben Stevens.

MR. STEVENS: Good morning, Mr.
Chairman, and members of the Board. Thank you very
kindly for offering me this opportunity to share with
you.

1 The last time I presented before this
2 Board I came out of Stevens Village and brought our
3 people's issues to share with you and unfortunately I
4 was horribly humiliated. I left in defeat. We walk in
5 here during this meeting and it just seems different.
6 It seems welcoming, it seems warm, and for that I thank
7 you because the folks that we have are terrified of
8 this type of a forum. So, Mr. Chairman, and members of
9 the Board, supporting Staff, thank you very much for
10 warming this place up a little bit because it's
11 imperative for our way of life that you hear from the
12 real deal. So for that I am grateful.

13
14 As you've heard my name is Ben Stevens.
15 I am Koyukon/Athabaskan from Stevens Village. Stevens
16 Village is north of Fairbanks, just a little bit up
17 river from the Yukon River bridge where the pipeline
18 crosses the Yukon. I grew up there. My grandmother
19 raised me. I was trained by my grandpas and my uncles.
20 What you consider the subsistence lifestyle. For work,
21 I live in Fairbanks now and I work for the Tanana
22 Chiefs Conference. My comments here are my own. I
23 just wanted to give you some background as to what I do
24 for a paycheck.

25
26 For them I head up the hunting and
27 fishing task force. Essentially that is designed to
28 help advocate on behalf of Alaska Natives hunting and
29 fishing rights. A huge part of that job is helping our
30 people understand the language that is used around all
31 of the tables that are talking about their food. The
32 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. Almost the
33 other side of the spectrum of your language. The Board
34 of Fish. Board of Game. Even something so local as
35 the local Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Different
36 language. And so part of my job is to help translate
37 that, help people understand the forums that are
38 talking about their foods. That's part of what I do.

39
40 And I want to comment just a little bit
41 about some of the things that I've heard here that I
42 just want to just shoot across your radar just so we're
43 -- you're cognizant of some of the things that I am
44 facing when I try to do my job.

45
46 Mr. Orville Lind, the other day
47 mentioned that he inadvertently gave out his phone
48 number and before he knew it it started lighting up.
49 And what I want to tell Orville is that that may be a
50

1 huge inconvenience to you but if the people are calling
2 that's a good thing. Grab them. Help them through this
3 quagmire.

4
5 A couple of other things that are
6 related to communication is that there is none out
7 there in rural Alaska. We talk about internet,
8 connectivity, that is spy to say the least. My little
9 village of Stevens Village, there is no internet there,
10 and when they do, when the Council office does get some
11 it's spotty. Communication is utterly, utterly
12 frustrating. It's spotty. The fax machine doesn't
13 work. The phone is in and out. And so I have a huge
14 challenge in communicating with my own village. A
15 nearby village, they only get internet for one hour a
16 day. And so if you're trying to reach them via email
17 you got to wait a whole day until they can reach that
18 one hour that they've got connectivity. Needless to
19 say some villages don't even get snail mail. Stevens
20 Village, you're lucky if you do get a plane coming in
21 there.

22
23 Another thing that's related to
24 communication is that what I have found is that we all
25 speak -- to some degree we all speak English but the
26 English that is spoken in Arctic Village is different
27 than it's spoken in Birch Creek, it's different as
28 spoken in Tanana all the way down to Grayling, Holy
29 Cross. It's different. And so given that, the
30 opportunity for miscommunication is huge. 80 to 90
31 percent of the challenges in my day is because I didn't
32 read somebody right. And so knowing that, I think that
33 exercising just a little bit more effort in trying to
34 understand those that you serve I think would be
35 greatly appreciated and I think it would reap much
36 better results, be more effective at getting the job
37 done and helping subsistence users to continue their
38 way of life.

39
40 That is incredibly important when it
41 comes to, not just continuing their way of life, but
42 sustenance. Somewhere down the line you're going to
43 hear from a gentleman I was talking to back here where
44 he was saying that his method of hunting is against
45 Refuge rules. Apparently there's a definition in the
46 Refuge system that says that his method of hunting is
47 illegal. And I think that's tragic. Because he either
48 is a law abiding citizen or he goes hungry and I think
49 that that is something that we need to work hard at
50

1 understanding and help him. Help him feed his family.

2

3 And so a slightly different tangent, I
4 want to mention that a lot of the work that I do
5 involves the RACs, Board of Game, and the ACs. One of
6 the things that I've heard over and over from you and
7 from everyone else out there is that we need more
8 Alaska Native voices in these forums, sitting on the
9 Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees. We've
10 been working very hard, I've been trying desperately to
11 help Katya and Zach find qualified Alaska Native
12 people, the subsistence user to apply to these RACs and
13 I have been successful. We've been, in the past couple
14 of years, we've been successful in getting more people
15 from, oh, no, way, I'm not going there, over here, to
16 not only going to a meeting but actually applying to
17 sit on these RACs and when their applications go in I'm
18 told it goes into a void. I think that that is a huge
19 problem. The reason why I think that's a huge problem
20 is that we have highly qualified folks that are very
21 capable at helping us understand, make the connections,
22 passed over for someone that is not.

23

24 Let me give you an example.

25

26 Once we presented a highly qualified,
27 well read, well spoken, Alaska Native subsistence user
28 to the system, they applied, and that person was passed
29 over for a person that -- not well read, not well
30 spoken, sometimes goes to the meeting, sometimes goes
31 to the meeting not well. Mr. Chairman, members of the
32 Board, I see that as a challenge. Now, I don't know
33 what happens in that void there but that is definitely
34 a problem. When we can't get those well read, well
35 spoken individuals to the table. That's just one issue
36 that I have.

37

38 And because I know you're way behind
39 schedule I'll defer the rest of it.

40

41 I do want to make a comment on a couple
42 of the proposals that you're going to be looking at.
43 Several deal with Federal closures. Basically holding
44 a chunk of land reserved for Federally-qualified users.
45 I believe those proposals are 22, 37, 38, 46 and 56, 56
46 being the issue that keeps coming up over and over and
47 over and over again, and that's the Sheep Creek area up
48 there by the Arctic Village people. I do believe that
49 we need to give them additional consideration. These

50

1 folks are out there, they are struggling as it is to
2 survive. Not to do well, to survive. Arctic Village,
3 they pay \$12 for a dozen eggs. \$8 to \$10 for a loaf of
4 bread. Now, tell me it makes sense to swamp them with
5 a whole bunch of additional hunting pressure. That is
6 not serving the subsistence user, sir. I beg you to
7 give those proposals extra attention.
8

9 Another one that I want to mention, I
10 briefly alluded to earlier was the gentleman that was
11 having a problem hunting caribou because his hunting
12 method was contrary to what's in your regulations, the
13 rules of the Refuges, and I believe that's 24. There's
14 got to be some middle ground here. The story that he
15 told about his experiences with the enforcement
16 officer, him being humiliated in front of his family is
17 horrible. That, I think, is where we can help.
18

19 Mr. Chairman and members of the Board,
20 I really do appreciate all the hard work that you folks
21 do. Your support Staff, I'm just -- I'm flabbergasted
22 to see the book that you folks have to deal with, but I
23 really do appreciate your hard work and I look forward
24 to serving you as you serve those people out there in
25 rural Alaska.
26

27 And I would be happy to answer
28 questions. I promise, I'll be brief in my answers.
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
31 for him.
32

33 Rhonda.
34

35 MS. PITKA: I'd just like to know why
36 our Arctic Village people aren't here to defend their
37 proposal?
38

39 MR. STEVENS: Wow, that's a --
40 seemingly that's obvious, but that's a good -- a very
41 good point. This proposal has come up over and over
42 and over again and they have been to all of these
43 meetings trying desperately to convey to you their
44 needs. They just cannot keep doing it. It's a
45 tremendous amount of money, maybe 500 bucks just to get
46 out of Arctic Village, they can't afford it. I
47 mentioned earlier, that small villages have a very
48 difficult time with teleconferencing equipment, that's
49 incredibly difficult too. They would like to be here
50

1 but they can't.

2

3 Mr. Chairman, I mentioned -- when I
4 started this I said that sometimes these environments
5 can be slightly uncomfortable to our people, that is
6 not an exaggeration, especially considering the fact
7 that the last time this discussion happened, discussing
8 the Red Sheep Creek issue there were horrible, hateful,
9 racist comments made at the RAC towards the Arctic
10 Village people. That is absolutely unacceptable. If
11 someone was saying those things about me and my
12 village, I would not go to the meeting either. So
13 maybe, you know, it definitely has something to do with
14 cost but if you're not welcome in the room then, you
15 know, you're very reluctant to go.

16

17 That was a longwinded answer, I
18 apologize.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
21 we apologize for anybody being uncomfortable at our
22 meetings.

23

24 Any other questions.

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: I got one.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gordon.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: The proposal, and I
31 think because we had C&T from Kaktovik in that area as
32 well, we had a chance to review the concern. And being
33 inquisitive as I am in trying to seek some underlying
34 concerns about population, the trend, the stock,
35 recruitment and things like that, it really didn't
36 support being able to extend to non-Federally-qualified
37 users when I recall a review from the North Slope RAC,
38 and I think we supported the closure and limit it in
39 those kind of situations and considering the dialogue
40 about the very same issues we struggle with from
41 Anaktuvuk Pass and other villages that express the
42 concern to put food on the table and be very, very
43 alarmed as we move forward and try to express these
44 concerns so that we can convey effectively to the
45 Federal Subsistence Board the very issues that we
46 struggle with.

47

48 You know I'm equally concerned about
49 the level of public testimony that slights the Native
50

1 community because we had that happen recently in
2 Barrow, we had a carcass testify in the community and
3 downcasted the Natives as wasteful, almost heathens
4 type testimony when they get a carcass from somebody's
5 yard and put it on the podium and look at what these
6 Natives are doing. I found this in a yard, well, I
7 think he stole it, it looked good, when we keep our
8 food outside because we don't -- everybody doesn't have
9 a refrigerator. The Arctic is a natural refrigerator.
10 A lot of our caribou meat and frozen foods are
11 naturally refrigerated in our yards. And these are the
12 types of things that we are seeing in -- there's a
13 major struggle that is going on.

14
15 I don't want to go any more than I need
16 to on these things. But I think it's important to
17 describe these things, what we -- what the villages go
18 through and the struggles. Like Anaktuvuk Pass, you
19 know, 12, \$14 a gallon of fuel, no wonder people have
20 to pool resources to try to be effective. This is the
21 challenges in having fly in hunters in front of
22 migrating animals to deflect them is a major hardship
23 and a major issue.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
28 Gordon.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, sir.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there
35 anybody on the phone who would like to testify.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator.

40
41
42 OPERATOR: And if you would like to
43 make a comment or ask a question, please press star-
44 one.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 OPERATOR: And I'm showing no questions
49 coming from -- oh, one moment.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 OPERATOR: Ivan Demientieff, Grayling
4 Tribe, your line is open.

5

6 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and
7 fellow respected members of the Board. Today I am
8 calling in to testify on behalf of 18-33 and 18-36, I
9 believe they're combined for the shortening of the
10 moose hunt down there in 21E, Unit 21E of Grayling and
11 Holy Cross, Shageluk and Anvik.

12

13 You know the shortening of the moose
14 hunt, there's a lot about -- as the First Chief of my
15 village and I'm speaking on behalf of Grayling, my
16 people come to me when they're in time of need, my
17 people are, you know, and it just so happens that you
18 read further on in the proposal that they're saying
19 that none of us utilize this Federal hunt but I have
20 news for that, all of our people depend on the Federal
21 hunt more than you think. Food is so tough out there
22 as it is and this is a big window for us to be out on
23 our lands hunting without facing the outside hunters
24 that come in in the State hunt.

25

26 So, you know, I don't see -- so I'm
27 opposing 18-33.

28

29 And then following in line with 18-36,
30 I'm opposing that also.

31

32 I apologize for not taking advantage of
33 our tribal consultation with you but I just wanted to
34 make that comment today and I appreciate everything
35 that you guys do as a Board and I thank you for your
36 time today.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
39 Ivan. Any questions for Ivan.

40

41 (No comments)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
44 that.

45

46 At this time now we'll entertain the
47 public on consensus agenda items, and first up we'll
48 call Tommy Kriska.

49

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1 MR. KRISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
2 and members of the Board. My name's Tom Kriska. I'm
3 originally from Koyukuk down in the Yukon area and one
4 of the reasons that this -- this was brought up to me
5 is I do travel all over and knowing a lot of people up
6 and down the Yukon River. I spend a lot of my time
7 traveling, building houses and knowing a lot of people
8 all the way from Fairbanks all the way down towards
9 Russian Mission and up to Huslia, Allakaket area.

10

11 And just kind of -- this was brought to
12 my attention yesterday, I just got a phone call from
13 three different chiefs to try to put this on the
14 consensus to kind of oppose this 18-33 and 18-36. So I
15 hope that with your heart you'll see that.

16

17 Because the rest of us, all the way up
18 the river, we do have that hunt and it's a real good
19 tool for a lot of our folks because a lot of them folks
20 are 60, 70 years old and they like to hunt before a lot
21 of people get there because trying to, you know, trying
22 to hunt with others around there's a lot of boats that
23 go there, there's way too many. The older people, they
24 don't have a chance. It's just like you throw a big
25 bag of candy out there, all the -- everybody else is
26 grabbing it before they can even grab anything, and you
27 could see at the end that they might have one or
28 nothing.

29

30 So it's just a good thing that this is
31 coming out and we have a chance to try to do something
32 about it and I hope at some point it will.

33

34 That's one of my missions, I always try
35 to help the people everywhere I go. So I'm on a lot of
36 -- sit on a lot of other boards and the Western
37 Interior Regional Council, the Middle Yukon Advisory,
38 the City Council, Fairbanks Outboard Association,
39 commodore for that, and I do a lot of other things to
40 just try to help the people in a way to benefit their
41 lives and make it a lot easier. And when a lot of
42 things come up I always get calls all the time, no
43 matter where I'm at so I have to stand for them and I
44 always will and I've always been.

45

46 So, I guess -- and there was other -- I
47 guess it's my time to speak right now because you must
48 have pulled my card there.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: (Nods
2 affirmatively)

3
4 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Just a little bit
5 about the rules and regulations to change. I think
6 that, you know, going back to ANILCA, Title VIII, way
7 back when that was written, there was a lot of
8 commotion going on, they needed a way to get through
9 our land and that Title VIII and some other .801, eight
10 through 10, a lot of those were all written to make the
11 way through our land. A lot of it is really good and
12 it might have to be revisited at some point. Because
13 the way it is and the rules and regulations, the
14 Federal Board and everybody else that's supposed to go
15 by a lot of this is still really technically not
16 following it. It's just -- it's nobody's fault, it's
17 not you guys' fault, it goes back to, as the world
18 turns, a lot of changes. So the Board that was there
19 that made a lot of these decisions, the people out here
20 who was there to write these rules and regulations,
21 they're not here today. Every other year it changes,
22 every other year it changes and it will continue
23 changing, 30 years from now none of us will be here,
24 there'll be a new bunch. So we have to pretty much
25 adjust the rules and regulations the best we can today.

26
27 It's going to be different. It'll be
28 hard. But I believe that, you know, I really like
29 being here because -- and then from what I've seen,
30 just to go about this consensus the way you guys pulled
31 it off, I mean that thing would have went out the door
32 in a minute and we would have -- scramble to it, and
33 I'm really thankful for you guys there.

34
35 And there's just like the way the rules
36 and regulations are written, right now, my grandma, she
37 taught me a lot of ways, you know, taught me about
38 hunting, fishing and everything like that, and I can't
39 really hunt that way, there's no way because of the way
40 the rules and regulations are written. I can't do it.
41 And it's sad. Grandma, thinking about her out in the
42 woods, it's pretty sad and pretty hard, you know, your
43 heart gets heavy because you can't do some of this
44 stuff and it's kind of, I don't know, heartbreaking for
45 me.

46
47 There's a couple of proposals I support
48 here, it's 18-24 and there's a few that I will oppose,
49 there's the 18-36 and the ones we're talking about
50

1 right now. I had a lot of other things written but
2 just the last minute this proposal and this phone call
3 kind of threw me for a loop a little bit so I kind of
4 apologize for that and I think that in time that we all
5 are here and we start recognizing each other and what
6 we have to do, I really appreciate the fact that you
7 guys are there, and know some of you guys. I was kind
8 of -- as well as I went to the Board of Game and
9 getting there to the Board of Game meetings back in
10 November, I was kind of thinking I've been on these
11 boards before but still get a little shy but after I
12 figured out who was who, I really felt at home and that
13 we could talk about these things and get something
14 done.

15
16 And to tell you the truth right now, we
17 don't have a lot of time and we all want to do the
18 right thing, and so let's just do the right thing and
19 get all these matters behind us because what I'm
20 worried about is our kids in the future. If we don't
21 do it now and you can really think about it, our kids
22 now days, their lifestyles are changing. There's a lot
23 of rap music going on and a lot of drugs out there, a
24 lot of different things that's kind of pulling away
25 from our traditional values, our way of life and it's
26 heartbreaking, and I know it's going to happen, we're
27 probably the last chance right now to fix these rules
28 and regulations the way they need to be done, and I
29 really hope and I will possibly dedicate a lot of my
30 time in my life to make sure that happens.

31
32 And I just want to let you know that
33 and I really am thankful for -- now that I know a lot
34 of you guys and I know there's hope, I really
35 appreciate it and I thank you guys for being there and
36 as well as the Staff here. And let's fix this.
37 Somehow we got -- we don't want this to keep going on
38 and on because of our people, like some of our folks
39 said, that the fuel up north, I mean the way they
40 talked about is bread and things being \$12 a dozen, you
41 go a little farther north, you're paying \$14 a gallon
42 of gas and I've seen \$16 on a quart of oil, you imagine
43 that and try to buy the dozen eggs and then look at
44 your kids, we're going to have to fix that otherwise to
45 tell you the truth we're all going to break the laws in
46 order to feed those kids, and I imagine if you guys
47 were sitting out there you'd do the same thing.

48
49 So let's just kind of get it together
50

1 here and make it happen.

2

3

Okay, thank you very much.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Tommy. Any questions for Tommy.

7

8

9

10

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Greg Siekaniec. Thank you, Tommy, for your thoughts
and your comments.

11

12

13

14

Just clarify for me, are you asking the
Board to remove the 18-33 and 36 from the consent
agenda?

15

16

17

MR. KRISKA: Yes.

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21

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23

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, and as
well as Ivan on the phone, we did receive a letter from
three tribal chiefs requesting that we reconsider that
as well.

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MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Jack
Reakoff, Chair, Western Interior Council. When we
deliberated this proposal, we requested comments -- we
only got comments from the Advisory Committee, which
was supporting these proposals but now we have people
who are opposed to the proposal, and so I'm fully in
favor of the Board deliberating the proposals with more
input from the public, in the public process. So I'm
fully in support of removing this from the consensus
agenda on to the non-consensus agenda.

35

36

37

38

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can we get a
motion.

39

40

41

42

43

MS. PITKA: I'd like to make a motion
to remove 18-33 and 18-36 to the non-consensus agenda
with the knowledge that this makes us up to 49
proposals that we have not considered yet.

44

45

46

47

(Laughter)

48

49

50

MR. SIEKANIEC: Second.

MS. MOURITSEN: Second.

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: This is Greg, I'll
2 second that, and I recognize that as well.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Any
7 discussion on that.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
12 question.
13
14 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All in favor
17 say aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
22 sign.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
27 unanimously.
28
29 MR. KRISKA: Thank you.
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There you go.
32
33 MR. KRISKA: Good man -- or, good
34 group.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm glad you
39 thought it was warm in here this morning.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. KRISKA: Yep, okay, you guys have a
44 nice day.
45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Bruce Thomas.
47
48 MR. THOMAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
49 Subsistence Federal Board and Staff. My name is Bruce
50

1 Thomas. I come from Fort Yukon in the Yukon Flats and
2 I'm the CATG natural director for the Council of
3 Athabascan Tribal Governments, which is a consortium of
4 10 tribes up in the Flats and encompasses like a
5 250,000 square mile area.
6

7 I'm here to testify on Proposal 18-56,
8 Wildlife Proposal, to rescind the Federal lands closure
9 in Arctic Village Sheep Management Area, specifically
10 the Red Sheep Creek drainage.
11

12 The people of the Yukon Flats oppose
13 that proposal and the reason being the Red Sheep Creek
14 area is a customary and traditionally use area for
15 sheep and other wildlife for the Gwich'in of Arctic
16 Village. And the Red Sheep Creek drainage is a sacred
17 and spiritual place for the Gwich'in of Arctic Village
18 and besides that the local residents do not need any
19 more competition for their subsistence foods.
20

21 That's all I have, sir.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
24 I appreciate you getting in your testimony before
25 you're taking off this afternoon. Have safe travels.
26

27 MR. THOMAS: All right.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll make sure
30 that your testimony is noted during the time of that
31 proposal.
32

33 Thank you.
34

35 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That brings us
38 back to -- anybody on the phone.
39

40 (No comments)
41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Operator, is
43 there anybody else who would like to testify on the
44 phone.
45

46 OPERATOR: Thank you. We have a Eugene
47 Paul, your line is open.
48

49 MR. PAUL: Yeah, good morning, Mr.
50

1 Chairman and Board members. I was speaking on behalf
2 of my village of Holy Cross but you guys pulled 19-36
3 and 19 -- or, 18, I'm sorry 18-33 from the consensus so
4 I was going to contest to that -- but I mean do not
5 contest to that, I was not in favor of that proposal so
6 I would -- I really appreciate the sacrifices you guys
7 do on behalf of our people in Alaska and thank you.
8 That's all I need to say.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
11 that.

12
13 Any questions for him.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
18 calling in today.

19
20 OPERATOR: And we do have another
21 question on the -- person on the phone, Carol Wesley,
22 your line is open.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
25 floor.

26
27 OPERATOR: Please go ahead, Ms. Wesley,
28 your line is open.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 OPERATOR: Please check the mute
33 feature on your phone.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 OPERATOR: Go ahead your line is open,
38 Carol Wesley.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 OPERATOR: Okay, I'm not getting a
43 response from that line, and I show no one else in cue.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Operator.

47
48 All right, we have a couple of
49 announcements and then we're going to get on to our
50

1 order of business today.

2

3 Those interested in attending the lunch
4 with the Mt. Edgecumbe students, we will be meeting at
5 the Willawa just across from the courtyard to have
6 lunch and discussion. If you have not indicated your
7 interest but would like to go, please let the Southeast
8 coordinator, Deanna Perry, know between now and 11:00
9 a.m., so we can make sure there's enough seats at the
10 restaurant.

11

12 And, please don't forget to vote on the
13 artwork outside -- oh, the artwork's on the inside over
14 here.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: WP19 -- oh, 18-
19 19.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sorry, Staff,
24 we're going to start back with the regular order.
25 Yesterday was a time certain for this proposal and so
26 we still have a few things that we would like to mull
27 over on this proposal and so we're going to start with
28 the regular order of the agenda and then we'll get to
29 this one later in the day. Yes.

30

31 That brings us to Southeast.

32

33 WP18-04.

34

35 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chairman. Members
36 of the Board and Council Chairs. My name is Terry
37 Suminski. I'm with the United States Forest Service
38 and manage the Subsistence Program for the Tongass
39 National Forest. I'd like to have Luke have him
40 introduce himself.

41

42 MR. DECKER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
43 Board. My name is Luke Decker. I'm currently a
44 wildlife biologist in Craig, Alaska from Southeast and
45 I'm here to provide any answers to questions that may
46 be asked.

47

48 MR. SUMINSKI: The executive summary
49 for WP18-04 can be found on Page 632 of your books and
50

1 the analysis begins on Page 635.

2

3 Proposal 18-04 was submitted by the
4 Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
5 and requests increasing the wolf harvest quota on
6 Federal lands in Unit 2 to up to 30 percent of the most
7 recent population estimate for the unit. The Council
8 seeks to increase the allowable take of wolves on
9 Federal lands in Unit 2 and is concerned that previous
10 quotas have been too conservative. Unit 2 wolf harvest
11 is managed under harvest quota. A guideline harvest
12 level for Unit 2 wolves was set initially by the Alaska
13 Board of Game in 1997 at 25 percent of the most recent
14 population estimate. In 2000 it was raised to 30
15 percent, following an analysis indicating lower levels
16 of natural mortality in Unit 2 wolves compared to other
17 wolf populations. In January of 2015 the Board of Game
18 reduced the harvest level to up to 20 percent of the
19 fall population due to an apparent population decline.

20

21 Wolf populations are difficult to
22 assess in Southeast Alaska due to the dense forest
23 cover.

24

25 Research during the 1990s estimated the
26 1994 wolf population at 356 wolves. During the early
27 to mid-2000s ADF&G estimated the wolf population at
28 approximately 326 animals, which is similar to the
29 estimate from '94. From 2012 to present research was
30 initiated to develop a more efficient and cost
31 effective technique to estimate wolf numbers. The new
32 research included implementing hair boards to collect
33 wolf hair samples for DNA fingerprinting, which enables
34 the researchers to identify individual wolves and to
35 determine a wolf population estimate in the project
36 area using mark/recapture techniques. Data collected
37 during 2012 proved insufficient to estimate the
38 population using the mark/recapture technique but an
39 estimate of 106 wolves was generated using radio collar
40 methods. The mark/recapture methods produced wolf
41 population estimates of 221 wolves in 2013, 89 wolves
42 in 2014, 108 wolves in 2014.

43

44 Wolves can be harvested either with a
45 firearm under hunting regulations or by trap, snare or
46 firearm under trapping regulations with 93 percent of
47 the harvest taken by Federally-qualified users.

48

49 Since 1985 59 percent of the wolves

50

1 have been harvested by hunters and trappers using boats
2 with harvest typically occurring on State tide lands.

3
4 The OSM recommendation is to oppose
5 this proposal with the following justification.

6
7 Since the proposal only increases
8 available harvest on Federal lands, management of
9 separate harvest quotas between State, private and
10 Federal lands will be challenging for State and Federal
11 managers and adds complexity for hunters and trappers.
12 Recent action by the Board of Game reduced the quota to
13 up to 20 percent of the fall population estimate to
14 allow for a sustainable harvest opportunity for wolves
15 by rebuilding the population. Increasing the harvest
16 quota back to 30 percent could create conservation
17 concerns.

18
19 That concludes my presentation.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I'd welcome
22 any questions.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

29 Then.....

30
31 OPERATOR: And for anyone on the phone,
32 if you have a question or a comment please press star-
33 one and record your name when prompted.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
38 we'll move on to summary of public comment.

39
40 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Board. Again, for the record, my name
42 is Deanna Perry. I'm the coordinator for the Southeast
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

44
45 A total of seven written comments were
46 received for this proposal all in opposition and
47 they're included in your meeting books beginning on
48 Page 654.

49
50

1 One general comment was made from
2 Curtis Donald Thomas of Ketchikan, I summarized that
3 yesterday, one of his key points was that there was a
4 creation of special hunting rights for certain
5 citizens.

6
7 Five additional written public comments
8 were in opposition from Fairbanks residents. Francis
9 Mauer, Sean McGuire, Jim Kowalsky for Alaskans for
10 Wildlife, Larry Edwards of Sitka and Dr. Robert Sieks,
11 president of American Society of Mammalogists. A
12 second letter from Alaskans for Wildlife was received
13 recently and that's located in your materials on Page
14 7-20 of the supplemental Section 7.

15
16 Viewpoints of all these comments
17 include the extension of season would likely lead to
18 excessive harvest of an already depleted population of
19 wolves. The enforcement of past quotas have failed or
20 have been poorly managed resulting most recently in the
21 season quota being exceeded by over two and a half
22 times. The situation represents mismanagement and
23 erodes whatever public confidence has existed, if any,
24 in the ability to manage hunting and trapping of wolves
25 in Game Unit 2. Conservation concerns, including the
26 impact of a illegal and legal overharvest. Finding the
27 RAC's statement that there is no conservation concern
28 involved for this population to be completely wrong,
29 and that there is a lack of reflection of a substantial
30 national interest in these public lands and the
31 wildlife thereon. Beyond reported take, unreported
32 take, added likely substantial taking, which might have
33 resulted in unmanageable, substantial overkill versus
34 the established 20 percent. A decrease in prey. The
35 decrease in deer population expected because of past,
36 current or planned logging. This proposal, in reality,
37 is an anti-subsistence measure. The lack of
38 consideration of other important factors and deer
39 hunter success besides predation and more pressure on a
40 wolf population already in trouble appears to be
41 contrary to the basic concept of wildlife management.

42
43 That concludes the public comments
44 received on Wildlife Proposal 18-04.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
49 Any questions. Comments.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll open the
4 floor to public testimony.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: On the phone.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
13 we'll move on to the Regional Council recommendation.

14

15 Chair.

16

17 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Once, again, Don Hernandez, acting Chair for the
19 Southeast RAC.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
22 Board. Our Council comments for this proposal are
23 found on Page 649 of your meeting book.

24

25 The Council deliberated long and hard
26 on this proposal and carefully considered, in addition
27 to the Staff analysis, local knowledge of Council
28 members concerning wolves in Unit 2. Public testimony
29 heard at the winter 2017 Craig Council meeting, some
30 strong reason, support from the four tribal governments
31 on Prince of Wales Island and excellent population and
32 scientific information provided by the Department of
33 Fish and Game Staff. Because of the importance of
34 wolves for subsistence, past controversy over wolf
35 management in Unit 2 and the delegation of authority
36 needed to implement the Southeast RAC's recommendation,
37 the Council's rationale and intent covers a number of
38 points.

39

40 And those include:

41

42 Subsistence opportunity.

43

44 Management situation.

45

46 Delegation of authority.

47

48 Scientific rationale.

49

50

1 least a year time lag in setting their quotas from the
2 most recent data.

3

4 As far as the delegation of authority,
5 the RAC requested the U.S. Forest Service Craig
6 District Ranger receive delegated authority from the
7 Board to set the quota for subsistence take of wolf on
8 the Federal lands.

9

10 For the scientific rationale, local
11 knowledge and traditional, ecological knowledge of Unit
12 2 wolf harvesters supports that a harvest guideline
13 level of up to 30 percent is appropriate. Tribal
14 governments of Craig, Hydaburg, Kasaan and Klawock,
15 whose members are active subsistence wolf harvesters
16 believe that a higher harvest guideline level should be
17 implemented at this time. These sources believe that
18 wolf population has been growing rapidly and can
19 sustain a higher harvest level. They also note this
20 growth is not reflected in the Department of Fish and
21 Game's population estimate which is essentially from a
22 year ago, not present population levels. In other
23 words, they're observations are far more timely than
24 what the scientific evidence represents. The local
25 knowledge, traditional, ecological knowledge based on
26 more current observations has an opportunity to
27 evaluate wolf population size on a more real time
28 basis. Complimentary Western science data presented
29 suggested a healthy wolf population can sustain a 30
30 percent harvest level, sometimes even higher. Wolves
31 have high fecundity and wolf populations can expand
32 rapidly in a suitable environment. Prey availability
33 and habitat conditions are strong determinants of wolf
34 populations. Wolves are very resilient species.
35 Efforts were made to try and exterminate wolves at one
36 time in the past and obviously they survived those
37 efforts.

38

39 As far as setting this harvest
40 guideline level, the RAC would like the harvest
41 guideline level to be set through a transparent public
42 process involving Department of Fish and Game, Craig
43 Ranger District and Forest Service subsistence
44 biologists, local subsistence harvest harvesters and
45 traditional ecological knowledge experts and Prince of
46 Wales tribal governments. The RAC recognizes its
47 authority to set a Federal subsistence guideline level
48 would be vested with the Craig Ranger District with
49 close consultation with the Department of Fish and
50

1 Game. The RAC anticipates that the proposed up to 30
2 percent harvest guideline level could result in a
3 higher quota than the present artificially low 20
4 percent harvest guideline level. The incorporation of
5 local traditional ecological knowledge will allow more
6 responsivity to the changing wolf population than the
7 time lagging DNA population estimate.

8
9 Current local knowledge indicates that
10 more wolves can be harvested. In future years
11 incorporation of the local knowledge could indicate
12 that few wolves should be taken than the time lagged
13 DNA survey data would allow. And up to 30 percent
14 harvest guideline levels provides managers with
15 management flexibility of long-term management of the
16 Unit 2 wolf.

17
18 The RAC believes that utilization of a
19 population guideline would provide better management of
20 wolves in Unit 2A. A population guideline would be set
21 through a management plan for wolf in Unit 2. As with
22 other species wolf management actions would aim at
23 ensuring that the wolf population is maintained at a
24 determined level. Wolves in excess of this population
25 goal would be available for harvest. To start the
26 development of such a management plan the RAC suggests
27 a population goal of about 150 to 200 wolves for Unit 2
28 based on a post denning count or estimate. Council
29 development of a strategy for the management of wolf
30 populations within the region to accommodate
31 subsistence uses and needs is authorized under ANILCA,
32 Section .805(3)(d) and elsewhere.

33
34 So as far as the need for action, the
35 RAC believes that immediate action is needed so that a
36 harvest guideline level that provides for subsistence
37 uses and needs can be in place for the 2018/2019
38 hunting and trapping season. The State of Alaska Board
39 of Game action on the proposal, the RAC will submit
40 will not be implemented until the 2019/2020 season at
41 the earliest. If the Alaska Board of Game adopts the
42 RACs proposal at its meeting covering Southeast in
43 2018/2019 there would be a common harvest guideline
44 level in State and Federal lands in Unit 2 for the
45 2019/2020 season, but the RAC believes that the
46 2018/2019 season, this coming season implementation of
47 up to a 30 percent harvest guideline level is necessary
48 for further conservation of the wolf population itself.
49 The excessively large wolf population will be subject
50

1 to crashing. The RAC recognizes that an up to 30
2 percent harvest guideline level on Federal lands may
3 require Federal managers to track and monitor wolf
4 harvest on Federal lands. If a higher harvest
5 guideline level is set on Federal lands, the RAC
6 anticipates that a Federal season would remain open to
7 Federally-qualified users after the State season closed
8 when its statutory determined lower harvest guideline
9 level was met. And that action would be, probably the
10 situation this coming season, due to the time lag and
11 the potential Board of Game action.
12

13 So if the RAC recommendation is
14 adopted, any harvest beyond the State limit of 20
15 percent would be available to Federally-qualified
16 users. The RAC anticipates that the Board of Game may
17 change its harvest guideline level to align with the
18 new Federal regulation.
19

20 And one final issue they wanted to
21 bring to your attention was the RAC -- when the RAC
22 talks about a harvest guideline level, we mean that
23 that would be one that is reported harvest, and
24 verified other wolf kills, such as road kill for
25 example. In the past the harvest guideline level has
26 been reduced by a speculative inclusion of unverified
27 non-legal kills, and we believe this is totally
28 inappropriate and disrespectful of local hunters and
29 trappers. The RAC notes that non-legal mortality
30 exists for all harvested species through wounding loss,
31 unrecovered kills, road kill, inter-species killing and
32 many other factors.
33

34 So that's kind of a more detailed
35 explanation of why we are in support of this proposal.
36

37 Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
40 Any questions for Don.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A very thorough
45 report, thank you.
46

47 Hearing no questions we'll move on to
48 the Tribal, Alaska Native Corp comment, Native Liaison.
49
50

1 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Board members.
2 The consultation was held September 14th with that
3 region. Mr. Kitka didn't speak specifically to 04,
4 however, after OSM Staff Kenner gave a brief overview
5 of wildlife proposals 18-1 through 5, Mr. Kitka did
6 speak on the -- he said there has to be a better system
7 of counting of wolves because the system doesn't seem
8 to be working now. And also he mentioned that he
9 wanted to know what caused a big bird die-off and what
10 was causing that to happen, he said climate changes are
11 causing the changing dynamics of all their food
12 resources, and locals are reporting more sightings of
13 wolves on beaches because of that.

14
15 That concludes the discussion during
16 the consultation.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Orville.

20
21 Any questions for Orville.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
26 we'll call on Alaska Department of Fish and Game, State
27 liaison.

28
29 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Good morning. And good morning to Board members. I am
31 Ryan Scott. I'm the regional wildlife supervisor in
32 Southeast Alaska. Our comments can be found on Page
33 649 in your book.

34
35 The Department's recommendation for
36 Proposal 18-04 is to oppose this proposal. And this is
37 a long -- there's been a lot going on with wolves in
38 Unit 2, and, Mr. Chairman, you've been involved with a
39 lot of that as well, and Mr. Hernandez as well.

40
41 I guess I wanted to say that I
42 appreciate the RAC's comments and the information that
43 they provided in their comments and I specifically want
44 to focus on some of the things that came up a little
45 bit later in that.

46
47 So the Alaska Board of Game is
48 scheduled to meet in January of 2019 in Petersburg.
49 The Department has submitted a suite of proposals, if
50

1 you will, addressing Unit 2 wolves, but the real
2 premise behind those proposals is we can't chase these
3 percentages anymore and can't really -- it doesn't
4 matter if it's 20 percent or if it's 30 percent. The
5 background on the 20 percent is, as you'll see, in many
6 of the comments that you have in your Board books, this
7 population of wolves has been the subject of two ESA
8 petitions, both of them have been found unwarranted at
9 the time, but some inadequacies or some real concerns
10 is probably a better term to use, has been noted in
11 those decisionmaking documents.

12
13 One of them is the ability to manage
14 for those percentages. Managing on a guideline harvest
15 level or a percentage for a trapping season is pretty
16 doggone tough, there's a lot going on, you got a lot of
17 people in the field, you got a lot of equipment in the
18 field and then you have the delay in sealing
19 requirements. And that's fair. You know, having
20 people that need -- people need some time to get out to
21 get to where they're trapping, to get to their gear, to
22 get back in, that's completely understandable.

23
24 Unit 2 already has the shortest sealing
25 requirement in the state of Alaska, 14 days. And as
26 you can see if you, as you go through the information,
27 the Department has provided and other comments, it's
28 not that I don't think anybody ever intends to exceed
29 20 percent of the estimated harvest, or 30 percent of
30 the estimated harvest, it's a function of trying to
31 manage for a trapping season where you've got just a
32 lot of factors contributing to everything that's
33 happening, just the natural process of that.

34
35 Our intent is to introduce a wolf
36 harvest management plan to the Alaska Board of Game.
37 That plan is very much in a skeleton format at this
38 point, but the high points, I guess the take home
39 message is there, are that we would like to manage,
40 rather than chasing a percentage again, again, it
41 doesn't matter if it's going to be 20 percent or 30
42 percent, is to look at how to categorize the wolf
43 population, abundant, for lack of a better term,
44 normal, and then conservative. And looking at that,
45 those thresholds, there will be numbers or ranges of
46 numbers attached to those thresholds, but those
47 thresholds will be decided by biology, will be decided
48 by social input and traditional and ecological
49 knowledge. That's a term -- or that's a point that has
50

1 been made to me many, many times over the last couple
2 years. I believe that this approach is a really good
3 way to incorporate that and it's a methodology for us
4 to take that information and to continue working with
5 the residents of Unit 2, other interested parties and
6 set those thresholds and manage for that.

7
8 At present we've been going down to
9 Prince of Wales since about 2012 every year counting
10 wolves and we do a DNA based system where we -- you've
11 heard it explained in the RAC comments, we believe that
12 the process is very -- is accurate, we think that it's
13 -- we've come a long way, we've learned a lot, we've
14 engaged folks on the island. We use citizen science.
15 We have teachers with students out checking hair
16 boards. We work with the Hydaburg Cooperative
17 Association, they have a dedicated field crew that runs
18 their own stations and the Nature Conservancy as well.
19 So we're getting a massive amount of information and
20 sending these samples off to a lab in Montana and there
21 is a lag time. That's the nature of the beast. It
22 takes us about eight months to turn in the hair and get
23 the data back. It takes us about two days to run the
24 data and to come up with an estimate. And then we work
25 through that and work closely with our Forest Service
26 partners to, in the past anyway, our Forest Service
27 partners to announce that quota.

28
29 Again, I think that it's important to
30 recognize that trying to chase these percentages, we've
31 learned the hard way, if you will, and we certainly
32 have exceeded some of the guideline harvests that we've
33 wanted to maintain and we're hoping to move away from
34 that.

35
36 The last thing I would say as well is
37 the Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game
38 have been in lock step with managing this population or
39 establishing, you know, the quotas and working through
40 the harvest years for a long, long time. And that was
41 one of the strengths that was noted in the ESA
42 petitions, both of them, that at that time, you know,
43 the management agencies were not diverging. This is
44 going to be a divergence. And as we heard from the
45 public comments provided by Ms. Perry, there is still a
46 lot of attention focused on wolf numbers in Game
47 Management Unit 2. We believe that those numbers can
48 be managed appropriately and they can be managed
49 appropriately for the people of the unit, for the
50

1 wolves themselves, for the deer of the unit, but at
2 this time for us to go separate directions I think that
3 would be a mistake and I think that we're moving
4 forward with a process that will, not only -- I mean
5 the first couple of years are probably going to be
6 pretty uncomfortable as we go into this, and having,
7 you know, as a biologist, having a solid number to
8 focus on and to work with, there's some comfort in
9 that. You know we're going to have ranges and we're
10 going to assign population levels to these thresholds
11 as we go in through a cooperative approach, but I think
12 that ultimately is going to be a much stronger
13 management strategy in a lot of different ways. I
14 mean, I think, again, we can do it for the wolves
15 themselves, we can do it for the deer as is a concern,
16 when we get a high population of wolves on the island
17 and people get concerned about the deer that they prey
18 upon and what's available for their needs.

19
20 But I think that the process that we
21 are about to launch into, we're headed to Prince of
22 Wales this month to sit down and start hammering out
23 these numbers. It's something that's probably going to
24 come out very, very strong and, you know, we all know
25 that we work together and if you can get buy in from
26 all the groups and engage everybody and have that,
27 that's going to stand the test of time much better.

28
29 That concludes my comments.

30
31 I'm happy to answer any questions about
32 WP18-04 and the State's comments.

33
34 I appreciate your time.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
39 Scott.

40
41 Any questions for Ryan.

42
43 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.

46
47 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question. So in
48 2016 the population grew up to 231, what I'm reading,
49 then from 2014 it was only 89, within two years there
50

1 was a population growth of 142, I believe, so the
2 population right now is about three -- would be about
3 300, is that right, I mean I'm just guessing what the
4 number would be. The yearly growth would be about 71
5 wolves a year?

6
7 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
8 Brower.

9
10 So the discrepancy between 2013 and
11 2014, a lot of that has to do with the -- and it took
12 us a while to look into it and figure out what happened
13 there. A pack was removed from one of the areas that
14 -- one of our focal study areas, and that impacted the
15 overall numbers. So is it -- I don't think it's
16 growing quite at 71 wolves a year but it's certainly
17 growing, no question about that. And I believe, you
18 know, the RAC portrayed that accurately. What the
19 growth rate is, you know, at this point, we don't know
20 that for sure.

21
22 We also have to keep in mind that as we
23 get the data, we're out in the field in the fall, we
24 start mid October, run through the end of December,
25 collecting hair, wolves are being harvested all the
26 time through that period, so that's a removal. We also
27 have to remember that spring comes along and wolves
28 have new wolves, and as a K9 species, they're able to,
29 you know, they have multiple pups in a litter and they
30 can expand very quickly.

31
32 So what the growth is, you know, is --
33 we don't have that data necessarily. At the same time
34 we recognize and very much agree with the RAC and
35 residents of the island that wolf numbers are
36 definitely up. That was also one of the points of the
37 20 percent, reducing it down to 20 percent, at the
38 Board of Game meeting. That was a time where wolf
39 numbers were -- we believed wolf numbers were down
40 significantly based on information we were getting from
41 the island and other parties. It was also a time that
42 we were sorting out how to go about to take this wolf
43 population into the future without having, you know,
44 having that endangered species act petition hanging
45 over our head. So that was a stop-gap to manage
46 conservatively until we could get things moving in the
47 right direction, and that means wolf numbers increasing
48 as well understanding and implementing methodologies to
49 actually manage pretty closely.

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. I was just
2 curious because the last count was 2016 and up to 231
3 at that time and now you have another two years of
4 data; is that true?

5
6 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
7 Brower. So we have one additional year of data.

8
9 So we went out and collected the
10 samples -- actually I should -- let me correct that, we
11 have one additional year of sample collection. As we
12 speak, those hair samples are in the lab being
13 processed right now to identify individual wolves.

14
15 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17
18 MS. PITKA: So in your testimony you
19 referenced a wolf management plan including all of the
20 Regional Advisory Councils, it says that it -- that you
21 plan to submit it to the Board of Game in January of
22 2019, in order to get the Regional Advisory Council's
23 input, when do you plan to submit it to them?

24
25 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
26 Pitka. They're going to have to be at the table.
27 Yeah, so it's frankly not a matter of submitting it to
28 them, they will help craft it. Not only the Regional
29 Advisory Council, Craig Tribal, Klawock, the Forest
30 Service, you know, it's -- have all the individuals
31 that I am hoping to get input from. I'm sure there's
32 people I haven't even thought of yet, you know, but
33 that's the process that we'll begin this month.
34 Frankly, that'll be our time, in April, so it's not
35 necessarily, it's not submitting it to the RAC, I mean
36 they're going to help craft it, I hope, anyway.

37
38 Let me qualify that, that's my hope.

39
40 MS. PITKA: Okay. I asked that because
41 they are all volunteers and they meet like twice a
42 year.

43
44 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
45 Pitka. I recognize that. And I have nothing but great
46 things to say about the Southeast RAC. I've been very
47 fortunate over the last few years to work pretty
48 closely with them on lots of different things and I --
49 frankly, I see a pretty successful product.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Ryan.
4 Appreciate your thoughts this morning.

5

6 I really appreciate your thoughts
7 around a unified management plan perspective as it
8 relates to potential endangered species petitions that
9 we've experienced a couple of already.

10

11 You know, and I think I agree with you
12 that when you're managing on a percentage and it shows
13 up on paper that you've had a two and a half times the
14 percentage goal harvest, it's very easy for a
15 petitioner to look at that and say, well, you're not
16 meeting your harvest strategy at all, therefore, a
17 resubmission and a petition is potentially in the
18 cards. I think that's something, certainly, I pay
19 great attention to and would encourage you to be, you
20 know, very, very strong in getting this thing under a,
21 you know, perhaps liberal to conservative management
22 strategy that allows you to move in and out of that
23 window as you see, you know, from your biological
24 information, science-based information that you're
25 collecting.

26

27 So I appreciate that perspective a lot
28 and thank you for bringing that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll go to Don
31 and then Gordon.

32

33 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
34 just thought it might be a good idea for me to make a
35 comment here after Ryan's testimony. Just to say that,
36 you know, the RAC is very happy with the way that Fish
37 and Game is cooperating with the RAC at this time.
38 There may have been some differences during that period
39 when the endangered species listing was more in play
40 and the wolf populations did seem to be declining. A
41 lot of the local users felt that they were not being
42 included in some of these decisions, that has
43 definitely changed, you know, Fish and Game and Ryan
44 are now working with them. The RAC's very happy about
45 that.

46

47 And, you know, when we put forward this
48 proposal there was no indication from the Fish and Game
49 Department that they were going to take this new

50

1 management strategy forward as soon as they are. You
2 know, our intent was to try and rectify a situation
3 that's going on right now with this, you know,
4 increasing wolf population and no flexibility to be
5 able to respond to it. I think the RAC would -- I
6 guess what we anticipated was that we would change the
7 harvest guideline level and hopefully the State would
8 realign with us, now the State is telling us that they
9 are essentially going one step further with a
10 management plan, which I did say in our statement, is
11 where we had hoped to go in the future as well. But
12 we're kind of looking for some immediate changes, you
13 know, to deal with a present situation.

14

15 So that's kind of where we are.

16

17 Yes, we're definitely all on the same
18 page as moving forward with this management plan, which
19 they're still developing, which we will be included in,
20 I'm sure, as far as RAC involvement. It probably won't
21 be the whole RAC but, you know, we have members on the
22 RAC that are very involved in this and I'm sure will
23 volunteer their time. You know, Mike Douville from
24 Craig, he's one of the most active trappers on the
25 island. He's of long involvement. He and Ryan know
26 each other well. So you know this is going to happen.
27 It's just how we move through the immediate future, I
28 guess, is what the question is here.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.

33

34 Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: Just some observations.
37 I just wanted to -- I think I was going to mention the
38 same lines about the local perspective and the local
39 use and I wanted to ask ADF&G and the managers of this,
40 when the decline and there is some threats of ESAs
41 floating around, to what level is the harvest limited
42 currently. Is it the Federally-qualified users or is
43 it still open to other users at this time. It seems to
44 me when you're starting to get into management schemes
45 you're going to have to look at that and figure the
46 threshold level of that piece of it to be engaged for
47 the qualified users.

48

49 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.

50

1 Brower. Thank you for the question, sir.

2
3 It is open to all user groups at this
4 point. Federally-qualified, non-Federally-qualified,
5 non-residents. The non-resident, non-Federally-
6 qualified harvest is very low. You know, five to 10
7 percent maybe at the top end. The majority of wolves
8 are taken by Federally-qualified residents living in
9 Unit 2 predominately. And it does vary from year to
10 year what we see in the harvest. Even the harvest
11 methodology and the harvest chronology can vary greatly
12 from year to year but it is open currently and we
13 believe, again, that we can provide that opportunity
14 for all user groups, certainly meeting the subsistence
15 needs of the Federally-qualified hunters and trappers,
16 but I think we can be successful in providing that
17 opportunity for anyone who is interested in harvesting
18 a wolf.

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Yeah, and I
21 think we've heard some other testifiers on other
22 species, other locations about their frustrations about
23 this area that were not following the intent of
24 sustained yield principles and a constant battle of
25 analyzing something and bringing to bear these
26 differing opinions when we need to be able to express
27 what the law is about rural subsistence priority issues
28 and when a sustainable level and threshold level is
29 achieved because you just can't continue to put in
30 front of communities the rest of Alaska. And that's
31 your mantra, is the State of Alaska is all of Alaska
32 and manage it in that way.

33
34 So there are some conflicting mandates
35 and we really need to look at some of the other public
36 testifiers in this area and work towards some of the
37 mandates that ANILCA made in rural subsistence priority
38 issues.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
43 Brower. I don't disagree with you at all. But I also
44 haven't -- I mean one of the things I really haven't
45 been told about the wolf harvest in Game Management
46 Unit 2 is that we are not meeting the subsistence needs
47 of the rural users at all. And I believe at times of
48 abundance we actually -- I mean we want to see an
49 appropriate level of harvest on there and so I think

50

1 that's where the additional opportunity, you know,
2 should it be there -- if it's not there, fair enough,
3 but if the animals are available, I believe that our
4 plan, our future management strategy will accommodate
5 that.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you guys
8 for that discussion.

9
10 I think that brings us to the ISC.

11
12 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Members of the Board. For the record my name is
14 Jennifer Hardin. I'm the Subsistence Policy
15 Coordinator for OSM and the Chair of the InterAgency
16 Staff Committee.

17
18 The InterAgency Staff Committee
19 provided the standard comment for WP18-04.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
24 Jennifer.

25
26 Board discussion with Council Chair and
27 State liaison. I think we've had a pretty good
28 discussion here.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
33 we'll move on to Board action.

34
35 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Wayne.

38
39 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Wayne
40 Owen with United States Forest Service.

41
42 I would like to move to adopt WP18-04
43 as submitted by the Southeast RAC. The proposal is
44 shown on Page 632 of the Board book. If I get a
45 second, I will explain why I intend to oppose the
46 proposal.

47
48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Greg Siekaniec, Fish
49 and Wildlife Service. Second.

50

1 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
2 justification for opposing WP18-04 is as follows:

3
4 Increasing the harvest quota back to 30
5 percent is likely to create a conservation concern for
6 wolves in Unit 2 based on past population declines
7 resulting from similar harvest quotas, the proposed
8 harvest quota would likely lead to an unsustainable --
9 likely or maybe lead to an unsustainable harvest.

10
11 Since the proposal only increases
12 available harvest on Federal lands, management of
13 separate harvest quotas between State, private and
14 Federal lands would make it more difficult for State
15 and Federal managers who are currently working
16 extremely well together, it would make it difficult for
17 the managers as well as confusing for hunters and
18 trappers.

19
20 Adopting the proposal would potentially
21 violate established principles of wildlife management,
22 which is contrary to the conservation mandate in Title
23 VIII of ANILCA.

24
25 And, finally, we believe that the
26 Forest Service working in collaboration with the
27 Department of Fish and Game, as we have done so well
28 over the last several years, to move together toward a
29 sustainable solution to the Unit 2 wolf issues is in
30 the best interest of all the stakeholders, including
31 users, tribes, the State and the Federal government.

32
33 Further, I would like to say just, you
34 know, maybe an off the cuff remark, you know, I would
35 like us to have the room to come together to a
36 collaborative solution such as, you know, what the
37 Department of Fish and Game is proposing. They're not
38 coming to us with an answer and just looking for us to
39 rubber stamp it, they're deeply engaged and they want
40 all of us together at the table. I believe that's in
41 the best interest of everyone involved and I would like
42 to see us allow that process to play out for a year.

43
44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Floor's open
47 for discussion.

48
49 MR. C. BROWER: I have on, Mr. Chair.

50

1 My concern on that is, when you get your harvest total,
2 you use all of Alaska in comparative to what's been
3 taken, is that right? I just want to come back to that
4 question. How you analyze this shortage or something,
5 or decline, do you use total Alaska harvest to make it?
6

7 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Member
8 Brower. Help me, if I'm not answering the question,
9 please let me know.
10

11 So when we look at the total harvest,
12 it is -- I mean we can look at the different
13 demographics of that harvest, you know, the Federally-
14 qualified users that are taking the animals in Unit 2,
15 non-Federally-qualified and non-residents as well. We
16 certainly -- we consider all those, I mean they're all
17 dead wolves. You know, they're all animals that have
18 been taken from the population. Again, I would stress,
19 though, that the lion's share, overwhelming majority of
20 the animals harvested are taken by Federally-qualified
21 users that live in Game Management Unit 2, annually.
22

23 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
26 discussion.
27

28 (No comments)
29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, I
31 call for the question.
32

33 MR. OWEN: Question.
34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Roll call,
36 please.
37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay. This is roll
39 call on Wildlife Proposal 18-04 and the motion on the
40 floor is adopt Proposal WP18-04 as found on Page 632 of
41 the meeting book.
42

43 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.
44

45 MR. FROST: Oppose for all the reasons
46 that were outlined by the Forest Service's comments.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
49 Management, Karen Mouritsen.
50

1 MS. MOURITSEN: Oppose because of --
2 oppose because of the reasons outlined by the Forest
3 Service and in anticipation of the wolf harvest
4 management plan that will address many of these issues
5 and will have input from the RAC, Forest Service and
6 others.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Karen. U.S.
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, Greg Siekaniec.

12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: Oppose for the reasons
14 stated and looking forward to seeing the unified
15 management plan.

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: United States Forest
18 Service, Wayne Owen.

19

20 MR. OWEN: Oppose.

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Lynn Polacca.

23

24 MR. POLACCA: Oppose. I'm very hopeful
25 that we can come to some kind of arrangement or
26 agreement with the new management plan that you guys
27 are working on that will include all parties and be
28 able to, you know, have the tribes be able to provide
29 that input. So I'm very hopeful that that can come to
30 full fruition.

31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Lynn.

33

34 Public member, Rhonda Pitka.

35

36 MS. PITKA: Oppose in anticipation that
37 that management plan will be completed.

38

39 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public Member Charlie
40 Brower.

41

42 MR. C. BROWER: I support the
43 Southeastern RAC. I believe the local people there know
44 more of what's happening - (no microphone)

45

46 Try again.

47

48 I support the Southeast RAC proposal to
49 support this issue. I think, locally, you have

50

1 traditional knowledge and people within that area that
2 knows more by living around that area.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
7 Christianson.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support the
10 Regional Advisory Council. I think in deference to
11 their decision based on the testimony they received
12 from the people. And I think it increases a
13 subsistence opportunity on a species that there clearly
14 isn't at this time a conservation concern for.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion failed, WP18-04.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
21 move on to.....

22

23 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair, can we take
24 a five minute break.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:a five
27 minute break Charlie says.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
34 we'll get back to business here. We have a lot to do
35 in a day and a half and so as we get our seats, I'm
36 going to ask as we move forward, I've been very
37 generous in the amount of time, I think the dialogue
38 we've had with the public and the people who have come
39 to testify to things is really what this process is
40 about but we also have to be mindful of the limited
41 time that we have to meet on these proposals and some
42 of them that are on the non-consensus are going to
43 merit a lot of attention. So I'm going to ask as we
44 publicly testify to them, that we try now to keep our
45 comments to the specific proposals at this time and
46 that we be mindful as we testify, support or non-
47 support of projects. And so thank you guys for that.
48 I'm already looking at possibly a 7:00 o'clock today
49 and tomorrow as well, and, so, again, I don't mean to
50

1 put the pressure on everyone but the pressure's getting
2 put on me.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So let's do
7 this team.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. Members of
12 the Board. My name is Terry Suminski, I'm with the
13 U.S. Forest Service and manage the Subsistence Program
14 for the Tongass National Forest. The executive summary
15 for WP18-10 can be found on Page 109 of your books and
16 the analysis begins on Page 112.

17

18 Proposal WP18-10 was submitted by the
19 Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee and requests
20 that the Federal season for moose in Unit 5A, except
21 Nunatak Bench, east of the Dangerous River, be open
22 from September 1 through November 15 with Federal
23 public lands closed to the harvest of moose except by
24 residents of Unit 5A from September 1 to September 14.

25

26 Currently the area in Unit 5A west of
27 the Dangerous River receives heavy hunting pressure
28 during the first few days of the subsistence season
29 resulting in a rapid harvest and multiple animals taken
30 from local areas. The proponent states that in recent
31 years the quota has been met and the season closed
32 within about four to five days of the opening and that
33 the area east of the Dangerous River is less accessible
34 and receives less hunting pressure. The proponent
35 claims that by opening up the east side of the
36 Dangerous River earlier access will be improved for
37 subsistence users, meaning longer days, potentially
38 better weather conditions and greater availability of
39 local air taxis, allowing additional opportunities and
40 potentially reducing the hunting pressure during the
41 opening days of the subsistence season on the west
42 side.

43

44 Implementation of this request would
45 effectively open the Federal season for moose in a
46 portion of Unit 5A five weeks earlier than the existing
47 regulation.

48

49 The proponent also submitted a parallel

50

1 proposal to the Alaska Board of Game.

2

3 The moose population in 5A is currently
4 healthy including improved bull to cow ratios in recent
5 years and healthy recruitment, likely as a result of
6 recent mild winters. Total annual harvest east of the
7 Dangerous River has averaged 15 moose from 2012 to
8 2016.

9

10 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
11 support WP18-10.

12

13 Opening the Federal season on the east
14 side of the Dangerous River earlier will improve access
15 allowing additional opportunities for subsistence users
16 and potentially reducing the hunting pressure, or at
17 least lengthening the season on the west side of the
18 Dangerous River.

19

20 Since the harvest is managed on a
21 quota, which is set annually, there would be minimal
22 effects to the overall moose population. A season
23 opening in September is consistent with other seasons
24 in Southcentral Alaska, and given limited access the
25 healthy moose population and a limited quota -- effects
26 to reproduction are expected to be minimal.
27 Consequently there are not expected to be any
28 conservation concerns as a result of the adoption of
29 this proposal.

30

31 The proponent submitted a parallel
32 proposal to the State Board of Game, consequently if
33 both proposals are passed, there would be no negative
34 impact to State users and would also provide additional
35 opportunities, including the availability of local air
36 taxi service.

37

38 That concludes my presentation.

39

40 I'm open for questions.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
45 Terry.

46

47 Next, we'll have summary of public
48 comments.

49

50

1 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Board. Again, for the record, my name
3 is Deanna Perry, coordinator for the Southeast RAC.
4

5 A total of four comments were received
6 on this proposal. One comment received from Curtis
7 Donald Thomas of Ketchikan, he addressed all Southeast
8 proposals That was the same I had summarized earlier.
9 That comment can be found on Page 131.
10

11 Wrangell-St. Elias submitted a comment.
12 You can find that on Page 7-27 of the supplemental
13 Section 7 materials.
14

15 And I will summarize that real quickly.
16

17 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
18 Subsistence Resource Commission supports WP18-10. This
19 change will provide an opportunity for local residents
20 to harvest moose before the rut. Additionally, opening
21 the season earlier will improve access. During
22 September fishermen would already be in the hunt area
23 with their boats. The area is difficult to access by
24 boat after October 1st due to fall storms.
25

26 Another comment was received by Jeff
27 Sperry. You can find that on Page 7-4 of supplemental
28 Section 7. In summary, he says there are family
29 members that live outside of this unit that return to
30 this unit to hunt with their family. He is opposed to
31 this proposal. People would be excluded from the
32 traditional and customary hunt if the proposal were
33 passed. And since this is a one bull area with no
34 antler restrictions, the local residents should have no
35 problem harvesting an animal in the allotted time.
36

37 Lastly, we received a comment yesterday
38 from the Yakutat AC, the proponent of this proposal.
39 The Yakutat AC met on April 7th and voted to accept the
40 RAC's recommendations. They wish to officially change
41 their proposal to match the recommendation. We will
42 also be asking the State Game Board to officially
43 change their proposal to match the recommendation, too.
44 We hope that they will change the non-domicile general
45 hunt to September 30th and make the transition uniform.
46 That was from Casey Mapes, I believe he called in
47 yesterday and he may also be on the phone today.
48

49 That concludes the public comments
50

1 received on Proposal 18-10.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

6 With that we open up the floor to public testimony.

7

8 That'd be you Harold. Mr. Robbins.

9

10 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 would like to bring out a few issues there that this
12 proposal fails to address.

13

14 The area 5B, which opens September 1st
15 through December 31, right across the bay from the town
16 is very readily accessible by boat, all of them are
17 fishing and in the past several years by the records
18 that I see there was only nine bulls killed in that 5B.
19 So really they have a lot of access to moose hunt
20 without changing the regulations for 5A east of the
21 Dangerous, which the proposal is trying to do.

22

23 The other thing is, under the customary
24 and traditional use, there's several hunters in that
25 area that have hunted that for the last 40 years. This
26 is the way that this opening is run ever since it
27 reopened back in '78, it's always opened on the 15th of
28 October, and so their lifestyles have been built around
29 that opening date if you were going to plan on hunting.
30 And to change this and move it ahead, is going to
31 change how they operate their businesses, and so on,
32 it's going to interfere with their fishing businesses
33 if they're going to participate in the Federal
34 subsistence hunt. And, personally, you know, we're not
35 going to even probably participate in that hunt the way
36 it's set because we want to wait until the 15th of
37 October or later when the temperatures are better. You
38 can take that moose and hang it, you've got time, you
39 can spend time with that moose hanging in the woodshed
40 and you can start canning it and putting it away for
41 next year, because right there is where we want to use
42 most of our moose.

43

44 So that is the reason why we really
45 oppose this. Not that we would oppose other people
46 coming in and hunting, it's just the timing for us, has
47 traditionally been this way from where it opened the
48 15th of October and, so, consequently we've got our
49 lives and habits around that and several other

50

1 fishermen in the area are set up the same way. So, you
2 know, under that, you know, I have -- I would suggest
3 that if they wanted to extend the season after, maybe
4 until the end of the year to try to take advantage of
5 those few more moose that would be fine, you know, and
6 it would tend to put less impact on the habitat in the
7 area. Because the area is pretty swampy. You get a
8 lot of rain in September and October, 20 inches plus
9 each month and the storms there in the Gulf are pretty
10 wet. And if you're out there with wheelers you're
11 going to be in clear up to the handlebars in places
12 when it's raining like that. It leaves a terrible rut
13 for a long time.

14
15 And if any of you have any questions
16 I'd be happy to address them.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, Harold,
19 you're saying the date they're proposing to just move
20 it from the -- I'm looking in here, I think it says to
21 the 8th to September 1st, -- October 8th to September
22 1st?

23
24 MR. ROBBINS: Right. Well, the RAC put
25 it in to move it from the 8th to the 16th of September
26 now instead of how the original proposal was.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay. And
29 so the original date was the 15th, you're saying.

30
31 MR. ROBBINS: Well.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The original
34 date.

35
36 MR. ROBBINS: The very original date
37 but in the last, since I think '90 or somewhere in
38 there, it had been opened from the 8th of October to
39 the 21st for Federal subsistence users only and then
40 everybody could hunt after that. But the big push is
41 that the Federal subsistence users in town were wanting
42 more space.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
45 you. Thank you, Harold, for taking your time to come
46 here, appreciate it.

47
48 Is there anybody on the line that would
49 like to testify.

50

1 OPERATOR: We have Casey Mace [sic]
2 your line is open.

3
4 MR. MAPES: Thank you. Appreciate the
5 opportunity to comment. I would just encourage you to
6 put your faith into our ability as an Advisory
7 Committee to have vetted this out. We're a 15 member
8 panel and we held a series of meetings and discussed
9 the issues at length with the community, with the
10 subsistence users involved and we have a liaison Board
11 member to the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, we've discussed
12 this at length with the Federal and State biologists
13 involved. And it's been an ongoing issue and we're
14 attempting to try to find a resolve to the short hunt
15 on the west side of the Dangerous. And, you know, on
16 average, we're not currently utilizing the bulls on the
17 east side. And the intent is to try to send some of
18 the hunting pressure to the east side early on to avoid
19 those bulls being harvested by those users on the west
20 side. So to extend the season into a later part of the
21 year will not accomplish what our intention is, which
22 is to try to alleviate some of the pressure on the west
23 side and make a little bit longer hunt out of it.

24
25 There are currently subsistence
26 families that are going without a moose because they're
27 not able to get one in this current short hunt that we
28 have on this side.

29
30 So, you know, this was the best option
31 that we could come up with and we had nearly complete
32 uniformity throughout the community's subsistence
33 hunters that came and discussed it with us. We had two
34 people that didn't like it. Other than that, the rest
35 are in favor of it. And the RAC was in favor of it and
36 the Federal and State biologists are in favor of it.

37
38 I would just like to encourage you to
39 consider all that and take that into account because
40 the vast majority are in favor of this.

41
42 I would be happy to answer any further
43 questions anybody might have of us.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Casey. Anybody have questions for Casey.

49
50

1 OPERATOR: Once again if you have a
2 question or comment please press star-one.
3

4
5 (No comments)
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
8 thank you for your testimony today, Casey, appreciate
9 you calling in.
10

11 MR. MAPES: Thank you.
12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any additional
14 public comment here.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Harold, as well.
20

21 Regional Advisory Council
22 recommendation.
23

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 The Regional Council's comments can be found on Page
26 127 of your book. And for the record, this is Acting
27 Chair Don Hernandez from the Southeast RAC.
28

29 The Council supported 18-10 with a
30 modification from the original proposal.
31

32 The modification was to change the
33 season open date from September 1st, November 15th to
34 September 16th to November 15th. And changing the
35 closure of the Federal public lands from September 1st
36 to the 14th to September 16th to the 30th.
37

38 This proposal turned out to be fairly
39 controversial as is obvious. It was submitted by the
40 Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee, however,
41 other Yakutat residents are obviously not in favor of
42 this proposal. The accessibility to this area is by
43 airplane and cost prohibitive to many residents. The
44 Council discussed dates and believe that local Yakutat
45 residents would not be the ones to benefit because they
46 are still engaged in fishing and not hunting yet during
47 the proposed dates.
48

49 The Council amended the dates after
50

1 deciding that opening the harvest season earlier would
2 allow a two week priority for rural residents during a
3 later time when most would be finished fishing and,
4 therefore, expanding the opportunity for subsistence
5 users to get moose. There is no conservation concern.
6 And the main goal of this proposal is to utilize a
7 resource that has not been fully utilized in the past.
8 Substantial evidence through analysis and studies
9 support this amended proposal. The proposal will
10 probably not restrict other users and the Council felt
11 that a parallel proposal to the Board of Game is needed
12 to adjust the State season so that non-Federally-
13 qualified hunters do not suffer in their harvest
14 opportunities.
15

16 So just to maybe kind of summarize, you
17 know, this did turn out to be a controversial proposal.
18 I think it was one of those situations where we had a
19 proposal to shorten the month, or to change the season
20 date earlier by about five weeks and there was a lot of
21 controversy about that. Essentially what the Council
22 tried to do was find a compromise by setting a date
23 that was essentially right in the middle of those two
24 controversial opening dates. So that's where we are on
25 this.
26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.

28
29 Any questions for Don, Council Chair.

30
31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tribal, Native
35 Alaska Corp comments, Native Liaison.
36

37 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Board members.
38 During the consultation on September 14th Mr. Kitka
39 asked for a brief overview of Proposal 18-10, which was
40 given by Terry Suminski, Susan, and Justin Koller, and
41 after that Mr. Kitka did not respond to that proposal.
42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments, State
45 liaison.
46

47 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Members of the Board. I'm Ryan Scott, the wildlife
49 supervisor for Southeast Alaska with the Department of
50

1 Fish and Game. Our comments can be found on Page 128.

2

3

4 The Department is neutral on the
5 allocation aspects of this proposal, but we do support
6 the shifting of the dates and the locations.

7

8 So this has been a topic on the Yakutat
9 Forelands, Unit 5A for a long time. As the previous
10 area management biologist, we struggled beginning years
11 ago of how to manage a hunt that was a -- a portion of
12 a hunt that was moving very, very quickly and trying to
13 ensure that we were able to provide as much as
14 opportunity to the subsistence users in Yakutat as
15 possible. Lots of things have changed over the years,
16 including some land management changes, economic
17 changes in the community, specifically air taxi service
18 and transportation availability, and it became, just in
19 the last three or four years, as was noted in the
20 comments, that portion of the Unit 5A hunt that occurs
21 west of the Dangerous River, it's a three or four day
22 event. It's really, really quick. And it's hard to
23 keep up with it as a manager but probably more
24 importantly is, once we get to that level, you know,
25 where we feel like the harvest is sustainable, both on
26 the State and the Federal side, working very closely
27 with our Forest Service counterparts, we do close the
28 season on that side.

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Presently, to the east of the Dangerous
River and I don't know if a map is available, it might
be useful, I don't know, just so people have a -- okay,
yeah, in your books, I believe in the OSM comments,
just to give you a little bit of the lay of the land.
At present, when that west side closes, the east side
remains open. Access to it is pretty difficult, to a
point. There is a bridge, as Mr. Robbins pointed out,
you can drive across the bridge and there's a small
parking area and then you can access a portion of the
east side of the Forelands. But there's a lot of
terrain and a lot of water, as Mr. Robbins pointed out,
to get through several large drainages that make access
somewhat difficult. So we've talked about how to help
the subsistence users in Yakutat get more opportunity
over the years, it's been a topic of discussion. This
is something that we support in trying, and I
appreciate the comments from Mr. Mapes and Mr. Robbins
on this, but it's an attempt to distribute the effort.

We're very comfortable with the biology

1 of the moose herd on the Yakutat Forelands. Total
2 number of moose look good. Bull to calf ratio -- or
3 bull to cow, cow/calf ratios all look pretty good, so
4 it's not a -- we don't have a conservation issue there,
5 it's more about trying to provide the opportunity for
6 the hunters and distribute those animals as far as we
7 can. I also -- I don't anticipate a wholesale shifting
8 of, you know, a 100 hunters out of Yakutat going to the
9 east side of the Dangerous. If we can get a handful,
10 if we can get 10 to take a moose over there where we
11 believe we have additional harvestable surplus that's
12 not being used, I think that's good. I think that's
13 going to be a move in the right direction and going to
14 be positive. That's going to potentially provide
15 another X number of moose on the west side to people
16 who don't have the options to move back and forth.

17

18 So, again, the State is neutral on the
19 allocation portion of this but supports the shifting of
20 the season and the intent of that is to provide
21 additional opportunity and to relieve, you know, some
22 of that pressure west of the Dangerous River shifted to
23 the area east of the river where there are additional
24 animals available and we hope that will work out.

25

26 And, you know, this Board is in a two
27 year cycle, the Board of Game is in a three year cycle,
28 it's a hunt that we're always on the ground for and we
29 watch pretty closely. If it doesn't work, we'll be
30 sitting here again, you know, before too long looking
31 for another option to change.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
36 questions for the State.

37

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
42 we'll move on to InterAgency Staff Committee comment.

43

44 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
45 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
46 comment on WP18-10.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
49 Board discussion with Council Chair and State liaison.

50

1
2 (No comments)
3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
5 we'll move for Board.....
6
7 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:action.
10
11 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. One comment.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, Jack.
14
15 MR. REAKOFF: I have moose all the
16 time, that's our main meat that we have. I kill a lot
17 of moose between the 10th to the 20th of September. As
18 it gets past the 20th of the September, their in rut,
19 they're going down hill, I get more and more pressed
20 into trying to find a younger moose at that time. The
21 16th of September, a moose, a bull is in way better
22 shape than it would be in October. They basically lose
23 all their fat by the end of September. So my personal
24 experience is moose are a heck of a lot better eating
25 in the middle September than they are way into October.
26 They've run all their fat off, they've lost muscle
27 protein, the meat's dark, they get beat up, they've
28 been fighting. They're a heck of a lot better in the
29 middle of September.
30
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Jack.
35
36 Hearing or seeing no other comment, we
37 move for Board action.
38
39 Wayne.
40
41 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair. Wayne Owen with
42 United States Forest Service.
43
44 I move to adopt Proposal WP18-10 as
45 modified by the Southeast Regional Advisory Council.
46 That modification can be found on Page 127 of our
47 meeting book. If I get a second I will offer my
48 justification.
49
50

1 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda Pitka.

2 Second.

3

4 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Ms. Pitka. In the
5 interest of time I'll abbreviate my justification, you
6 know, and include the comments of the Southeast RAC,
7 the State of Alaska and the Staff analysis.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Wayne.

13

14 Any further discussion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll call for
19 the question.

20

21 MR. POLACCA: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
24 called. Roll call.

25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE: This vote is on
27 Wildlife Proposal 18-10. The motion on the floor is
28 adopt Proposal WP18-10 as modified by the Southeast
29 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, where the
30 modification can be found on Page 127 of your meeting
31 book.

32

33 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

34

35 MR. FROST: Support.

36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: BLM, Karen Mouritsen.

38

39 MS. MOURITSEN: Support.

40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

43

44 MR. SIEKANIEC: Support with hope that
45 the modification helps satisfy some of the concern that
46 was raised by our people participating in the public
47 comment period.

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

50

1 U.S. Forest Service, Wayne Owen.
2
3 MR. OWEN: Support.
4
5 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Lynn Polacca.
6
7 MR. POLACCA: Support.
8
9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Rhonda
10 Pitka.
11
12 MS. PITKA: Support in deference to the
13 Regional Advisory Council.
14
15 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Charlie
16 Brower.
17
18 MR. C. BROWER: Support.
19
20 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
21 Christianson.
22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support in
24 deference.
25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion carried.
27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you guys
29 all for your time on this.
30
31 That brings us to WP-11.
32
33 MR. SUMINSKI: Mr. Chair. Members of
34 the Board. Council Chairs. I'm Terry Suminski with
35 the United States Forest Service. The executive
36 summary for WP18-11 can be found on Page 675 of your
37 books and the analysis begins on Page 678.
38
39 Proposal WP18-11 was submitted by
40 Calvin Casipit of Gustavus and requests that the
41 Federal Subsistence Board address Federal subsistence
42 priority for moose in Berners Bay drainages through one
43 of the following three options.
44
45 Provide a Federal priority for moose in
46 Unit 1C Berners Bay for rural residents.
47
48 Or close Federal lands to the harvest
49 of moose in 1C Berners Bay to all users.
50

1 Or clearly state on the record why a
2 priority for moose should not be provided to rural
3 residents on the Federal public lands of Berners Bay.

4
5 For analysis purposes, we analyzed the
6 establishment of a Federal season and harvest limit for
7 moose in the Berners Bay drainages.

8
9 The Berners Bay drainages are
10 compromised of 97 percent Federal public lands. Moose
11 were transplanted there in 1958 and 1960 and the
12 population expanded quickly. However, with limited
13 habitat in this geologically isolated area the
14 population could not become very large. The population
15 peaked in 2006 with about 131 animals and declined in
16 2007 through 2010 due to harsh winter conditions. The
17 population has since recovered, and in 2016 the
18 population was estimated at 141 animals, which is
19 likely above the carrying capacity of the habitat. In
20 short this is a small population in a small
21 geographically isolated area that contains limited
22 moose habitat.

23
24 Moose hunts in Berners Bay drainages
25 began in 1963 and have been administered by the Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game. Moose in Berners Bay are
27 currently harvested under a State draw permit and the
28 number of permits available depends on recent estimates
29 of this small population. The draw hunts are primarily
30 for bulls but in some years there have been a draw for
31 cow tags to manage the sex ratio of the population.
32 The total number of permits issued each year ranges
33 from zero to 20. Only a small percentage of applicants
34 for these draw hunts are Federally-qualified
35 subsistence users. However, the number of Federally-
36 qualified subsistence users applying for these hunts
37 routinely outnumbers the number of permits available.
38 In other words the demand for Berners Bay moose for
39 Federally-qualified subsistence users routinely
40 outweighs the supply.

41
42 The OSM conclusion is to support
43 Proposal 18-11 with modification to close the Federal
44 public lands in Unit 1C Berners Bay drainages to all
45 but Federally-qualified subsistence users, establish a
46 Federal draw hunt for bull moose and establish a may be
47 announced antlerless season.

48
49 Establishing a Federal hunt in Berners
50

1 Bay drainages would provide additional opportunity for
2 Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest moose
3 on Federal public lands. However, it is not likely
4 that the number of moose available for harvest will be
5 greater than the demand from Federally-qualified
6 subsistence users. Establishing a Federal draw hunt
7 would prevent over harvest while giving preference to
8 Federally-qualified users. Establishing a may be
9 announced draw hunt for cow moose would provide
10 managers flexibility to manage for the desired bull to
11 cow ratio.

12
13 That concludes my presentation.

14
15 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
20 Terry. Any questions for Terry.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
25 we'll move for summary of public comment.

26
27 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Members of the Board. Again, for the record, my name
29 is Deanna Perry, coordinator for the Southeast RAC.

30
31 A total of five written comments were
32 received on this proposal. The first three comments
33 are included in your meeting book beginning on Page
34 695.

35
36 A comment received from Curtis Donald
37 Thomas of Ketchikan addressing all Southeast proposals
38 was previously summarized.

39
40 Two comments in opposition were
41 received from Nicholas *Ore and one from Jerry Burnett,
42 president of Territorial Sportsmen, Inc., supporting
43 the third option of this proposal which is to clearly
44 state on the record why a priority for moose should not
45 be provided to rural residents on the Federal public
46 lands of Berners Bay.

47
48 For these last two comments, view
49 points included:

50

1 There was no historical moose
2 population in Berners Bay with no accompanying
3 customary and traditional uses of moose. Location of
4 moose is not located near any rural communities. The
5 introduced moose population by government and private
6 efforts in the late '50s and in '1960 aided by
7 attentive management has provided an extremely popular
8 hunt for over 50 years to all Alaskans as well as
9 hunters from other states. Funds used to pay for the
10 transplant came from firearm and ammunition purchases
11 in the U.S., and the state hunting license fees from
12 all who purchase a hunting license in Alaska, residents
13 and nonresidents. This population can only sustain a
14 limited harvest via a revenue generating State tag
15 drawing system, which is in very high demand. And
16 moose were transplanted for increased recreational
17 opportunities and has become a tradition.

18
19 Additionally, two comments were
20 recently received and they're included in your
21 supplemental book materials under supplemental Section
22 No. 2.

23
24 The Alaska Board of Game, based on
25 information provided by the Juneau-Douglas Advisory
26 Committee stated that it believed it inappropriate to
27 create a Federal subsistence priority for the Berners
28 Bay moose hunt. A summary of that Board's reasons to
29 reject this and any future proposals for a Federal
30 subsistence priority for the Berners Bay moose hunt
31 include:

32
33 Moose were transplanted to Berners Bay
34 primarily for the benefit of Juneau hunters and with
35 substantial support from Territorial Sportsmen
36 Incorporated. That historically Juneau hunters have
37 accounted for the overwhelming majority of hunter
38 effort and harvest. Hunters from Federally-qualified
39 communities in northern Southeast have virtually no
40 record of hunting or harvesting game in Berners Bay.
41 Adopting the proposal establishing Federal priorities
42 would disenfranchise Juneau hunters. And the
43 Department of Fish and Game currently devotes
44 considerable effort to monitor the Berners Bay moose
45 population and determine sustainable harvest levels.
46 All Alaska hunters contribute to those funding sources
47 and have a right to benefit from their expenditure.

48
49 The other supplemental letter came from
50

1 Territorial Sportsmen, Inc., It stated that the group
2 continues to believe that the Berners hunt, although
3 largely on Federal land does not exhibit the
4 characteristics of a subsistence hunt and should not be
5 altered from its current configuration as a State
6 drawing hunt.

7
8 Further viewpoints expressed included:
9 There is not a conservation problem that would require
10 non-rural hunters from being excluded from this hunt.
11 There is little justification for implementing a
12 Federal hunt in an area where there has not been a
13 strong tendency for Federal-qualified hunters to go in
14 the past. And current State drawing hunt meters (ph)
15 hunting effort to a level appropriate for the size and
16 productivity of the isolated moose population and gives
17 opportunity to all who wish to hunt in it a proportion
18 to the residency location of the applicant pool.

19
20 And, again, the view points of these
21 two organizations in their entirety can be found in
22 Section 2 of your supplemental meeting book materials.

23
24 That concludes the public comments
25 received on Proposal 18-11.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Deanna.

31
32 At this time we'll open up the floor to
33 the public.

34
35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anybody on the
39 phone.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
44 seeing none, we'll move on to.....

45
46 OPERATOR: I'm sorry, we do have on the
47 phone.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have
50

1 somebody on the phone?

2

3 OPERATOR: Yes, one moment.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

6

7 OPERATOR: Matthew Robus, your line is
8 open.

9

10 MR. ROBUS: Thank you. Good morning,
11 Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. My name is
12 Matthew Robus and I'm representing the Territorial
13 Sportsmen again this morning. That's an outdoors
14 people's organization of about 1,500 members based in
15 Juneau.

16

17 The summary you just heard did a very
18 good job hitting some of the points that I was going to
19 make in my testimony. I'll try not to take a lot of
20 time here but I did want to emphasize a couple of
21 things.

22

23 Territorial Sportsmen continues to
24 oppose the implementation of a Federal subsistence hunt
25 in the Berners Bay drainages.

26

27 And I wanted to draw your attention to
28 a policy that the Federal Subsistence Board adopted in
29 2007, and it's titled the Policy on Closures to
30 Hunting, Trapping and Fishing on Federal public lands
31 and waters in Alaska.

32

33 It says, in part, that, "the Board will
34 not restrict the taking of fish and wildlife by users
35 on Federal public lands unless necessary for the
36 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
37 wildlife resources or to continue subsistence uses of
38 those populations."

39

40 In regard to conservation of healthy
41 populations. The Berners Bay moose population remains
42 healthy but it's a small and isolated herd with extreme
43 geographic barriers preventing interchange with other
44 moose populations. So it can only afford a small
45 amount of annual harvest. And yet that low amount,
46 allowable harvest does not arise from any conservation
47 concern, it's just a reflection of the limited
48 production of a small isolated herd. The State drawing
49 hunt as presently configured does a very good job of

50

1 matching the hunting pressure with the number of moose
2 that can be harvested and distributes opportunity among
3 hunters in rough portion to their place of origin. So
4 rural hunters who apply for the hunt have just as good
5 a chance as anybody else of scoring a permit for the
6 hunt. So rural hunters are accommodated to that
7 extent.

8
9 Territorial Sportsmen believes that
10 there is not a conservation problem that would require
11 non-Federally-qualified hunters to be excluded from
12 this hunt.

13
14 Now, on to the second point contained
15 in the policy that I just quoted, which is the
16 continuation of subsistence uses of the population.
17 The Berners Bay moose hunt requires that a hunter go
18 past easier moose hunts that have higher allowable
19 harvests and expend additional resources to obtain a
20 moose. Usually airboats or aircraft need to be used to
21 access the area. Because of the difficulty and expense
22 in accessing the area and the availability of easier
23 more efficient moose hunts in the region, the
24 proportion of rural residents applying for State
25 permits has historically been rather low. It seems
26 likely that fewer rural users have chosen to apply for
27 this hunt due to the associated difficulties tied in
28 with it. On the face of it, there is little
29 justification for implementing a Federal hunt in an
30 area where there has not been a strong tendency for
31 Federally-qualified hunters to go in the past.

32
33 According to the Department of Fish and
34 Game about three-quarters of the moose taken in
35 Southeast Alaska are killed by rural residents and so
36 one or five moose added through a Federal Berners hunt
37 is really not going to move the needle if you look at
38 it from a regional perspective in terms of the amount
39 of subsistence moose meat taken. And as already
40 stated, to the extent that they apply to the hunt there
41 is a proportion of the permit holders that do come from
42 rural communities under the existing State system.

43
44 So, in summary, the Territorial
45 Sportsmen feel that converting some or all of the
46 Berners Bay moose hunt to a Federal subsistence hunt is
47 not a credible choice. The current State drawing hunt
48 meters hunting effort to a level appropriate for the
49 size and the productivity of this isolated moose

50

1 population and gives opportunity to all who wish to
2 hunt it in proportion to the residency location of the
3 applicant pool. Given the unique situation at Berners
4 Bay where you have a moose hunt on a herd that did not
5 exist there naturally and it's a sub-species of moose
6 that do not occur in Southeast Alaska, it's a very
7 different situation than any other moose hunt in
8 Southeast.

9
10 We believe that the parameters set out
11 in the Board's own policy on closure of public lands to
12 hunting would work against the implementation of a
13 Federal drawing hunt per this proposal. We just don't
14 think it's warranted or appropriate and having two
15 parallel drawing hunt systems for a very small
16 allowable harvest is obviously not extremely efficient.

17
18 We feel that just because the hunt area
19 is predominately Federal lands, that's not sufficient
20 reason, in and of itself, to exclude users. We urge
21 the Board to refrain from establishing a Federal hunt
22 for the Berners Bay herd.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 That concludes my comments.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

29
30 OPERATOR: The next question or comment
31 comes from Calvin Casipit.

32
33 MR. CASIPIT: Hello, can you hear me.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi Cal.

36
37 MR. CASIPIT: Oh, good, you can hear
38 me, thank you. I was afraid I somehow got cut off.

39
40 Anyway, I am the proponent of this
41 proposal and I participated in both the Regional
42 Advisory Council meeting in the fall by telephone and I
43 was able to modify my travel schedule to be able to
44 attend the Southeast RAC meeting in person in the
45 springtime.

46
47 The testimony from the previous speaker
48 was kind of interesting for me to listen to. I wanted
49 to put some perspective here.

50

1 First of all, I think one of the major
2 reasons why there's not more rural people applying for
3 the State draw permits is because you got to pay money
4 for them. And a lot of people in rural communities
5 aren't going to spend, even if it's a few dollars, they
6 have to make a choice between putting fuel in their
7 rigs or putting fuel in their boat and applying for
8 these State draw permits. That's what you're asking
9 people to do. And I don't think that's fair to rural
10 residents, number 1, because they have to make a choice
11 between putting in for these draw permits and providing
12 for their families and, you know, doing basic things.

13
14 I have to tell you right now that I've
15 spent a bunch of this morning running around trying to
16 figure out why the electricity went out in a small part
17 of the neighborhoods here in my community that I live
18 in. I mean this is the kind of things we deal with
19 every day. And we consciously have to make choices
20 between what we spend our money on and we have to be
21 smart about it. And, quite frankly, putting in for
22 draw permits in the State system is not high up on the
23 list. There's other priorities for our money,
24 including putting gas in our boats to go out and
25 harvest and support our communities.

26
27 So anyway I wanted to put that out
28 there.

29
30 The other thing that I think the Board
31 needs to be aware of and I'll admit, I used to be part
32 of the Federal Program, most of you know this, for
33 almost 20 years, from the Katie John implementation in
34 '98/99. I personally sat in the gallery when the State
35 Legislature was trying to, you know, provide a
36 Constitutional Amendment to provide for the rural
37 priorities in State regulation that failed. The person
38 -- or the organization that the person represents who
39 just spoke, Territorial Sportsmen, they have from the
40 very beginning have been opposed to ANILCA Title VIII
41 from the very beginning, they have opposed the rural
42 priority and it's no surprise that this is the kind of
43 input you would get from them on a proposal like this.

44
45 The simple truth is, this is Federal
46 land. It is the Tongass National Forest. It is part
47 of ANILCA. ANILCA Title VIII applies. And I do not
48 see how a Federal priority is being provided for rural
49 residents on this particular piece of Federal land.

50

1 I heard lots of testimony at the fall
2 RAC meeting about how hard it is to get there, you need
3 to have specialized equipment and blah, blah, blah and
4 all this kind of stuff, okay, well, fine, subsistence
5 users in rural communities are smart too. We know how
6 to figure these kind of stuff out too, we're not dumb.
7 We are as skilled in hunting at these urban residents
8 in Juneau are. I don't see how that matters to the
9 question. The question of providing a priority.

10

11 Now, you know, how should that priority
12 be provided, that -- that would be the question, I
13 think, is up to the Board. How do you provide this
14 priority. You know, obviously you could take the Staff
15 recommendation, which is, you know, from a rural
16 resident in a place, you know, in this place, in 1C, a
17 rural resident from 1C Gustavus, of course I would
18 prefer the Staff recommendation. However, I respect
19 the RAC, and I respect what they do and I respect the
20 balancing act that they have to do and so, you know,
21 while the 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent, you know,
22 whatever that number is going to be I trust the RAC,
23 even though I wasn't there for the deliberation part
24 when they came up with the recommendation of 25
25 percent, I respect that. And, you know, I'm fine with
26 that. You know, while it doesn't go as far as, you
27 know, what I think maybe should, but I respect the RAC
28 and I'm willing to live with what the RAC has come up
29 with. They had a difficult balancing act and I respect
30 the RAC for coming up with what they did.

31

32 So with that, I guess that's all I
33 have. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

34

35 I'm just a little taken aback listening
36 to some of the public comments that apparently there's
37 still a big number of people out there who don't either
38 know about or appreciate the Title VIII priority and
39 the meaningful preference that the Federal Subsistence
40 Board has to ensure happens on Federal public lands.

41

42 That's what I'm asking you guys to do.

43

44 I'm asking the Board, you know,
45 basically to do your jobs, to provide for that priority
46 and just, you know, having a line in the regs that just
47 says no Federal subsistence priority for a piece of
48 Federal land, I think, it's just not right, not without
49 justification and just because they were introduced

50

1 back in the '60s, to me, is not a proper justification.
2 There's moose all over Southeast Alaska that people are
3 hunting. And I could get into specifics about that,
4 about from the other areas in 1C of Federal land that's
5 going on -- I have to tell you if you go to
6 (indiscernible) or the Home Shore area on September
7 15th when the moose season opens, you know, and
8 basically the Federal season just tags on to the State
9 season, we get the State registration permit and all
10 that stuff, you know, go up to Home Shore on September
11 15th when the moose season opens up and go back on some
12 of those -- it is a zoo, there are people everywhere
13 and not a one of them do I recognize from either
14 Gustavus or Hoonah, they're all from God knows where.
15 And not a one of them do I recognize as being what I
16 would consider local from Hoonah or Gustavus, it's
17 becoming a problem.

18
19 Anyway, I'll let it go at that. That's
20 really not part of the issue.

21
22 Anyway, happy to answer questions.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Cal.
25 Appreciate you calling in today and sharing your
26 comments.

27
28 Any questions for Cal.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
33 appreciate you calling in today.

34
35 MR. CASIPIT: Thanks, Tony. Thanks.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Regional
38 Council comments on this.

39
40 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 Once again Don Hernandez for the Southeast RAC. And
42 our Council's comments for this proposal are on Page
43 692 of your meeting book and there's also additional
44 information contained in supplemental Section 2.

45
46 The Southeast RAC opposed Wildlife
47 Proposal 18 at its fall regulatory meeting. The
48 Council discussed Federal Proposal 18 in great depth
49 and the motion to support the proposal failed by a vote

50

1 of 4/7. The Council agreed that there needs to be a
2 way to address the proponent's concerns to provide a
3 Federal subsistence priority but that this proposal
4 could not be implemented while also maintaining a
5 management system on this limited population of moose.
6

7 The Council felt they could not support
8 this proposal based on the information analysis given,
9 including limited information on how a Federal draw
10 permit might work with a State draw and without certain
11 specific analysis, this proposal could create a
12 conservation concern because the moose population is so
13 small. The Council stated that it would like to
14 continue discussions in order to solve this problem
15 without creating a conservation concern. The Council
16 requested more information and alternatives from Staff
17 and for its public meeting in February. Berners Bay
18 moose was placed on the agenda to provide for an
19 information exchange and an opportunity for further
20 discussion on options to provide for a rural priority
21 for hunting moose in Berners Bay in the future.
22

23 The Council continued discussions on
24 the hunting of Berners Bay moose and ultimately came up
25 with an alternative idea on how to provide a Federal
26 priority. The Council wanted to share some information
27 with the Board as a result of that discussion at its
28 recent meeting.
29

30 If you refer to Section 2 of your
31 supplemental materials you will find a detailed account
32 of the Council's discussion and activities at its
33 recent February meeting. Those details speak for
34 themselves but I will go over some highlights.
35

36 At our winter meeting the Council
37 formed a working group, met and discussed the issue
38 with Federal and State agency Staff and provided a
39 report to the Council during the meeting. The working
40 group report provided some new valuable information.
41 We learned how the Unit 6C hunt works and how a draw
42 could be split as noted in the supplement. The
43 Proposal 18-11 proponent, Cal, indicated he would be
44 open to a harvest sharing agreement similar to the
45 Federal drawing permit hunt in Unit 6C. The Council
46 discussed the report and voted to request that this
47 proposal be removed from the consensus agenda so that
48 the Chair could inform the Board of the Council's
49 thoughts on this issue, the latest and relevant
50

1 information and the Council's recent deliberations and
2 the Council's alternative idea for providing Federal
3 subsistence priority for Berners Bay moose.

4
5 After considering biological
6 information, local knowledge and public testimony on
7 the matter, the Council voted unanimously for the
8 Council's Chair to provide this information to the
9 Board before it takes action on Wildlife Proposal 18-
10 11.

11
12 The Council's alternative suggestion is
13 this:

14
15 One bull by Federal drawing permit with
16 a season of September 15th to October 15th. In Berners
17 Bay drainages only one moose permit may be issued per
18 household. A household receiving a State permit for
19 Berners Bay drainages moose may not receive a Federal
20 permit. The annual harvest quota will be announced by
21 the U.S. Forest Service Juneau Ranger District in
22 consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and
23 Game. The Federal harvest allocation will be 25
24 percent, rounded up to the next whole number of the
25 moose permits. The Council also discussed that
26 implementation should be for the 2019 season as the
27 State draw hunt has already notified its participants
28 for the 2018 hunting season.

29
30 Again, the Council's recommendation is
31 to oppose 18-11. However, the Council does not feel
32 its recommendation was fully informed and is providing
33 this new information for the Board's consideration in
34 an effort to explain why the Council opposed 18-11 and
35 what it hopes can be done to address the concerns of
36 the proponent.

37
38 The Southeast Council appreciates the
39 Board providing this opportunity to share information
40 on this complex issue.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Don.
45 Appreciate that.

46
47 Greg.

48
49 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 So, Don, just clear it up for me, you oppose this or
2 you oppose it as a different form, or you would support
3 it in a different form? You caught me off guard on
4 your last statement there.

5
6 MR. HERNANDEZ: It could be a little
7 confusing.

8
9 The Council is still opposed -- we
10 opposed the original proposal in the fall. The Council
11 is still opposed to that original proposal. We are
12 just offering up additional information as an
13 alternative for the Board to discuss.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Don.

16
17 MR. HERNANDEZ: And maybe I should just
18 add the additional information is the idea for an
19 alternative, which would be a split State/Federal draw
20 permit with 25 percent, 75 percent allocation with 25
21 percent going to Federally-qualified; 75 percent to
22 State non-Federally-qualified. That's the alternative
23 suggestion put forward.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
26 got a question for the State, what's the annual harvest
27 limit for that Berners Bay moose?

28
29 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
30 Ryan Scott with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
31 Wildlife Division in Southeast.

32
33 The harvest limit's set by the number
34 of permits that we issue. And in the last few years
35 we've issued five to seven bull -- any bull permits.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And so if we
38 were to split that, then we would be saying there's one
39 registration permit available -- according to what the
40 RAC is suggesting, there would be one subsistence
41 permit available and four or five sport permits, I
42 guess I would call them.

43
44 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Chairman. If that's --
45 you know, the Federal Board and the Forest Service will
46 have to figure out how they're going to administer a
47 Federal Program, but, yeah, it would likely be, you
48 know, at a one permit. But I'll have a lot more
49 information about the herd itself during State

50

1 comments.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thanks.

4

5

Gordon.

6

7

MR. G. BROWER: It seems like there's something wrong here. It's Federal land, usurped by the State in a way that is, like adverse possession or something. There's some underlying concerns that I think should be taken up that this is Federal land where there's laws that exist that provide for the rural Federally-qualified user, in lieu of doing that as a -- it seems to me the State needs to be leasing this property to be able to do that independent. I just thought I'd point those out.

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,

19

Gordon.

20

21

Any other questions for the Board

22

Chair.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none, we'll move on to Tribal, Alaska Native Corp comments, Liaison.

28

29

30

31

MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board members. Again, during the consultation held on September 14th, Sitka Tribe Member Mr. Kitka requested an overview of Wildlife Proposal 18-11 and after that was finished there was no further discussion.

32

33

34

35

36

Thank you.

37

38

39

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

40

41

42

MR. SCOTT; Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Board.

43

44

45

46

47

48

The Department of Fish and Game opposes establishing a Federal season for moose in Berners Bay. Primarily in looking at how it will be administered and the very small nature of the herd. But in addition to, also the opportunity that's afforded to Federally-qualified users throughout Southeast.

49

50

1 So in Southeast Alaska we have six
2 unique moose hunts. Most of them are registration
3 hunts, meaning that they're available over the counter,
4 you walk in you get a permit and you go out and hunt.
5 We have the Berners Bay drawing hunt. That is a --
6 it's a limited opportunity for those who draw a permit,
7 but there is zero limitations on who can apply for
8 those permits. I appreciate Mr. Casipit's comments
9 about having to make decisions on one way or the other
10 but that, I think it's important to recognize that this
11 herd, you know, regardless if it was transplanted there
12 or whatever, the biology is is the number of moose
13 there is very small. It's 141, plus or minus, you
14 know, a handful of animals, we're probably pushing
15 upwards of 160 animals. They're very weather
16 susceptible, beginning in -- we had -- if you happened
17 to be in Southeast and was from Southeast the winter of
18 2006/2007 was a pretty exciting time for us, where we
19 got excessive snow, we've had a few winters since then
20 that have done the same thing, we essentially watch
21 about half of the moose in Berners Bay tip over and
22 die. And at that time we closed the season, we kept it
23 closed until 2013 where we felt like we were at a point
24 where we could start again offering the opportunity,
25 again, to, you know, whoever was interested in
26 applying. We started with five permits that year, five
27 permits for the following year and the next, and now
28 we've bumped it up to seven permits because we do
29 believe the herd is pointed in the right direction.

30
31 We are not aware of any immigration
32 into that area. Southeast Alaska is not a real
33 successful moose rearing place, if you will. We have
34 moose herds in some of the major river drainages and
35 they generally stay in the drainages. It's just not a
36 real -- it's just not real good moose habitat, not like
37 many of the folks from the Interior, Southcentral,
38 other places, Western Alaska that you can grow moose
39 well. We kind of struggle to grow moose a lot of
40 times.

41
42 In those places, in the region as a
43 whole, as I mentioned, we've got six hunts, generally
44 available to everybody. In addition to that we also
45 have a Tier II moose hunt that -- in the Haines,
46 Skagway, Klukwan area along the Chilkat River in Unit
47 1D that is hunted almost 100 percent by Federally-
48 qualified hunters. That hunt actually happens on State
49 land along the Chilkat River but they are all

50

1 Federally-qualified hunters. The majority of the moose
2 harvest coming out of the region now comes from Game
3 Management Unit 3 in Central Southeast. It
4 predominately comes off the Island systems. This is a
5 smaller sub-species of moose that has moved down out of
6 British Columbia and populated to the west essentially.
7 I wish I could tell you how many we had, we can't count
8 them because they like to be in the trees. And that's
9 hopefully one of our next research projects. The point
10 being that 90 percent, 95 percent of those moose are
11 also harvested by Federally-qualified hunters, largely
12 on Federal land.

13
14 So I guess I'd like to wrap this up in
15 saying that Berners Bay is a neat place, the moose are
16 doing okay, the herd's never going to be very big,
17 they're susceptible to weather, there's also been
18 comments over the years to predation, you know,
19 primarily from brown bears. But there's also -- there
20 is a significant amount of opportunity for Federally-
21 qualified users in the region as a whole, as well as in
22 areas that are adjacent to Unit 1C. There's not a lot
23 of those adjacent areas because we just don't grow
24 moose very well. That's just, you know, something we
25 have to go with.

26
27 And I believe one of the comments was
28 made that 76 percent of -- I think that was my math
29 anyway, about 76 percent of the moose harvested in
30 Southeast Alaska are taken by Federally-qualified
31 hunters. Berners Bay is a situation where it's
32 available to everybody. The opportunity to apply is
33 available to everybody. It's a -- the harvest will
34 likely never get to a point where it's going to make a,
35 you know, I'm not sure how you relate seven moose or
36 five moose or two moose, you know, to a priority or a
37 significant portion of that opportunity. But if you
38 compare it to the region and what's available and we
39 haven't -- you know we've already been through a Unit
40 5A discussion where that's almost 100 percent, you
41 know, Federally-qualified hunters, looking at Berners
42 Bay utilizing something, it has very small impacts to
43 improving the opportunity for Federally-qualified
44 hunters. It's also available to Federally-qualified
45 hunters. The opportunity to apply as well.

46
47 So I think this is -- from the State's
48 position, this is a situation where I'm not sure it is
49 broken. I don't know that we need to fix something

50

1 that's not broken when the opportunity is there to
2 begin with.

3

4 Thank you, sir.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
7 questions for the State.

8

9 Ken.

10

11 MR. LORD: Thanks for your comments.
12 One thought I did have, though, and a question, those
13 adjacent areas where you talked about the Federal
14 priority being available, are those opportunities also
15 available to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users?
16

17

18 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
19 Lord. That is correct.

20

21 All of the lands adjacent to Berners
22 Bay, and, again, the majority of the region are
23 registration permits available to everybody over the
24 counter, generally without any kind of quota system or
25 limitations associated with them.

26

27 MR. LORD: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

30

31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. In reading
32 some of the background information. I read a section
33 here that said that, you know, in the modification
34 perspective, you know, it's sort of a quota that would
35 be split between Fed and State but if there was no
36 survey conducted the quota would simply be zero in the
37 State's opinion, and/or if survey conditions or other
38 circumstances do not allow for this survey to be
39 conducted again the quota just reverts to zero. Is
40 that kind of how you view the population right now,
41 each year?

42

43 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
44 Siekaniec. No, it isn't. You know it's a little bit
45 -- we have to be a little bit careful using the word,
46 quota.

47

48 MR. SIEKANIEC: Agree.

49

50 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, it's -- because the

1 quota, there I go, is essentially the number of permits
2 we put out there. Hunters in the system are generally
3 very successful. You know, 90 to 100 percent. If they
4 can get in, you know, potentially, they're going to do
5 well. That said, if, for a given year we were unable
6 to conduct a survey, I think it would be unlikely we
7 would make -- you know, offer zero permits based on
8 that, given just how moose herds work, and the history
9 we have with this herd, as stated, also in the Staff
10 analysis from the Forest Service, we do expend a lot of
11 time and money in Berners Bay, and that largely started
12 when the Juneau Access Project, the road out of Juneau
13 up to Skagway started. We were able to get in, get
14 some very -- little bit longer term baseline data and
15 now we're -- you know, we're generally able to
16 accomplish at least an aerial survey to get a
17 composition count but we're also watching calf
18 production and predation in those areas.

19
20 With that said, Southeast had a pretty
21 rough winter year, it was kind of off and on and we
22 were unable to get a count survey done in the drainage.

23
24 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further --
27 Louis.

28
29 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
30 the Department. What's the percentage of local people
31 getting those registered hunts and those tags and
32 what's the expense because I heard mention of the
33 expense by the author?

34
35 MR. SCOTT: Through the Chair. Mr.
36 Green. So I believe the chart's in the Staff analysis.
37 There were 590 some odd applications for the seven
38 permits in Berners Bay for 201 -- that's probably going
39 to be for 2017. The majority of them -- I believe five
40 of them went to Juneau residents, one went to a
41 resident in Thorne Bay, and I'm unsure where the other
42 resident went. And the Thorne Bay resident did well,
43 yeah.

44
45 The cost, I believe, it's \$5 for each
46 entry for moose hunts under the State drawing
47 application process.

48
49 MR. GREEN: Thank you for that answer.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing no
2 further discussion with the State, we'll move on to the
3 InterAgency Staff Committee.
4

5 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
6 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
7 comment on Wildlife Proposal WP18-11.
8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
10 Board discussion with Council Chair, State liaison.
11

12 (No comments)
13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
15 seeing none, we'll move on to Board action.
16

17 Mr. Owen.
18

19 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair, thank you for
20 acknowledgement.
21

22 I move to adopt WP18-11 with
23 modifications to reflect the alternative discussed by
24 the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
25 Council, which is included in Section 2 of your Board
26 book supplemental materials. The modification language
27 would read:
28

29 Unit 1C, Berners Bay drainages, one
30 bull moose by Federal drawing permit with a season of
31 September 15 to October 15.
32

33 Only one moose permit may be issued per
34 household in Unit 1C.
35

36 A household receiving a State permit
37 for Berners Bay drainages may not [sic] receive a
38 Federal permit.
39

40 The annual harvest quota will be
41 announced by the United States Forest Service Juneau
42 Office, that's the Juneau Ranger District in
43 consultation and collaboration with the Alaska
44 Department of Fish and Game.
45

46 And, finally, the Federal harvest
47 allocation will be 25 percent rounded up to the next
48 whole number of bull moose permits.
49
50

1 If I get a second, I will explain why I
2 support the modified proposal.

3

4 MR. POLACCA: Second.

5

6 MR. OWEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
7 Forest Service and basically everyone involved in this
8 realizes that this is an exceptionally complex issue.
9 However, the amended proposal would provide a priority
10 for Federally-qualified subsistence users for hunting
11 moose in Berners Bay. The combined Federal 25 percent
12 and State 75 percent draw hunt would continue to
13 provide opportunities for non-Federally-qualified moose
14 hunters in Berners Bay while providing for moose
15 conservation and the Federal Subsistence Board should
16 delay implementation of this proposed hunt structure
17 until fall 2019 so as not to conflict with the current
18 State draw hunt.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any Board
23 discussion on that proposal.

24

25 MR. C. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.

28

29 MR. C. BROWER: Just a question to
30 Southeast. Are you guys satisfied with what was just
31 being read, the alternative?

32

33 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Don Hernandez, the Southeast RAC. Yes, I would say
35 that the Southeast RAC would be satisfied with that
36 amended proposal. That is one of the recommendations
37 that we did put forward for you to consider.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

40

41 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Wayne, thanks for your statement there. I'm just
43 making sure I'm understanding this.

44

45 So the Unit 1C Berners Bay drainages,
46 one bull moose by Federal drawing permit with a season,
47 and then down below it says, only one moose permit may
48 be issued per household but then we get down there and
49 it says the harvest allocation will be 25 percent of --

50

1 rounded up to the next whole number. So how are we --
2 we go, one, one, and then all of a sudden if you have
3 seven permits it could be two.

4
5 MR. OWEN: If -- as Mr. Ryan Scott
6 suggested, if there are seven permits for that area, 25
7 percent of those rounded up to the next whole number is
8 two, but only one of those permits can go to a specific
9 household, a household cannot have two subsistence
10 permits, a household may not have both a State and a
11 Federal permit. One permit per household.

12
13 If that helps.

14
15 MR. FROST: But there's only going to
16 be one bull moose harvested as a result of those two
17 permits; is that right?

18
19 MR. OWEN: No, if two people apply --
20 the Federal allocation would be two permits, two
21 different households could each get one permit.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: But they
24 couldn't have a State permit as well.

25
26 MR. FROST: Yeah, I got that part. I
27 guess I'm troubling on the first statement.

28
29 MR. SIEKANIEC: Right.

30
31 MR. FROST: It says one bull moose by
32 Federal drawing permit and it just says one.

33
34 MR. OWEN: One per hunter.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I guess I would
37 interject here and say the clarification I think needs
38 to happen, is it one permit or 25 percent, whichever is
39 greater, right, because like you're saying there may be
40 a year that 25 percent is two of what the State would
41 deem as the number of permits they're going to issue
42 based on their population.

43
44 MR. FROST: Right. Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So that's what
47 we're trying to.....

48
49 MR. FROST: The way it reads right now

50

1 is there's only one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. So are
4 we wanting the Board's intent to say the 25 percent, or
5 are we going to lock us into the one per year. That's,
6 what I think the question is.

7

8 Go ahead.

9

10 MR. FROST: Or as Wayne said, one per
11 household so there's only -- one per permit -- no,
12 it.....

13

14 MR. OWEN: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I'm
15 not seeing the conflict here. The idea is that
16 Federally-qualified users should get a quarter of the
17 allocation. No particular user should in any case get
18 more than one permit, whether it's a State or a Federal
19 permit. So whatever the State decides, you know, with
20 their best available science is the available surplus
21 for harvest, Federally-qualified users get 25 percent
22 of that but only -- you know, any one person in one
23 household -- I guess as it says, you know, issued per
24 household in Unit 1C. So two different households, one
25 permit each, there's your Federally-qualified
26 allocation.

27

28 MR. C. BROWER: And the total of 25
29 percent of what, is seven bulls?

30

31 MR. OWEN: No, no.....

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. OWEN: No, I'm laughing because no
36 matter how we try to make it easy the language is going
37 to trip us up here.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Don.

40

41 MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Don Hernandez from the Southeast RAC. I think maybe I
43 can clarify a little bit what the intent of that
44 language is.

45

46 The intent is that only one permit
47 would ever go to a household. The way this would
48 probably work, depending on how the managers implement
49 it, but considering the fact that the State cannot

50

1 limit who applies for a permit, they could get
2 applications from both Federally-qualified, and non-
3 Federally-qualified hunters. So the intent of that
4 wording is so that if a Federally-qualified user drew a
5 Federal permit, his name would come out of the State
6 draw if he had also entered in the State draw because
7 that's that first sentence. Only one moose permit may
8 be issued per household. That's what that's trying to
9 address. You can't -- we don't want people to put into
10 both drawings and get their name -- well, you know, a
11 husband and wife maybe, or, you know, same household
12 anyway. We were going to try to avoid that situation.
13 Because the State cannot limit who applies in their
14 permit draw.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Louis.

17

18 MR. GREEN: Just a comment. You know we
19 have the same situation up in the Seward Peninsula,
20 Bering Straits region where there's muskox permits, for
21 Federal and State. The way I look at it is that if you
22 get a State permit, you're not going to need a Federal
23 permit because you're going to be able to hunt in the
24 whole area as is down there. So if somebody receives a
25 State permit in a household and they get a Federal
26 permit also, that should automatically be where they
27 take the State permit and the Federal permit moves on
28 to the next household recipient, not, you know, so
29 you're not allowing two permits in one house, whether
30 it's State and Federal. I mean that's kind of the way
31 it is up there.

32

33 So I can understand the wording and the
34 way it's written. But it might need to be a little
35 more specific.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
40 Della.

41

42 MS. TRUMBLE: I'm struggling listening
43 to this. We've done this with the State, with our
44 caribou, and we basically -- the allocation was 50
45 percent, and there was a certain number of caribou that
46 can be harvested for that specific year. State had a
47 drawing permit, the Federal had the drawing permit, you
48 can only get the -- the Federal did have more than one
49 family -- did have four people, I looked at the list of
50

1 who did get the permits allowed in the drawings. From
2 the Federal side, what we did with Izembek is basically
3 had, if you were interested, we split it between the
4 five communities within that Unit 9D that were eligible
5 under the Federal and said you can put your name in and
6 then we drew, and you only had five maybe permits that
7 can be issued for that community, and in the case of
8 King Cove, but you can only have one permit per
9 household, period. And you could not have one, get
10 one, if you had a State permit. And that's simple.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
13 I appreciate your guys comments, I think that's what
14 we're trying to get to with this proposal.

15
16 So is that clearly defined. Because
17 now we have before us a motion to adopt with a
18 modification.

19
20 MR. LORD: A point of order. Wayne, in
21 your comments you mentioned delaying implementation
22 until 2019, but that wasn't part of your motion. I
23 would suggest that maybe another Board member might
24 want to do a friendly amendment to make that clear.

25
26 MR. OWEN: I would welcome that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can we get a
29 motion to amend, time specific to the 19th [sic], so
30 I'm opening the floor for an amendment to the original
31 motion to put a date.

32
33 MR. FROST: I'd move to amend to be
34 effective in FY'19.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There's a
37 motion on the floor to amend the original.....

38
39 MR. FROST: Not FY, fall of '19.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:fall of
42 '19.

43
44 MR. OWEN: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: A motion's been
47 made and seconded to amend the original motion to
48 include the date to the fall of '19.

49
50

1 Any discussion on the amendment.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
to the amendment as presented?

7

8

(No opposition)

9

10

11

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Amendment
carries. We're back to the original motion with the
amended language to include the fall of 2019. Is there
any further discussion on this.

15

16

MR. C. BROWER: Question.

17

18

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
called. Roll call.

19

20

21

22

23

24

MR. DOOLITTLE:reflect the
alternate's discussion by Southeast Alaska Subsistence
Regional Advisory Council found in Section 2 of the
meeting book, supplemental materials, to be implemented
in the fall of 2019. The modified language would read:

25

26

27

28

29

Unit 1C, Berners Bay drainage, one bull
moose by Federal drawing permit with a season of
September 15 to October 15.

30

31

32

Only one moose permit be issued by
household in Unit 1C.

33

34

35

36

A household receiving a State permit
for Berners Bay drainage moose may [sic] receive a
Federal permit.

37

38

39

40

41

The annual harvest quota will be
announced by the United States Forest Service Juneau
Office in consultation and collaboration with the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

42

43

44

45

The Federal harvest allocation will be
25 percent rounded up to the next whole number of bull
moose permits.

46

47

48

This provision will be implemented in
fall 2019.

49

50

National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

1 MR. FROST: Support.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
4 Management, Karen Mouritsen.

5

6 MS. MOURITSEN: I support the amended
7 motion with the modification reflecting the alternative
8 discussed by the Southeast RAC.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you. U.S. Forest
11 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

12

13 MR. SIEKANIEC: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
14 Service, Greg Siekaniec. I support as amended, or as
15 recommended by the Regional Advisory Committee [sic].

16

17 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
18 Wayne Owen.

19

20 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair. I believe I have
21 a conflict of interest with this proposal and,
22 therefore, the Forest Service abstains.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One second,
25 too, as we do the vote here. Just a quick
26 clarification as we read this off we want to make sure
27 that everyone is aware that it is one bull moose, not
28 one moose, for the public record -- sorry to interject.

29

30 Go ahead, sorry.

31

32 MR. OWEN: Mr. Chair. I believe I have
33 a conflict of interest with respect to this proposal,
34 therefore, the Forest Service abstains.

35

36 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Wayne.

37

38 BIA, Lynn Polacca.

39

40 MR. POLACCA: I support.

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Rhonda
43 Pitka.

44

45 MS. PITKA: I support in deference to
46 the RAC.

47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Charlie
49 Brower.

50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Support.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
4 Christianson.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support with
7 deference to the RAC.

8

9 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion carried.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you guys
12 for that. We're going to try to get one more done.
13 We're still in session. Five minutes.

14

15 (Off record)

16

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
20 we'll begin, WP19, we'll start with the analysis.

21

22 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
23 Board. My name is Chris McKee. I'm the Wildlife
24 Division Supervisor for the Office of Subsistence
25 Management and I will be giving you a short overview of
26 Proposal WP18-19. The executive summary for this
27 proposal starts on Page 736 of your book and the actual
28 analysis starts on 741.

29

30 WP18-19 submitted by the Ahtna
31 InterTribal Resource Commission requests that the Ahtna
32 InterTribal Resource Commission be allowed to
33 distribute Federal registration permits to Ahtna tribal
34 members for the Federal caribou season in Units 13A, B
35 and 13 remainder. This proposal also requests that the
36 Ahtna Advisory Committee be added to the list of
37 agencies and organizations consulted by the Bureau of
38 Land Management, Glennallen Field Office Manager when
39 announcing the sex of the caribou to be taken in Units
40 13A, and 13B.

41

42 The proponent states that per the
43 Memorandum of Agreement between the United States
44 Department of Interior and the Ahtna InterTribal
45 Resource Commission, Federal wildlife proposals are to
46 be written to accommodate Ahtna customary and
47 traditional ways of harvesting large wild game. The
48 proponent also states that the Ahtna InterTribal
49 Resource Commission will distribute Federal permits in

50

1 a customary and traditional manner to Ahtna tribal
2 members advising them where and when to hunt.

3
4 Just some brief biological and harvest
5 history for caribou in Unit 13. The Nelchina Caribou
6 Herd calving grounds and summer range lie within Unit
7 13. The rut also generally occurs within Unit 13 as
8 well. State management goals and objectives for the
9 herd are to maintain a fall population of 35,000 to
10 40,000 caribou with a minimum of 40 bulls per 100 cows
11 and 40 calves per 100 cows and provide for the annual
12 harvest of three to 6,000 animals. Between 2001 and
13 2016 the Nelchina population ranged in size from about
14 31,000 animals to just under 50,000 animals and
15 averaged 39,600 caribou during that time period.
16 However, the herd has exceeded State population
17 objectives since 2010. Bull/cow and calf/cow ratios
18 have similarly fluctuated over time. Between 2000 and
19 2017 the fall bull/cow ratio ranged from 24 to 64 bulls
20 per 100 cows and averaged 39.5 bulls per 100 cows.
21 Over the same time period the fall calf/cow ratio
22 ranged from 19 to 55 calves per 100 cows and averaged
23 40 calves per 100 cows. In summer 2017 composition
24 surveys estimated a 54 calves per 100 cows.

25
26 A little on the harvest history. The
27 herd is a popular herd to hunt and experiences heavy
28 harvest pressure due to its road accessibility and
29 proximity to Anchorage and Fairbanks. Population
30 limits can be controlled solely by human harvest and
31 harvest quotas are adjusted annually in order to
32 achieve State management objectives. Over 95 percent
33 of the herd occurs in Unit 13. Between 2001 and 2016
34 harvest from the herd under State regulations range
35 from 797 to 5,709 caribou per year and average 2,423
36 animals per year. Over the same time period caribou
37 harvest under Federal regulations in Unit 13 ranged
38 from 237 to 610 caribou per year and averaged 417
39 caribou per year.

40
41 So the OSM conclusion is to support
42 WP18-19 with modification to establish a community
43 harvest system on Federal public lands for moose in
44 Unit 11 and moose and caribou in Units 13 to be managed
45 by AITRC and open to Federally-qualified subsistence
46 users living within the Ahtna traditional use territory
47 subject to a framework to be established by the Federal
48 Subsistence Board. And that modified language can be
49 found on Page 769 of your meeting materials booklet.

50

1 Unless formed, the Ahtna Advisory
2 Committee will not be one of the entities consulted
3 with by the Federal land manager during the
4 administration of this hunt.

5
6 Establishing a community harvest system
7 will allow AITRC to manage such a hunt without having
8 to issue Federal permits. The community harvest system
9 would be subject to the same harvest limits, seasons
10 and methods and means already established under Federal
11 regulations but would not involve the actual issuance
12 of permits.

13
14 The proposed modification was supported
15 by the Southcentral RAC at their meeting November of
16 2017. The specific guidelines governing the community
17 harvest system would need to be established and agreed
18 upon by Federal managers, AITRC and Office of
19 Subsistence Management.

20
21 Moose and caribou populations in the
22 Units under consideration are not expected to be
23 adversely affected by the creation of the community
24 harvest system on the relatively small amount of
25 Federal public lands occurring within the Ahtna
26 traditional territory in Unit 13.

27
28 Federal regulations for moose and
29 caribou in Unit 11 will remain the same.

30
31 I should also make a note that in your
32 book there is a -- under the Regional Advisory Council
33 recommendation, the recommendation that's listed in
34 your book by the Eastern Interior RAC is an error, it
35 was a copy of the recommendation for WP18-18, so I just
36 wanted to make that clear, and I'll let the Chair --
37 the representative for the Eastern Interior RAC speak
38 to it when it comes to their turn. But I just want to
39 make clear that their recommendation is essentially the
40 same as that from the Southcentral Regional Advisory
41 Council. So I just wanted to correct that error before
42 you get any further in the process.

43
44 So that's all I had.

45
46 Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Chris. Any questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Summary of
4 public comment.

5

6 MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
7 the record this is Deanna Perry. I'm the coordinator
8 for the Southeast RAC. I'm going to be pitch hitting
9 for Donald Mike, coordinator of the Southcentral RAC.

10

11 We received four written public
12 comments on the Wildlife Proposal 18-19. One in
13 support, two in support of a modified version, and one
14 in opposition. The comments received were from Ahtna
15 InterTribal Resource Commission, the Wrangell-St. Elias
16 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, the
17 Denali National Park Subsistence Resource Commission,
18 and Jeff Sperry, resident of Alaska.

19

20 On the comments that Ahtna has
21 management capability to distribute Unit 13 Nelchina
22 caribou permits to tribal members and ensure tribal
23 hunter return caribou permits.

24

25 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
26 Subsistence Resource Commission supports 18-19 with
27 modification that it also applies to moose hunts in
28 Units 11 and 13 and that the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
29 Commission, also known as AITRC, have the authority to
30 issue permits to all Federally-qualified subsistence
31 users, not just tribal members. The SRC supports the
32 idea of Ahtna issuing Federal subsistence permits,
33 however, recommends that they be able to issue permits
34 to all qualified hunters, noting that it is important
35 to work together without dividing communities.

36

37 The Denali National Park Subsistence
38 Resource Commission supports a modified version of
39 Wildlife Proposal 18-19. Specifically the SRC
40 recommends amending the proposal to support the
41 potential for AITRC to issue all permits. The Denali
42 SRC supports Denali National Park collaborating with
43 AITRC to issue Federal subsistence moose and caribou
44 permits for Game Unit 13 and Cantwell. Partnering with
45 AITRC provides an opportunity for the Park to share
46 information and develop relationships with AITRC and
47 local subsistence users.

48

49 Jeff Sperry states that he is opposed

50

1 to Proposal 18-19. He says that there is no need to
2 add the Ahtna Advisory Committee to the designated
3 group that is determining what sex of animals can be
4 harvested. That is a biologically based decision and
5 can best be made by the Alaska Department of Fish and
6 Game biologists.

7

8 That concludes the comments received
9 for Wildlife Proposal 18-19.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Now
14 we would open the floor to public testimony.

15

16 MR. STARKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
17 name is Sky Starkey and I'm assisting AITRC right now.

18

19 So we really appreciate the Board
20 taking this up. We understand that there might be --
21 in that there's a motion the Board's considering, we
22 think it might be helpful to go through some of our
23 suggested changes and then allow the Board members to
24 engage in any dialogue that they would like to in terms
25 of what we would be thinking in proposing. So
26 understanding your timeframe, the motion right now
27 reads:

28

29 I move that the Board defer taking
30 action on the proposal.

31

32 You know, we understand the
33 practicality of needing to do that given the
34 circumstances here. But the third line of the proposed
35 motion using the deferral time to work with the Alaska
36 -- with AITRC, we would suggest that any workgroup
37 needs to be small, and it needs to be small so it can
38 be effective and accomplish this task in a short
39 timeframe that we've got. So we believe by
40 incorporating the RACs, hopefully the RAC Chairs will
41 be part of this group, that the affected subsistence
42 users would be adequately represented and would
43 recommend striking affected subsistence users for
44 efficiency. We would also recommend that you insert --
45 that your intent at least be clear that you're talking
46 about the affected RACs and affected Federal management
47 agencies being the ones at the table.

48

49 And in terms of incorporating the

50

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, we would suggest
2 that the motion read, that the workgroup is actually --
3 deferral -- work with AITRC, the Regional Advisory
4 Councils and the affected Federal management agencies
5 and insert, to consult with the Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game, as necessary. And we believe it's
7 important to consult with ADF&G, but this is a Federal
8 hunt, and in creating the framework, in order to make
9 it effective, the group should be able to work on some
10 issues that are exclusive to the Federal aspect of
11 things and to pull in the State, when it's necessary on
12 issues such as conservation and coordinating the hunts.
13 So, you know, we would ask that that change be made
14 clear.

15
16 Also in terms of the explanation on the
17 motion, we would like for the motion -- the explanation
18 to include the following:

19
20 On the third line of the explanation,
21 after it reads, work cooperatively to develop a
22 framework for a community hunt, and this is very
23 important to AITRC, we would like it to read -- to
24 insert a sentence that says, that is consistent with
25 the, and this is a little different than what you may
26 have in front of you -- that is consistent with the
27 intent of the DOI/AITRC Memorandum of Agreement to the
28 degree possible. And we think that's important. We
29 understand that there may be -- it may not be possible
30 to completely implement it line by line, word by word,
31 but we do think that it's important at the beginning
32 stages to try to incorporate the intent of the MOI to
33 the degree it's possible. So we would like to see that
34 in there.

35
36 Finally, the last sentence of the first
37 paragraph of explanation, we would prefer that it read;
38 the Board is fully supportive of AITRCs request for a
39 community hunt, since that's what we're dealing with,
40 that helps -- and we would prefer that it read, that it
41 helps address and helps address their nutritional and
42 cultural needs. So that makes it clear what the intent
43 is here.

44
45 On the second paragraph on the third
46 sentence, it reads; within a community, will be able to
47 participate if they so desire and we would ask that the
48 following language be included after desire; to
49 participate in a community harvest system that is
50

1 managed and administered consistent with the Ahtna's
2 customary and traditional knowledge and practices and
3 this is a little different than what you might have
4 before you, and frameworks, so that makes it clear that
5 the community hunt is going to be -- that the intent is
6 it be consistent with those customary and traditional
7 practices, but only insofar as that's consistent with
8 the frameworks that are approved and developed by the
9 Board.

10

11 Finally, on line two, Karen just
12 thankfully showed me, line two after administered, for
13 all eligible rural residents, we would like to make
14 sure that as we talked about yesterday, that it be
15 administered for all Federally-qualified Ahtna tribal
16 members, and by that we mean those Ahtna tribal members
17 that are rural and have customary and traditional use
18 within the area as required by the system, and, all
19 eligible rural residents within a community.

20

21 Finally, or not finally, but we would
22 ask that the second sentence in the third line, which
23 now reads, a Federal community hunt, we would ask that
24 that be changed to the workgroup should consider future
25 growth and consideration from eligible communities with
26 positive customary and traditional use determinations.
27 AITRC fully understands that if another community comes
28 in and wants to develop a community hunt, the system
29 and the rural priority requires that opportunity be
30 made to them as well. So perfectly open to making sure
31 that that consideration is part of developing the
32 framework. But in terms of the way this sentence reads
33 now it almost indicates that we'd have to solve
34 everybody's problem all the way into the future before
35 we could come back to the Board with a plan. And so
36 that seems a little broad.

37

38 The last sentence of the third
39 paragraph, again, the same kind of consideration, we
40 would ask that sentence, integration, as appropriate
41 with the State system should be considered when
42 developing a framework for a Federal community harvest
43 system. Again, let's -- you know, we need to consider
44 it, but to integrate, to be a part of it, integration
45 actually may be a more practical thing that happens
46 during the season and may be a hard thing to completely
47 foresee. So by fully considering, we think that takes
48 care of that problem.

49

50

1 On the last paragraph we would suggest
2 that it read the second -- the first most sentence
3 read, administering both Federal and State community
4 hunts potentially operating simultaneously will -- we
5 would suggest should be, may, because we really don't
6 know that until we get into the details. Require
7 coordinating an individual's participation in multiple
8 harvest systems over multiple jurisdictions. A special
9 action request presented to the Board to establish a
10 community hunt framework should consider any
11 administrative and regulatory requirements that may be
12 needed for participation. Again, understanding that
13 we're not sure that there's going to be those kind of
14 conflicts.

15
16 Thank you very much for your leniency
17 in letting us do that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sky.
20 Any comments or discussion of Sky.

21
22 Karen.

23
24 MS. LINNELL: Thank you. I asked Sky
25 to help me with this as he was instrumental in the
26 negotiation of the MOA with Ahtna's C&T committee and
27 making sure that we were trying to meet the intent of
28 the MOA so I appreciate his volunteering to help me get
29 that done.

30
31 I just want to say that, you know,
32 right now, it is up to you folks to set the Federal
33 regulation and the agency Staff work in coordination
34 with the Department in regards to what the population
35 is doing, the health of the wildlife source, they
36 coordinate very well together in that process. And so
37 setting this framework is a Federal job.

38
39 I just have to say that, you know,
40 under our current State and Federal regs, we're not
41 meeting our subsistence needs and that's why it's
42 necessary to go to this -- and why we're trying to
43 establish this community harvest system. I do have one
44 thing in the motion that was drafted and presented to
45 us, is that, there is a change in words, it says
46 community hunt in some places and it says community
47 harvest in other places and I'd just like it to be
48 consistent with what the Federal regulations allow and
49 I believe it's community harvest, but that we make that
50

1 consistent throughout.

2

3 I think this is a good method to move
4 forward.

5

6 I feel that, you know, if we set a
7 framework and a timeframe for us to work this out and
8 have details brought back to this Board is a crucial
9 part of this. Delaying or waiting another year or two
10 will create a hardship on our tribal members and those
11 that live out in our community. So I ask for that in
12 your consideration as well.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
17 questions for Karen.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Is
22 there anybody on the phone that would like to speak.

23

24 OPERATOR: Once again if you'd like to
25 speak please press star-one and record your name when
26 prompted.

27

28 (Pause)

29

30 OPERATOR: I currently show no one in
31 cue.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank
34 you.

35

36 Regional Advisory Council
37 recommendation.

38

39 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
40 The Eastern Interior RAC passed the motion to support
41 WP18-19 with the Southcentral RAC's modification to
42 establish a community harvest system for moose and
43 caribou in Units 11 and 13 to be managed by AITRC and
44 open to Federally-qualified residents of the Ahtna
45 traditional use territory.

46

47 As justification. The Council held an
48 extensive discussion regarding that currently it is not
49 legally allowed for tribal entities to have delegation

50

1 of authority to Federal registration hunt permits. The
2 Council said that as long as permits are issued to all
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users, the Council had
4 no issue with AITRC having the delegation of authority.
5 It would just allow the users to have another, more
6 convenient place to receive permits. The Council noted
7 that AITRC is being proactive and having community
8 hunts will help manage the game for long-term
9 sustainability. The proponent's intent was that for
10 AITRC to distribute permits and to begin the process of
11 moving forward with the implementation of the MOU.
12

13 I also would like to say that I have a
14 letter here from us and Southcentral to the Board, to
15 request from the Secretaries the delegation of
16 authority and we have not received a response yet and
17 that was dated the 5th of October.
18

19 That concludes my statements.
20

21 Thank you.
22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 Eastern Interior, any questions or discussion for
25 Eastern Interior.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 MS. STICKWAN: You didn't say
30 Southcentral. You said Eastern Interior. What about
31 Southcentral, you only said Eastern Interior.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay,
34 Southcentral, yeah, no, sorry about that.
35

36 Go ahead.
37

38 MS. STICKWAN: Southcentral supported
39 the proposal with the following modification.
40 Establish a community harvest system for moose and
41 caribou in Units 11 and 13 to be managed by AITRC and
42 to open it to Federally-qualified residents of the
43 Ahtna traditional use territory.
44

45 The Council noted that the proponent's
46 intent was for the Ahtna InterTribal Resource
47 Commission to distribute permits and to begin the
48 process of moving forward toward the -- implementing
49 the MOU. The Council supported the proposal with
50

1 modification. To establish a community harvest system
2 as an interim step, while the steps to implement the
3 MOU are being worked out. Although the original
4 request for 18-19 was for caribou, the Council added
5 moose as the three proposals WP18-17, 18-18 and 18-19
6 are related. The community hunt system as recommended
7 by the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council would be
8 managed by AITRC and open to all Federally-qualified
9 rural users within the Ahtna traditional use territory.

10

11 And we also recommended a letter to the
12 Federal Board seeking Secretarial modification of 50
13 CFR 100.10 (d)(6) to allow AITRC to issue Federal
14 subsistence permits to all Federally-qualified users.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
17 questions. Comments.

18

19 Karen.

20

21 MS. LINNELL: Yes, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. I just want to be clear that this was the --
23 the request was to be for our eight tribal villages and
24 to include the residents of those eight villages, not
25 the entire Ahtna traditional use territory. It would
26 be difficult for me to come up with a quota or that
27 kind of thing if we included all of the other dozen or
28 so communities within our traditional use territory.

29

30 And, again, I just want to reiterate
31 that this, you know, under the current State and
32 Federal regulations we're not meeting our subsistence
33 needs.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
38 that clarification. Any other questions or discussion.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
43 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp comment.

44

45 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair. Board members.
46 Orville Lind, Native Liaison. During the consultation
47 on September 14th there was no discussion on WP18-19.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Members of the Board. Lem Butler, Assistant Director
5 for Fish and Game.

6

7 The Department's neutral on how the
8 Federal permit, or hunt opportunity is allocated and
9 administered. However, we do reserve the right to
10 object to changes that may affect the biologically
11 sustainable harvest. And there are a few details that
12 still aren't clear to me. Such as how the reporting is
13 going to occur. I believe I heard that they're -- I've
14 heard discussion of issuing permits but I also thought
15 that it may look more like a delegation letter.
16 Capturing the harvest information accurately and in a
17 timely manner is very important to us to manage the
18 hunting opportunities that are provided, in a, again,
19 biologically sustainable way. So provided that
20 whatever system the Federal Board comes up with meets
21 that criteria, the harvest is accurately tracked and
22 reported in a timely manner, we would not object. But,
23 again, it depends on the details, and I don't know how
24 far you're going to get into details today.

25

26 We also don't object to the
27 modifications that Mr. Starkey read into the record. We
28 don't feel like we need to be a part of every
29 discussion as it pertains to the Federal process. But
30 we do want to be at the table when it comes to
31 decisions that, again, affect the biological
32 sustainability of the hunt, such as season dates,
33 quotas, and reporting requirements.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
38 questions for the State.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
43 InterAgency Staff Committee.

44

45 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
46 InterAgency Staff Committee comment on WP18-19 is
47 located on Page 775 of your meeting book.

48

49 In addition to the standard comment,

50

1 the InterAgency Staff Committee recommends deferral of
2 WP18-19, both as proposed and as modified in the WP18-
3 19 analysis addendum.

4
5 The InterAgency Staff Committee also
6 recommends that the Board assign appropriate OSM and
7 agency Staff the task of exploring, with affected
8 stakeholders, the details of how a Federal community
9 harvest system might best address AITRC's desires for
10 greater autonomy, while also remaining consistent with
11 the rural priority set for in Title VIII and also
12 develop a draft framework for possible implementation
13 by the Board.

14
15 The ISC recommends that the Board
16 establish a reasonable deadline for completing the
17 draft framework so they may make a decision in a timely
18 manner. The proponent sites the Memorandum of
19 Agreement between AITRC and the Department of Interior
20 as being supportive of the proposal's overall intent.
21 However, the Memorandum of Agreement describes the
22 establishment of a much different community harvest
23 permitting system than was originally proposed.

24
25 As written, WP18-19 seeks to delegate
26 to AITRC the ability to distribute Federal registration
27 permits for hunting caribou in Unit 13 under Permit No.
28 1302 specifically to its tribal members, while Federal
29 agencies would continue to distribute these same
30 permits to other Federally-qualified and eligible rural
31 residents. Federal personnel broadly distribute
32 thousands of Unit 13 moose and caribou registration
33 permits annually to eligible hunters throughout the
34 region. Reducing this administrative burden through a
35 cooperative arrangement with AITRC would be a welcome
36 outcome. However, there presently appears to be
37 statutory impediments to the submitted proposal.
38 Additionally, there are significant implementation
39 uncertainties associated with the addendum's proposal
40 for a community harvest system, which was recommended
41 by the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council and
42 modified accordingly by OSM. The modifications to
43 WP18-19 in the addendum suggest broadening the proposal
44 scope by establishing a community harvest system for
45 both moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13. The
46 modifications openly limit participation in the
47 community harvest system to only those Federally-
48 qualified rural residents living in the Ahtna
49 traditional use territory. This defined territory does

50

1 not include all eligible rural residents with a
2 customary and traditional use determination. Noting
3 the expedient growth and participation in the
4 State's community subsistence hunt, a commensurate
5 interest and growth in a Federal community harvest
6 system by eligible users should be anticipated in
7 coming years, especially if it confers a harvest
8 advantage to subsistence users. This expansion would be
9 counter to the intent of the proponent's wishes for
10 AITRC administered hunts largely unencumbered by
11 competition from out of area hunters.

12
13 Additionally, the modified proposal,
14 similar to WP18-18, as modified, supports establishment
15 of a winter season for antlered moose in Units 13 and
16 13 remainder from December 1 to December 31 by
17 registration permit. Unit 13 moose harvest objectives
18 and quotas are established by the Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game for individual sub-units. A Federal
20 community harvest system concentrated on the limited
21 Federal lands available in Unit 13 could result in
22 localized depletions of moose on Federal and adjacent
23 State-managed lands and in bull/cow ratios falling
24 below State management objectives in these same areas.

25
26 For the Bureau of Land Management to
27 responsibly authorize a winter season and establish a
28 Federal harvest quota following the State and Federal
29 fall hunts will require up to date moose population
30 harvest and distribution information.

31
32 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
33 and Bureau of Land Management and the National Park
34 Service and potentially AITRC will therefore need to
35 work cooperatively to gather and share timely
36 information. If necessary, an allocation and
37 management framework should be in place prior to a
38 winter hunt being established so that setting a winter
39 moose quota is not an arbitrary decision.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 Board discussion, Council and State liaison.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
49 seeing none, we move for Federal Subsistence Board

50

1 action.

2

3

Wayne.

4

5

MR. OWEN: Sorry, I had a comment, Mr.

6

Chair.

7

8

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,

9

Wayne.

10

11

12

MR. OWEN: Without any comment about the MOU or anything else that's gone here, the MOU was signed and put into place by the Secretary of Interior and included National Forest system lands, which are administered by the Department of Agriculture. This was not done in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and was not done with our concurrence. We believe the MOU on that basis is legally flawed and that's going to make it very difficult for us to support any actions on this MOU until that situation is rectified.

21

22

23

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen.

24

25

26

MS. LINNELL: Just to respond to that. There are some Department of Agriculture lands south of this and this isn't included in that Unit 13. It's on the fringe. It is part of our traditional use territory. We do have an MOA with the Department of Agriculture as well that formed our tribal conservation district. We do -- and we work closely with them on other issues. We haven't done anything with Forestry land to date and have no plans to.

33

34

35

36

MR. OWEN: Again, I don't have a -- the Forest Service does not have a position on, you know, the value or, you know, the purpose or intent of the MOU. The maps, as they exist now, include Chugach National Forest lands, and I'm not going to vote in favor of any actions to implement this, and you don't really need my -- you know, this is procedural and, you know, that's just it.

42

43

44

I wish you all the luck, you know, this is not about that, this is about Federal bureaucracy, getting our act together.

46

47

48

MS. LINNELL: If I may, the boundaries for the Ahtna traditional use territory were formed

49

50

1 under the MOA with the Department of Agriculture first
2 and it was then brought to the Department of Interior,
3 just for your information.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other Board
6 discussion, deliberation.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I, again, call
11 for Board action.

12
13 MS. MOURITSEN: Can I make a motion,
14 Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor's
17 open.

18
19 MS. MOURITSEN: Okay. Mr. Chair. I
20 move that the Board defer taking action on this, WP18-
21 19 proposal at this meeting, and that we take up the
22 proposal at the Board's next work session, which is
23 tentatively scheduled for July or August, and that we
24 instruct the Office of Subsistence Management to use
25 the deferral time to work with AITRC, the Regional
26 Advisory Councils, the Federal management agencies and
27 to also consult with the Alaska Department of Fish and
28 Game, as necessary, to cooperatively establish a
29 framework for a workable community harvest system for
30 moose and caribou in Units 11 and 13.

31
32 If I get a second to this motion, I
33 will explain my reasoning for proposing a deferral and
34 what I believe should transpire in the interim, between
35 now and the next meeting.

36
37 MS. PITKA: Rhonda Pitka, I'll second.

38
39 MS. MOURITSEN: Thank you. In my time,
40 it's getting to be almost a year in Alaska, I'm seeing
41 this Board operates at its best when stakeholders and
42 agencies work towards achieving consensus and then
43 approach the Board with proposed solutions.

44
45 My expectation in this matter is that
46 the parties referenced in my motion will work
47 cooperatively to develop a framework for a Federal
48 community harvest system, or harvest, that is
49 consistent with the intent of the DOI/AITRC MOA to the

50

1 extent possible, and then to submit a special action
2 request to the Federal Subsistence Board for the
3 Board's consideration and potential implementation as
4 expeditiously as possible.

5

6 The Board is fully supportive of
7 AITRC's request to establish community harvest that
8 help in addressing AITRC's nutritional and cultural
9 needs.

10

11 My expectation is that the framework of
12 a community harvest scheme, unlike the State's
13 community harvest program should be designed to be
14 community based and all eligible rural residents within
15 a community should be able to participate if they so
16 desire -- if they so desire to participate in a
17 community harvest system that's managed and
18 administered by AITRC and is within the framework set
19 by the Board. A Federal community harvest system
20 should be designed to accommodate future growth and
21 participation from eligible communities with positive
22 customary and traditional use determinations.

23

24 Presently the State's community hunts
25 can occur on Federally-managed lands as well as on
26 State managed lands, whereas a Federal community hunt
27 would be limited to Federally-managed lands. The State
28 has specific regulations associated with their
29 community hunt program related to seasons, bag limits,
30 quotas, participation and eligibility. Integration, as
31 appropriate with the State system should be considered
32 as part of this framework for a community harvest
33 system.

34

35 Administering both Federal and State
36 community hunts that would be potentially operating
37 simultaneously may require coordinating an individual's
38 participation in these multiple harvest systems over
39 multiple jurisdictions. So my expectation is that a
40 special action request presented to the Board to
41 establish a community hunt framework should consider
42 and clearly address the administrative and regulatory
43 requirements that may be needed for participation and
44 to address the issues noted above.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
49 further discussion.

50

1 Rhonda.

2
3 MS. PITKA: I generally don't support
4 deferring taking action because I think that it slows
5 down an already slow and burdensome process for people,
6 but I would really like, you know, the Board to make
7 sure that this is something workable with the Program,
8 you know, I truly think that we can probably move this
9 along by July, I would hope, and I would hope that
10 Staff would work with the affected parties as quickly
11 as possible.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
14 discussion -- thank you, Rhonda.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All for the
19 question.

20
21 MR. FROST: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
24 called. Roll call, please.

25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: This action is on
27 Wildlife Proposal 18-19 and the motion on the floor is:
28 to defer taking action on Proposal WP18-19 at this
29 meeting, and to take up the proposal at the Federal
30 Subsistence Board's summer work session tentatively
31 scheduled for July or August and to instruct the Office
32 of Subsistence Management to use the deferral to work
33 with AITRC, the Regional Advisory Councils and Federal
34 management agencies and to consult with the Alaska
35 Department of Fish and Game, as necessary, to
36 cooperatively establish a framework for a workable
37 community harvest system for moose and caribou in Units
38 11 and 13. The proposal is found on Page 736 in this
39 meeting book.

40
41 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

42
43 MR. FROST: I support the motion as
44 amended by the BLM to defer taking any action on this
45 proposal at this time and instructing the affected
46 parties to get together and figure this thing out.

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
49 Management, Karen Mouritsen.

50

1 MS. MOURITSEN: I support my motion to
2 defer taking action for the reasons stated.

3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
5 Service, Greg Siekaniec.

6
7 MR. SIEKANIEC: I support the motion as
8 it was read. And for the reasons that were stated but
9 also in recognition of Ahtna for seeking a working
10 resolution and helping us sort of understand what the
11 important elements are in your interest so that we
12 could actually do something to move in that direction.
13 And, again, encourage this Board to set a timeframe for
14 the Office of Subsistence Management to deliver on the
15 expectation for our July or August meeting.

16
17 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg. U.S.
18 Forest Service, Wayne Owen.

19
20 MR. OWEN: We support deferral.

21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Lynn Polacca.

23
24 MR. POLACCA: I support the deferral
25 and really encourage the Office of Subsistence
26 Management to really sit down and work with all the
27 parties and try to come up with a system that would
28 adequately address all the concerns that were outlined
29 by Ahtna, and it's my hope that, you know, this will
30 happen in a fairly quick time manner.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Rhonda
35 Pitka.

36
37 MS. PITKA: I support deferral for the
38 reasons that I've already stated.

39
40 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Charlie
41 Brower.

42
43 MR. C. BROWER: I support for the same
44 reasons.

45
46 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
47 Christianson.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Support.

50

1 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion carried.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you all
4 for that one, we got through that. One hour, we'll
5 come back here at 2:15.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (On record)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
14 welcome back from lunch. I know we are missing one
15 Board member. We did a working lunch with some
16 students that were here from Mt. Edgecumbe and it was
17 nice to be able to sit down with them and it took a
18 little bit for our lunch to get together so Lynn will
19 be working his way in here any minute. So we'll just
20 go ahead and get started, we do have a quorum present.

21

22 We'll go ahead and start with the Staff
23 analysis.

24

25 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
26 and Members of the Board. Again, for the record my
27 name is Tom Evans and I work as a wildlife biologist
28 for OSM. Proposal WP18-20 can be found on Page 803 of
29 your Board book.

30

31 Proposal 18-20 was submitted by the
32 Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
33 and it requests that the harvest limit be changed from
34 one bull to one caribou and that the full harvest
35 season -- fall harvest season be extended from August
36 10th to September 20th, to August 1st to September
37 30th, so it's extended on both ends.

38

39 The proponent stated that the Federal
40 caribou regulations in Unit 9D were more restrictive
41 than the State regulations and, thus, most of the
42 Federally-qualified subsistence users are now hunting
43 under the State regulations. The Southern Alaska
44 Peninsula Herd is genetically distinct from the Unimak
45 Herd is managed separately. In 2015 the minimum
46 population estimate was 1,568 animals. The Southern
47 Alaska Peninsula Herd operational management plan
48 objective for the population is for like three to 4,000
49 animals. The cow/calf ratios average 31 calves per 100

50

1 cows since 2011, which is considered good, and the
2 bull/cow ratio average 45 bulls per 100 cows since
3 2011, which was above the State's management objective
4 of 35 bulls per 100 cows.

5
6 Under the Southern Alaska Peninsula
7 Caribou Herd management plan there is no harvest if the
8 bull/cow ratio falls below 20 bulls per 100 cows or the
9 population is below 1,000 and in decline based on three
10 independent estimates. The harvest since 2001 has
11 averaged about 42 per year.

12
13 Removal of the restrictions would allow
14 Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest --
15 have the same opportunity as provided under the State
16 regulations and as I said before currently most of the
17 Federally-qualified users are harvesting under the
18 State regulations, they're more liberal right now.
19 There's no indication that removal of the restrictions
20 for the Federally-qualified subsistence users is going
21 to substantially increase the harvest. There's an
22 increasing population trend and good bull/cow ratio
23 since 2013 so it suggests that caribou -- the Southern
24 Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd could withstand an
25 additional increase in the harvest.

26
27 In the past the Southern Alaska
28 Peninsula Caribou Herd has experienced wide population
29 fluctuations and the current population is
30 approximately 50 percent of the lower threshold in the
31 operational plan. If the Izembek National Wildlife
32 Refuge manager has delegated authority to determine and
33 announce harvest quotas in any needed closures, there
34 will be regulatory flexibility to adjust the harvest if
35 needed based on fluctuations of the herd.

36
37 The OSM conclusion for this proposal is
38 to support Proposal WP18-20 with modification, to
39 remove the unit specific regulation referencing quotas
40 and closures and delegate authority to the Izembek
41 National Wildlife Refuge to announce quotas and any
42 needed quotas via the delegation of authority letter.

43
44 That concludes my analysis and I'm open
45 for questions.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.

50

1 Any questions for Tom.

2

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
7 summary of public comment.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
10 Members of the Board. There are no written comments
11 for WP18-20.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll open the
16 floor to public testimony.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anybody on the
21 phone.

22

23 OPERATOR: If you'd like to ask a
24 question, please press star-one.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 OPERATOR: For questions or comments,
29 star-one.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
34 Regional Advisory Council recommendation.

35

36 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 The Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence Regional Advisory
38 Council basically said support with modification to
39 limit harvest to one to four caribou by Federal
40 registration permit.

41

42 In 2016 the Council submitted a
43 proposal to align Federal subsistence regulations with
44 the more liberal State regulations, which allowed for
45 the take of one caribou versus one bull from the
46 Southern Peninsula Herd. OSM's preliminary conclusion
47 was to modify the proposal to remove unit specific
48 harvest and authorize delegation of authority to the
49 Refuge Manager to establish and announce quotas. These

50

1 unit specific harvest and quotas were cumbersome and
2 ineffective causing subsistence users to hunt caribou
3 under the State permit. The herd has experienced
4 exponential growth with few animals harvested and
5 there's still some concern from State biologists that
6 it could quickly grow beyond the biological carrying
7 capacity of the area.

8
9 With that said, the population of the
10 SAP Herd is still at the low end of the State's
11 population objective between two and 3,000 animals. In
12 response the Council voted unanimously to accept OSM's
13 recommendation and further modify the proposal to limit
14 the harvest to one to four animals, dependent upon
15 harvestable surplus. Council members believe that this
16 would allow managers to respond to herd growth in a
17 conservative way while allowing for additional harvest
18 when warranted for reducing unsustainable herd growth.

19
20 And basically the modified regulation
21 would read:

22
23 One to four caribou by Federal
24 registration permit only between August 1 and September
25 30th and November 15th and March 31st.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
30 Tribal or Alaska Native Corp comments, Native Liaison.

31
32 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Board
33 members. During the consultation held September 7th,
34 which Kodiak/Aleutian member Skinner was present, there
35 were no further discussions on Proposal WP18-20.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
40 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

41
42 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Members of the Board.

44
45 The Department supports this proposal
46 and supports the RAC modifications that have been
47 discussed currently with a bag limit that would flex up
48 to four caribou. We passed out a handout that
49 demonstrates what the Alaska Board of Game has recently

50

1 done. Under our regulations we also have plans to
2 increase the bag limit up to five caribou. Currently
3 we're at a one caribou bag limit by State registration
4 permit so the modifications that are being proposed
5 would align State and Federal seasons and bag limits.
6 So we support that.

7
8 And as Della mentioned, we do have
9 concerns that this population could grow too fast and
10 exceed the objectives so the additional harvest
11 opportunity with the bag limit would provide more
12 subsistence resource to local users in addition to
13 giving us a few management tools to control the herd
14 growth so we support the proposal as recommended by the
15 RAC.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
18 InterAgency Staff Committee comments.

19
20 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
21 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
22 comment for WP18-20.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
25 Board discussion with Council Chair and State liaison.
26 Do we have any questions or comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none.
31 Federal Subsistence Board action -- oh, Chris, go
32 ahead.

33
34 MR. MCKEE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd
35 just like to add that if the Board ends up wanting to
36 go with the Council's recommendation, I would point you
37 to the delegation of authority letter that starts on
38 Page 1823 as Appendix A of the analysis. On Page 1824
39 under scope of delegation as we noted in the analysis,
40 where the scope is currently under the letter we're
41 proposing to set quotas and any needed closures for
42 caribou in the area of interest, if you were to go with
43 the Council's recommendation we would want to also add
44 determining harvest limits and setting any needed sex
45 restrictions, if you were going to go towards that, so
46 they would have that flex -- so the manager would have
47 the flexibility to adjust the harvest limit depending
48 on the herd size as the State has been suggesting as to
49 how the -- closer to what the Council's desires would

50

1 be.

2

3

Mr. Chair.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So what you're saying, Chris, is either -- do we change the letter of delegation or do we include that here in our motion?

7

8

9

10

MR. MCKEE: You would include -- we would add the language to the letter of delegation, to give that management flexibility to the Refuge manager.

11

12

13

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, thank you for that clarification.

14

15

16

Any other discussion or questions.

17

18

(No comments)

19

20

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Board action.

21

22

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Greg Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

23

24

25

I move to adopt Proposal WP18-20 as modified by the Kodiak/Aleutians Council as indicated on Page 803 and 804, and 814 through 817. If I get a second I will provide my justification.

26

27

28

29

MR. C. BROWER: Second. Brower.

30

31

32

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. The recommended modification is to limit harvest to one to four caribou by Federal registration permit that would be determined based on a harvestable surplus.

33

34

35

36

Adopting this modified proposal would remove the more restrictive harvest limit and season on Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting caribou under Federal regulations in Unit 9D, and give them the same opportunity as those hunting under State regulation. Even though the current caribou population is currently below its population objective, it is recognized and believed to be increasing rapidly. The delegated authority letter requires any management action proposed to have a sound biological justification and also requires consultation with the State. These required elements within the delegation letter will reduce the risk for overharvest, while at

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1 the same time providing maximum management flexibility
2 with the State to keep caribou populations healthy and
3 sustainable and available for harvest opportunity.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
8 further discussion.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
15 called. Why don't I just say, all those in favor of
16 this proposal say aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
21 sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
26 unanimously.

27

28 That one took 15 minutes, so here we
29 go.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We'll move on
34 to the next region, Bristol Bay.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
39 name is Suzanne Worker. I'm a wildlife biologist with
40 OSM and I will be going over WP18-21. This analysis
41 begins on Page 826 of your books.

42

43 This proposal was submitted by the
44 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council and there are
45 basically two parts to their request. The first part
46 of their request is that the harvest restrictions for
47 caribou be eliminated in Units 9A, B and C, 17A, B and
48 C, and 19A and B. This would result in a simple
49 harvest limit of two caribou rather than the current

50

1 limit of two caribou with a restriction that no more
2 than one may be a bull and that no more than one may be
3 taken August 1st to January 31st. So this would result
4 in consistent harvest limits throughout the range of
5 the herd as well as consistent State and Federal
6 harvest limits since the Board of Game made these
7 changes in State regulation in 2016.

8
9 The second part of the request is that
10 within the portion of Unit 9C that drains into the
11 Naknek River from the north, the regulations be changed
12 from a may be announced season with a harvest limit of
13 one bull to an August 1st to March 15th season with a
14 harvest limit of two caribou consistent with the
15 proposed changes in the rest of the Mulchatna Caribou
16 Herd range. So consistent with the changes in the first
17 part of the request.

18
19 This area is at the margin of the
20 Mulchatna Caribou Herd range and the Northern Alaska
21 Peninsula Caribou Herd range and it would essentially
22 shift the regulatory emphasis from that Northern Alaska
23 Peninsula Herd to the Mulchatna Herd. And I'll just
24 note that a proposal identical to this second request
25 was submitted to the Board of Game and that Board did
26 adopt the changes when they met in February.

27
28 Historically the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
29 has ranged from around 20,000 to around 200,000 caribou
30 and in recent years it's fluctuated between 26,000 and
31 31,000 approximately. The most current population
32 estimate which was in 2016 was around 27,000 caribou so
33 it's on the low end of the historical population size
34 and it's also just below the population objective,
35 which is 30,000 to 80,000 caribou. However, in 2016
36 there were 39 bulls to 100 cows which is the highest
37 bull/cow ratio that's been observed since 2000. So the
38 status of this herd does seem to be improving.

39
40 The Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd is a
41 small population, it was approximately 3,000 animals at
42 last count, that was in 2015. So that's well below the
43 population objective of 12,000 to 15,000 caribou. But
44 the northern portion of this range, which is the part
45 that's relevant to the proposal has become less
46 important with caribou only rarely crossing the Naknek
47 River to the north side.

48
49 Reported harvest from the Mulchatna
50

1 Caribou Herd by Federally-qualified subsistence users
2 has averaged fewer than 500 caribou annually since 2000
3 and in recent years reported harvest has been even
4 lower than that, although unreported harvest almost
5 certainly occurs, so we do anticipate that this is an
6 under estimate of actual harvest by Federal users.

7
8 If this proposal was adopted there
9 isn't expected to be any effect on the Mulchatna
10 Caribou Herd or on subsistence users who hunt from this
11 herd. And this is because the proposed changes have
12 already been made in State regulation and all users are
13 required to obtain a State registration permit in this
14 hunt, including Federal hunters.

15
16 As I mentioned, the request in Unit 9C
17 will result in a shift in the regulatory emphasis from
18 the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd to the Mulchatna
19 Herd and we don't expect that biologically this is
20 going to be a problem given the current movement and
21 distribution patter of those two herds. However, as the
22 request is written it would consolidate the area north
23 of the Naknek with the hunt area in the Alagnak
24 drainage and this will result in regulatory
25 inconsistencies within a single hunt area due to a
26 Federal lands closure that exists in the Naknek
27 drainage. So that's something that's going to have to
28 be worked out.

29
30 The OSM conclusion is to support WP18-
31 21 with modification, and the modification is found on
32 Page 843 of your materials.

33
34 The first modification is to create a
35 new hunt area described as Unit 9C, that portion
36 draining into the Naknek River from the north and
37 Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek. And this is to
38 accommodate the lands closure that I talked about. And
39 I do want to point out that the hunt area description
40 that's in your materials has an omission, it should
41 include the area drained by Graveyard Creek and Coffee
42 Creek and that just was not included in the analysis
43 but that does accurately describe the area that we're
44 talking about.

45
46 The second modification is to delegate
47 authority to the BLM, Anchorage Field Office manager,
48 to open and close the season and set the harvest
49 limits, including sex restrictions if a new hunt area
50

1 is designated.

2

3 And, finally, to retain the language in
4 the Unit 19A and B regulation, specifying that
5 residents of Lime Village are authorized to hunt under
6 an existing community hunt only.

7

8 That's all I have but I'm happy to take
9 questions.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
12 questions for Staff.

13

14 MR. C. BROWER: I have one.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Charlie.

17

18 MR. C. BROWER: How do you differ
19 Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou, can you tell the
20 difference?

21

22 MS. WORKER: Fish and Game has collars
23 on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd and they
24 are monitored so they know when those caribou are north
25 of the Naknek River.

26

27 MR. C. BROWER: Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
30 questions.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
35 we'll move to summary of public comments.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Donald Mike, Council coordinator. Just for your
39 information, the Federal Subsistence Board members, we
40 have Mr. Dan Dunaway, a member of the Bristol Bay
41 Regional Advisory Council on line and he will be
42 presenting the Bristol Bay Council's recommendations to
43 the Board.

44

45 For the written public comments, we
46 have one written public comment received from Lake
47 Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission and
48 you will find it in your supplement on Page 7-29.

49

50

1 The Lake Clark National Park
2 Subsistence Resource Commission supports WP18-21 as
3 written.
4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
8 Now, the floor's open to any public testimony.
9

10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing none
13 here, on the phone.
14

15 OPERATOR: As a reminder, star-one to
16 make a comment.
17

18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
21 then we'll call on the Regional Council recommendation,
22 and that is on the line.
23

24 (No comments)

25
26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. That would be
27 Mr. Dunaway on line.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is Mr. Dunaway
30 on line?
31

32 OPERATOR: Yes. Mr. Dunaway, your line
33 is open.
34

35 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Is this the
36 place I should say what the RAC said.
37

38 Over.
39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, this is
41 your time to share your recommendation from the RAC.
42

43 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you very
44 much for the opportunity.
45

46 Yes, the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
47 Council supported this proposal with the recommended
48 modifications from the OSM. We like to have our
49 regulations as consistent with other regulatory
50

1 agencies as possible to minimize confusion for our
2 hunters.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp comments.

8

9 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
10 members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison, OSM.

11

12 On September 14th during the
13 consultation there was no further discussion on the
14 proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Eva, and.....

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:then
21 Chris.

22

23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 This was a crossover proposal for both YK Delta and
25 Western Interior Regional Advisory Councils. Our
26 Council Chair for YK Delta, Alissa Rogers is out just
27 at the moment with her little one and will join us here
28 shortly so I will provide the YK Delta's
29 recommendations on this proposal.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
32 I apologize, I get ahead of myself here and forget
33 there is more than one RAC on some of these proposals,
34 so thanks to the Staff for flagging it out.

35

36 MS. PATTON: And this is a crossover
37 proposal because the Mulchatna Caribou Herd range
38 throughout several RAC regions and communities within
39 the YK Delta hunt the Mulchatna Herd as well.

40

41 So the Council reiterated that as
42 hunters they notice changes that are going on with
43 resources they hunt in their region and there have been
44 concerns about the Mulchatna Herd in the YK Delta RAC
45 region as well as expressed by the Bristol Bay Regional
46 Advisory Council. And the Council wishes to support
47 the observations from the Bristol Bay region, so they
48 voted to support this proposal in an effort to help the
49 people in the Bristol Bay region retain this important

50

1 subsistence resource for their future generations and
2 their efforts for conservation. And so while the
3 Council did make a motion to support, as written, their
4 intention was to support the wishes of the Bristol Bay
5 Council that had submitted the proposal.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
10 then I would call on the next RAC, Jack.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council was very
14 concerned about the Mulchatna Caribou Herd for the last
15 several years and is happy to see that the bull/cow
16 ratio is returning back to the objectives. We do feel
17 that there is a harvestable surplus. The Western
18 Interior Council supported the proposal with OSM
19 modifications for reasons stated in the OSM
20 justification.

21

22 The Council excluded 9C from their
23 discussion and recommendation as that subunit is
24 outside the Western Interior region's customary and
25 traditional use.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
30 questions for the RAC Chairs.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
35 we'll move on to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
36 comments.

37

38 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Members of the Board. The Department supports the
40 proposal as modified with some additional
41 modifications.

42

43 As you've heard this proposal largely
44 aligns State and Federal regulations for the Mulchatna
45 Caribou Herd by adjusting the bag limit to two caribou
46 which is a change that the Board of Game recently made
47 and including the area of portion 9C, north of the
48 Naknek River in with the general regulations for the
49 Mulchatna Caribou Herd. This area has seen occupation

50

1 by two caribou herds the Mulchatna and the Northern
2 Alaska Peninsula Herd. Recent changes in the
3 distribution of the Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd keep
4 it well to the south of 9C. So it really isn't
5 occupying the same area, which is why we feel at this
6 time, that portion of 9C, north of the Naknek River can
7 be designated as a portion of the Mulchatna Herd's
8 range and aligned with those seasons and bag limits.

9
10 Similarly, the closure that was
11 mentioned in the Federal lands in the Naknek drainage
12 of 9C, that closure was put in place to protect the --
13 or in consideration of the Northern Alaska Peninsula
14 Herd, which, again, is not currently there. So we
15 recommend that with the change in herd distribution
16 that that closure is no longer needed at this time.

17
18 The other thing that may not have been
19 mentioned is that as we align seasons with the
20 remainder of the Mulchatna Herd's range, the typical
21 season for the Mulchatna Herd closes on March 31st, so
22 we'd recommend changing the season closure date in 9C,
23 9B and 9B -- 9C north of the Naknek River, I should be
24 specific about that, to close on March 31st to align
25 with general Mulchatna season dates.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
30 Questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: InterAgency
35 Staff Committee.

36
37 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
38 InterAgency Staff Committee provide the standard
39 comment on Wildlife Proposal 18-21.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
42 Board discussion with Council Chair, State liaison.

43
44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
48 seeing none, Federal Board action.

49
50

1 MR. FROST: Bert Frost, National Park
2 Service. I move that we adopt WP18-21 as modified by
3 OSM. This modification is found on Page 843 of the
4 meeting book. And after a second, I will speak to my
5 motion.

6
7 MR. POLACCA: Second.

8
9 MR. FROST: I intend to vote in support
10 of my motion, WP18-21 as modified by OSM. It's
11 consistent with the Bristol Bay RAC and Western
12 Interior RAC recommendations, which are found on Page
13 847, and the Lake Clark National Park SRC
14 recommendation found on Page 729 of supplemental
15 Section 7.

16
17 In addition it also crea -- it's
18 creation of a single hunt area and alignment with State
19 regulations will reduce regulatory complexity and a
20 delegation of authority to a local manager for in-
21 season management decisions within the hunt area will
22 ensure flexibility to respond to caribou movements.

23
24 Thanks.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
27 discussion.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
32 deliberation.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All for the
37 question.

38
39 MR. SIEKANIEC: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
42 called. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
47 sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
2 unanimously.

3
4 We're on to the next one.

5
6 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
7 next one is 18-22, that begins on Page 854 of your
8 meeting materials.

9
10 This proposal was also submitted by the
11 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council, and they request
12 that the Federal public lands closure for caribou on
13 the Nushagak Peninsula be rescinded. Currently the
14 harvest of Nushagak Peninsula Caribou is limited to
15 residents of seven communities. Those are Togiak, Twin
16 Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point
17 and Ekok. So this closure does exclude some Federally-
18 qualified subsistence users as it stands.

19
20 This population was the subject of
21 several special action requests in regulatory years
22 2015 and 2016, all of which were aimed at increasing
23 harvest. Those actions resulted in temporary
24 liberalization of harvest regulations including
25 rescinding the Federal public lands closure. We had no
26 special action requests in regulatory year 2017 so
27 Federal public lands are currently closed except to
28 residents of those seven communities.

29
30 The current population estimate of the
31 Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd is 968 caribou which is
32 above the population objective of 400 to 900 caribou
33 and above the optimum population size, which is 750
34 caribou. This population has been above the upper
35 limit of this objective since 2012 and that has
36 resulted in concern about the habitat and the long-term
37 status of the population. Poor travel conditions
38 resulted in lower than expected harvest during the
39 population's peak for several years but in regulatory
40 year 2016/2017 conditions were good and harvest was
41 quite high at 371 caribou and so the population decline
42 that we saw between 2016 and 2017 was largely a result
43 of harvest. Despite the opening of a State season that
44 year, nearly all reported harvest was attributable to
45 residents of the seven communities who have always been
46 eligible to harvest Nushagak Peninsula Caribou.

47
48 Just a little bit more detail on that.

49
50

1 23 caribou were harvested under State
2 regulation and 22 of those were harvested by local
3 residents who were eligible to harvest caribou under
4 Federal regulation. So even with a State season the
5 interest has remained primarily local.
6

7 If this proposal was adopted, Federal
8 public lands on the Nushagak Peninsula will be open to
9 all users, which may help reduce the population to more
10 appropriate levels and is not expected to negatively
11 affect subsistence users ability to harvest caribou at
12 this point.
13

14 I also want to mention that the most
15 recent special action related to this lands closure,
16 which was WSA16-02 included a threshold of 900 animals
17 so that's the upper limit of that population objective.
18 And the way the closure worked was that if the
19 population estimate was above 900 caribou, then the
20 closure would be rescinded and if it fell below that
21 then Federal public lands would be closed.
22

23 And this alternative was considered in
24 the analysis and it probably does have merit, and as
25 you'll soon here this is the approach that was favored
26 by the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council.
27

28 The OSM conclusion is to support WP18-
29 22 as it was written.
30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
34 Summary of public comment.
35

36 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There
37 were no public comments received on WP18-22.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. At
40 this time we'll open the floor to public testimony.
41

42 (No comments)
43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anyone on the
45 phone.
46

47 OPERATOR: No, there are no
48 participants in the cue.
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

2

3 OPERATOR: One moment, we do have a
4 participant coming in. Dan Dunaway with Bristol Bay
5 Rural [sic] Advisory Council your line is open.

6

7 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair
8 -- Mr. Chair. Yes, as you can see the Bristol Bay RAC
9 has paid very close attention to this hunt and this
10 herd for some time. It's a really valued subsistence
11 resource in those years where weather permits access.
12 We supported it with modification to open Federal
13 public lands to all users when the herd is above 900
14 and closed to all except Federally-qualified users when
15 the herd is below 900.

16

17 We have excellent coordination and
18 communication between the agencies and the local
19 communities and they meet and discuss harvest levels
20 and herd conditions a few times in the summer and fall.
21 It is a very restricted area and we're painfully aware
22 of what happened some years ago when the herd grew too
23 big and then crashed to a point where there were very
24 few animals for anybody. We're kind of proud that we
25 all worked together and shared what few animals could
26 be harvested among the various communities, but we
27 don't want to get it to that point again and we're
28 hoping that this regulation will work well in periods
29 where there's abundance. It also would allow some of
30 our nearby neighbors who aren't officially qualified,
31 but are within range to come over by boat or airplane,
32 so it accommodates their needs and protect the herd,
33 yet, when the herd is somewhat smaller it preserves the
34 subsistence needs for the most immediate communities.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
39 that. Any additional public testimony.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
46 Advisory Council supported the proposal as written.
47 The Council justifies their support for the proposal
48 noting the caribou population is healthy and can
49 support additional harvest. The Council added that it

50

1 would likely be subsistence communities that would take
2 advantage of the additional harvest anyway that were in
3 proximity.

4
5 The Western Interior Council met before
6 the Bristol Bay and so we didn't have their input on
7 this proposal.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. So
12 we've heard from both Chairs now. Yes, okay.

13
14 So then we'll move on to Tribal, Alaska
15 Native Corp comments.

16
17 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
18 members. During the consultation of September 14th
19 there was no discussion on WP18-22.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 We'll move on to Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

25
26 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
27 Board. The Department supports the proposal.

28
29 We do intend to manage that hunt area
30 in mind with the upper limit of the caribou population
31 objective 900. We'd prefer just a complete rescinding
32 of that and allowing the managers to work with local
33 communities to adjust that as needed going forward in
34 the future which is what's been done in the past. We
35 don't think it needs to be formalized in regulation.
36 But we do support opening it up. It'll provide
37 additional opportunity, not just to these seven
38 communities but also the other communities in Bristol
39 Bay as well as other resource users.

40
41 The population was introduced by the
42 State in the '80s. It's exceeded the objectives and it
43 has a history of crashing if it isn't reduced to within
44 the objective range so we think it's prudent to allow
45 the additional opportunity.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

1 InterAgency -- oh, go ahead.

2

3 MS. WORKER: Sorry, Mr. Chair. I think
4 we missed a member of the public who would like to
5 speak on this proposal.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Well, we
8 might as well hear it now.

9

10 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
11 and members of the Board. I'm actually speaking on --
12 my name is Gayla Hoseth for the record and I'm the
13 Second Chief of Curyung Tribal Council. I'm located in
14 Dillingham and I've testified in front of you guys a
15 couple of days ago regarding this. And is this part of
16 the record or do I need to go, what I testified two
17 days ago, because when the tribal consultations, our
18 tribe was opposed to 18-22 and I just want to make that
19 clear.

20

21 Do I need to restate what I stated two
22 days ago?

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, you're on
25 the record now so if you want to put it on the public
26 record.....

27

28 MS. HOSETH: Okay. I was just
29 wondering because we're during the tribal consultation
30 portion what you called on, I mean we did oppose this
31 proposal and I just want to make sure that that's clear
32 for the tribal consultation reference.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

35

36 MS. HOSETH: Okay. I just wanted to
37 add in additional information. And I hope that you
38 guys could remember that our tribe was opposed to this
39 proposal.

40

41 And I was just curious as to what is
42 the population as of today because 93 were reported
43 with the harvest tickets so far and they're still
44 collecting the data. When we had our planning
45 committee, like -- and I want to emphasize that this
46 needs to be a co-management so that we have an equal
47 vote on this when decisions are being made for our
48 people. We have the seven tribal seats that were
49 seated around the table and we were requesting a bag

50

1 limit of four or five. In the regulations it says that
2 we have a bag limit of up to five but we -- but a bag
3 limit of three was given to us. So our voices aren't
4 being heard and we are the primary hunters, the seven
5 communities in that area.

6
7 And I just wanted to make -- just come
8 on the record and make sure that my comments were a
9 part of the decision that you guys are going to be
10 making today because this is a food source for the
11 seven villages that live in this area and there already
12 are mechanisms in place to expand to C&T and also the
13 State could open up for a State hunt.

14
15 So I just wanted to make sure that we
16 protect this for our area and our tribe is in
17 opposition to this proposal.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
20 your comments.

21
22 Any other public, since I opened the
23 floor.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: InterAgency
28 Staff Committee.

29
30 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
31 Members of the Board. The InterAgency Staff Committee
32 provided the standard comment for WP18-22.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Board discussion and Council Chair, State liaison.

36
37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I just had a
41 question. There was a question about the population,
42 current population of that herd.

43
44 MS. WORKER: I can try to take that
45 question, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

48
49 MS. WORKER: The best I can do on a
50

1 population estimate is -- so this herd is surveyed
2 annually, which is somewhat unusual for a wildlife
3 population and we have a really good record of harvest
4 because it requires a Federal registration permit and I
5 know the biologists out there do a lot of outreach to
6 make sure that those harvests are recorded.

7
8 So a rough estimate of the population
9 size would be what it was when we did the last survey
10 minus harvest. Of course there's going to be some slop
11 in that. I know the Refuge biologists are watching the
12 harvest and they're cognizant of this, you know, we're
13 sort of at an awkward place in this population because
14 it's still above the upper limit of the population
15 objective, but it seems to be on a downward trend now
16 and soon the amount of harvest that's going to be
17 available, it might be changing in the next several
18 years and a lot of that depends on how much people are
19 able to get out and harvest. So it's been highly
20 variable over the years due to weather conditions.

21
22 So I understand Gayla's concern that
23 this population is kind of right in that area where,
24 you know, the closure is maybe a little bit, not as
25 straightforward as it was two years ago when we first
26 started talking about that.

27
28 So that's the best I can do on a
29 population estimate.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is that in our
32 book somewhere because I still didn't get a number.

33
34 MS. WORKER: So the last estimate in
35 2017 was 968 caribou. The range is 750 to 1,186.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
38 that's what I was looking for.

39
40 Any other Board discussion or
41 questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Board action.

46
47 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman.

48
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

2

3 MR. SIEKANIEC: Greg Siekaniec, U.S.
4 Fish and Wildlife Service.

5

6 I would like to move to adopt Proposal
7 WP18-22 with the modification recommended by the
8 Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council on Page 868. If
9 the motion is seconded, I will provide my justification
10 for this.

11

12

13 MR. C. BROWER: Second. Brower.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The new
16 regulation would read as shown on Page 856 with the
17 following language added:

18

19 Federal public lands are closed to
20 harvest of caribou except by Federally-qualified
21 subsistence users unless the population estimate
22 exceeds 900 caribou.

23

24 The Bristol Bay Council concerns for
25 potential over-grazing or overharvest of caribou are
26 both addressed by this modification. Allowing other
27 users to harvest when the estimated number of caribou
28 exceeds the conservation population objective of 900
29 will help to keep the herd within carrying capacity.
30 However, during times when the population does not
31 exceed 900 harvest opportunity would be restricted in
32 order to provide additional subsistence priority.
33 Adopting this modified proposal provides certainty for
34 all hunters as to when harvest may be allowed and
35 provides flexibility to respond to increasing or
36 decreasing caribou populations without the need for
37 submission of special actions to the Board. Rescinding
38 the closure when the population is above 900 offers the
39 best potential to increase harvest and reduce the
40 population size and is consistent with the Board's
41 closure policy.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
46 further discussion. Deliberation.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the

1 question.

2

3

MR. FROST: Question.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been called. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

7

8

9

IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same sign.

13

14

(No opposing votes)

15

16

17

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries. Oh, I'm forgetting a process here of reading into the record the motion but I guess Greg did that. All right, yeah, so, unanimous.

18

19

20

21

Thank you.

22

23

23.

24

25

26

MS. LAVINE: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. Members of the Board. And participants in the audience. My name is Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management and I'll be presenting the proposal 18-23.

27

28

29

30

31

The proposal, 18-23 was submitted by Gayla Hoseth of Dillingham and it requests that residents of Units 9C and 9E be added to the customary and traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 17 remainder, specifically the geographic boundaries that encompass the primary range of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd.

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

The Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd has experienced significant growth in the past decade and has been above optimal population size for several years, as you've just heard. The proponent states that residents of Units 9C and 9E have demonstrated patterns of use relevant to the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd during Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council meetings and that adding them to the customary and traditional use determination for caribou on the Nushagak Peninsula will provide increased opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users to harvest caribou in times

40

41

42

43

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50

1 of abundance.

2
3 During the fall 2015 Council meeting in
4 Dillingham, while addressing Wildlife Proposal 16-31/32
5 on allowing sameday airborne hunting of the herd,
6 Council members discussed other means of increasing
7 harvest of the herd and controlling the booming
8 population, specifically members expressed interest in
9 expanding the C&T for caribou in Unit 17 in order to
10 liberalize harvest opportunities for a larger pool of
11 Federally-qualified subsistence users, rather than
12 opening the hunt to all users. Discussions during the
13 2015 meeting centered around inclusion of both Unit 9
14 residents and East Bay villages. It should be noted
15 that population numbers can never be a reason to grant
16 or deny a customary and traditional use determination.
17 C&T determinations recognize use and are not meant to
18 regulate a resource.

19
20 Also pertinent to this proposal is
21 Wildlife Proposal 18-22, which you just heard and have
22 moved on.

23
24 So I'm going to move forward with a
25 customary and traditional use determination analysis
26 summary and we start with community characteristics.

27
28 There are 12 communities within Units
29 9C and 9E, King Salmon, Naknek and south Naknek in Unit
30 9C and Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden,
31 Chignik, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Perryville and
32 Ivanof Bay in Units 9E. The population of the 12
33 communities considered in this analysis totals
34 approximately 1,650 persons.

35
36 So when conducting a customary and
37 traditional use determination analysis eight factors
38 are considered. You can find them listed in your
39 analysis on Page 885. Please keep in mind, again, that
40 these factors are not a checklist. So the Board makes
41 customary and traditional use determinations based on a
42 holistic application of these eight factors as well as
43 the reports and recommendations of any appropriate
44 Regional Advisory Council. The Board makes customary
45 and traditional use determinations for the sole purpose
46 of recognizing the pool of users who generally exhibit
47 the eight factors and not for resource management or
48 for restricting harvest. If a conservation concern
49 exists the Board addresses that concern through harvest
50

1 limits, season restrictions or the Section .804
2 subsistence user prioritization process, not customary
3 and traditional use determinations.
4

5 Residents of Unit 9C already have a
6 customary and traditional use determination for caribou
7 in their units 9A, 9B, 9C and 9E and residents of Unit
8 9E have a customary and traditional use determination
9 for caribou in Unit 9E. Therefore a long-term and
10 consistent pattern of use of caribou, including methods
11 of harvest, handling, preparing, preserving and storage
12 and the sharing of knowledge and resources between
13 generations and communities has already been
14 recognized. And they address many of the eight
15 factors.
16

17 So this analysis will demonstrate use
18 and harvest of caribou in Unit 17 by residents of Units
19 9C and 9E in addition to harvest patterns that
20 demonstrate a history and interest in traveling outside
21 their immediate community for the purpose of hunting
22 caribou. Additional ties to the Nushagak Peninsula
23 Caribou Herd will also be explored.
24

25 So long-term and consistent pattern of
26 using caribou. Archeological surveys and historic
27 accounts document the primacy of the ocean and feeding
28 the people of the Alaska Peninsula but they also
29 describe the importance of caribou, particularly for
30 those communities on the Western Bristol Bay portion of
31 the Peninsula. Comprehensive subsistence surveys
32 documented by ADF&G, the Division of Subsistence,
33 document the continued use of caribou by residents of
34 9C and 9E but note that harvest was higher in the past
35 compared to recent times, most likely due to the
36 population decline and changing migration patterns of
37 the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and prohibitions against the
38 harvest of the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd
39 for health and recovery reasons. Regardless, harvest
40 of caribou over the study years remain high averaging
41 around 263 pounds per household in the 84 studies and
42 in other communities during different study years, even
43 higher. Almost all households in each study year used
44 caribou.
45

46 Residents of Units 9C and 9E have
47 harvested caribou in Unit 17 for as long as reports
48 have been kept. Currently they may only harvest
49 caribou in Unit 17 under State regulations. More
50

1 recently all State residents, including those in Units
2 9C and E were able to harvest Nushagak Peninsula
3 caribou on Federal public lands due to Board approval
4 of the Special Action 16-02.

5

6

7

8 ADF&G and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service maintain a harvest reporting database, however,
10 complete records were not kept until the mid-1980s and
11 ADF&G data has not been added to the U.S. Fish and
12 Wildlife Service data since 2010. Regardless, some
13 indication of harvest patterns can be discerned.

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The table in the analysis, Table 1,
demonstrates the cumulative harvest of caribou under
State regulations by Unit 17 -- in Unit 17 by
residents of Units 9C and 9E. From 1983 to 2010
harvest surveys conducted by ADF&G demonstrate the
caribou harvest and search areas of Units 9 residents
consistently include portions of Unit 17.

While prehistorically and through the
early 1900s residents of Northern Alaska Peninsula
typically hunted and harvested resources close to home,
by the latter half of the 20th Century, the use of
aircraft was becoming a prevalent form of local
transportation for some expanding the range for harvest
opportunities. The importance of this method for
caribou hunting specifically was recorded in an ADF&G
technical paper on the subsistence harvest of residents
of the Northern Alaska Peninsula. In the description
of use of caribou by residents of the Bristol Bay
Borough the following was noted; the regulation change
which created the most controversy and perhaps the
biggest change in local hunting patterns was the
elimination of same day airborne hunting. For the
previous three years same day airborne hunting had been
allowed for caribou from January through March. So
they have also documented, Fall and Morris, the use of
aircraft by residents of Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port
Heiden to access caribou in '86 and '87. Early in the
season hunters would access the herd along water ways
by skiff, use ATVs when the ground hardened and then as
the season progressed the herd migrated further north
and hunters would use airplanes. So basically
documenting a use of traveling far and outside of their
communities to access not only caribou but other
resources.

1 A final note, while residents of Units
2 9C and 9E can only hunt caribou in Unit 9, residents of
3 Unit 17 have a customary and traditional use
4 determination for caribou in Units 9C and E. And this
5 demonstrates a regional pattern easily extended to
6 residents of Unit 9 of caribou harvest that ranges far
7 by necessity as migration patterns change and
8 populations fluctuate.
9

10 In summary, residents of Units 9C and
11 9E have a pattern of customary and traditional use of
12 caribou in their region as well as a documented history
13 of caribou harvest in Unit 17.
14

15 The Bristol Bay Regional Advisory
16 Council has expressed support for the inclusion of Unit
17 9 residents into the customary and traditional use
18 determination for caribou in Unit 17, specifically as a
19 means to provide access to the Nushagak Peninsula
20 Caribou Herd. Residents of Unit 9C and 9E have a
21 demonstrated pattern of using caribou and that use
22 extends beyond their specific units. In the past use
23 of a resource often required traveling beyond close
24 proximity to home villages. Residents of Units 9C and
25 9E have a demonstrated pattern of traveling farther,
26 particularly by airplane, to access their local herds
27 and those herds that range into their region. Herds
28 that they have accessed in the past through
29 contemporary times include the Northern Alaska
30 Peninsula Caribou Herd, the Southern Alaska Peninsula
31 Caribou Herd and the Mulchatna Caribou Herd -- or the
32 Mulchatna Herd. Residents of Unit 17 have a customary
33 and traditional use determination for caribou in Units
34 9C and 9E demonstrating a regional pattern easily
35 extended to residents of Unit 9.
36

37 Finally, residents of Unit 9 have a
38 unique connection to the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou
39 Herd that is recognized by the Council and area
40 residents specifically because the herd was
41 reintroduced to the Peninsula by transferring
42 individual animals from the Northern Alaska Peninsula
43 Caribou Herd within the Units 9C and 9E.
44

45 The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
46 support Wildlife Proposal 18-23 with modification to
47 add residents of Units 9C and 9E to the customary and
48 traditional use determination for caribou in Unit 17
49 remainder. This modification reflects that customary
50

1 and traditional use determinations are not meant to
2 regulate use, but, instead, are meant to recognize
3 subsistence uses in the most inclusive manner possible.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
8 the in-depth analysis.

9
10 Questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Summary of
15 public comment.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. There were no
18 written public comments received on this proposal.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alrighty.
23 We'll open the floor to the public and we have --
24 Dillingham.

25
26 MS. HOSETH: Hello, again, Mr. Chairman
27 and Members of the Board. Gayla Hoseth, the Second
28 Chief of Curyung Tribal Council.

29
30 First of all I just wanted -- I'm
31 figuring out this process and I thought that our tribal
32 consultation that we had with you was going to be part
33 of the record of what you guys are talking about here
34 and I was told that I need to reread it on the record,
35 of our position, so I will reread it into the record of
36 our position.

37
38 Curyung Tribal Council's -- first of
39 all to make it clear on the record that I did not
40 submit this proposal. This proposal is a Bristol Bay
41 Regional Advisory Council proposal and when it was
42 written my name -- I was a part of the process of
43 writing this proposal, it is in the transcripts that
44 the RAC was going to submit this proposal. So I just
45 wanted to make that clear and put credit to where
46 credit needs to go.

47
48 So as far as Curyung Tribal Council, we
49 are in support of WP18-23 to include 9C and 9E for the
50

1 customary -- in the C&T for the Nushagak Peninsula
2 Caribou Herd. This is where the caribou came from,
3 from these Game Management Unit areas and they should
4 be included in the C&T so that all of the Bristol Bay
5 region will have access to the caribou when we expand
6 to the C&T communities.

7

8 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Gayla.

12

13 Any other public testimony.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: On the phone.

18

19 OPERATOR: Star-one. One moment we do
20 have a participant cuing.

21

22 (Pause)

23

24 OPERATOR: Dan Dunaway your line is
25 open.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Thank you,
28 Mr. Chair. I want to thank Robbin LaVine for a very
29 thorough and extensive discussion. She hit all the
30 points I could think of. I did want to reiterate that
31 it was very common at one time for people on Unit 17 to
32 fly over into 9E to harvest caribou when the Mulchatna
33 Herd was low. And then as this Nushagak herd got
34 large, several of the representatives of the RAC from
35 the 9E, 9C area expressed strong interest in being able
36 to have a reciprocal opportunity, given that they
37 provided the breed stock.

38

39 And one nice thing about being on this
40 RAC is, overall, we get along really well and try to
41 share as much as possible. So we are strongly in
42 support of this proposal as modified by OSM.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
47 Appreciate your comments.

48

49 Any additional public comment.

50

1 OPERATOR: Next we have Courtenay
2 Carty, your line is open.
3

4 MS. CARTY: Thank you so much, good
5 morning -- or good afternoon, rather, Mr. Chair.
6 Courtenay Carty, Curyung Tribal Council for the record.
7

8 Just appreciate the opportunity to
9 participate telephonically and would like to reiterate
10 our tribe's support of Proposal WP18-23 for extending
11 the customary and traditional use determination for
12 Nushagak Peninsula caribou for residents of eastern
13 Bristol Bay.
14

15 Thanks so much.
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
18 Courtenay.
19

20 Any additional public comment.
21

22 OPERATOR: No, there are no additional
23 participants in the cue.
24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
26 Regional Advisory Council Chairs -- is the Bristol Bay
27 still on the line -- okay.
28

29 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Western
30 Interior.
31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.
33

34 MR. REAKOFF: It's a crossover
35 proposal. Western Interior Regional Advisory Council
36 supported WP18-23. The Council justified the support
37 for the proposal noting that the caribou population is
38 healthy and can support additional harvest.
39

40 The Council added that it would likely
41 be subsistence communities that would take advantage of
42 the additional harvest closest in proximity but some
43 users coming from outside of the immediate area.
44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 I'll call on Bristol Bay one more time.
49
50

1 OPERATOR: Next, Dan Dunaway, your line
2 is open.

3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. It took me a
5 moment to tie back in. Yes, sir, you have a question?

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, we were
8 just getting Regional Advisory Council recommendations
9 and we were calling on Bristol Bay.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. This is Dan Dunaway
12 from the Bristol Bay RAC and I spoke a few minutes ago
13 saying we supported.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
16 that. And so having heard from both Regional Council
17 Chairs we'll move on to the tribal organization, Native
18 Corp.

19
20 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Board
21 members. During the consultation session on September
22 14th there is no further discussion on WP18-23.

23
24 Thank you, Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

28
29 MS. OLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Lisa
30 Olson with Division of Subsistence, Fish and Game. The
31 State's comments begin on Page 892 of your Board
32 workbook there.

33
34 We agree that was a thorough and
35 appropriate OSM analysis and the State is neutral on
36 eligibility requirements for participation in the
37 Program provided by ANILCA. There are no conservation
38 concerns associated with this proposal. Increased
39 harvest may tend to keep the Nushagak herd from growing
40 beyond the ability of the habitat to support the
41 population.

42
43 Mr. Chair.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46 ISC.

47
48 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
49 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
50

1 comment on WP18-23.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

6

Board discussion with Council Chairs and State liaison.

7

8

9

(No comments)

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,

12

we'll move for Federal Board action.

13

14

Go ahead, Greg.

15

16

MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman. Greg

17

Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

18

19

I move to adopt Proposal WP18-23 with
the modification recommended by OSM and supported by
the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council. That
modification can be found on Page 889 of the meeting
book. If seconded, I will provide justification.

24

25

MS. PITKA: Seconded by Rhonda Pitka.

26

27

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Rhonda.

28

29

Residents of Unit 9C and 9E have a
pattern of customary and traditional use of caribou in
their region as well as a documented history of caribou
harvest in Unit 17 as demonstrated by the OSM analysis.
The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
has expressed support for the inclusion of Unit 9
residents into the customary and traditional use
determination for caribou in Unit 17, specifically as a
means to provide access to the Nushagak Peninsula
Caribou Herd. Residents of Unit 9C and 9E have a
demonstrated pattern of using caribou and that use
extends beyond their specific home units.

41

42

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any

45

further discussion.

46

47

(No comments)

48

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Deliberation.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
4 I'll call for the question.

5

6 MR. FROST: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
9 called. Before I take the vote I will have Tom read
10 into the record one more time the motion so that we can
11 get it clearly stated on the record.

12

13 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yep, that's my
14 instructions.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: So on WP18-23, the
19 motion on the floor is adopt Proposal WP18-23 as
20 modified by the Office of Subsistence Management, that
21 modification can be found on Page 889 of the meeting
22 book.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All those in
25 favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
30 sign.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
35 unanimously. That'll be the process here forward
36 Staff.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We did four in
41 one hour so if we keep that up we might get done
42 tomorrow night at 8:30.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: WP18-24,
47 analysis.

48

49 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 Members of the Board. And public audience and public,
2 all in attendance. Once again for the record my name
3 is Robbin LaVine and I will be presenting Wildlife
4 Proposal 18-24, which was on the consensus agenda. You
5 can find it in your Council books beginning on Page
6 259.

7
8 18-24 was submitted by Kenneth Nukwak
9 of Manokotak and he requests that Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users be allowed to use a snowmachine to
11 position caribou, wolves and wolverine for harvest in
12 Unit 17 provided the animals are not shot from a moving
13 vehicle.

14
15 ANILCA provides for the appropriate use
16 of snowmachines, motorboats and other means of service
17 transportation on Federal lands for subsistence
18 purposes, however, some agency-specific regulations are
19 prohibitory. The proponent states that the requested
20 regulatory change is needed to prevent hunters from
21 shooting into a herd of animals and to provide better
22 guidelines for hunters for this method of harvest.

23
24 The regulatory history for snowmachine
25 use in Alaska extends from 1995 through to the last
26 regulatory cycle and the last wildlife regulatory cycle
27 Proposal 16-48 was submitted by the Native Village of
28 Kotzebue and that proposal requested that Federally-
29 qualified subsistence users be allowed to use
30 snowmachines to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine
31 for the harvest in Unit 23. The Board adopted that
32 proposal with modification to allow this method of
33 harvest only on those lands managed by the BLM. The
34 Board recognized use of snowmachines to position
35 animals as customary and traditional practice, however,
36 positioning animals by snowmachine is prohibited on
37 National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service lands under agency-specific regulations.

39
40 BLM regulatory language does not
41 specifically prohibit the use of snowmachines to
42 position animals for hunting and the harvest method is
43 allowed on State managed lands.

44
45 So the cultural knowledge and
46 traditional practice, the use of snowmachines across
47 the state is described in your analysis as well as, not
48 just in the analysis but in the past presentations and
49 the biological health and history of the animals in

50

1 Unit 17. So I won't go into that here.

2
3 If adopted, Wildlife Proposal 18-24
4 would allow hunters to use a snowmachine to position
5 caribou, wolves and wolverine for selection and harvest
6 as long as they are not shot from a moving snowmachine.
7 This proposal would address the need for Federally-
8 qualified subsistence users to be able to use the most
9 efficient and effective methods for taking wild
10 resources important to their livelihood. The proposed
11 regulation is not expected to result in significant
12 population changes for caribou, wolves or wolverines as
13 snowmachines are already extensively utilized in Unit
14 17 to access hunting grounds and traplines and harvest
15 numbers will continue to be managed by seasons and
16 limits within regulation.

17
18 However, adopting this Federal
19 regulatory change would emphasize the difference
20 between ANILCA, Section .811 and agency specific
21 regulations on Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service lands.

23
24 The biological effects of winter
25 hunting with snowmachines on caribou, wolves and
26 wolverine in Unit 17 are largely unknown. If this
27 proposal were adopted any biological effects that may
28 occur in these species related to traditional winter
29 hunting practices are anticipated to remain mostly
30 unchanged as snowmachine are already extensively
31 utilized in this manner in order to bring hunters
32 within close proximity to the animals they harvest.

33
34 The proposed regulatory changes would
35 ensure that Federally-qualified subsistence users are
36 provided the opportunity to use snowmachines as an
37 efficient and effective means to harvest caribou,
38 wolves and wolverines during winter months. The
39 proposed changes would have little to no effect on
40 current hunting behavior and any changes in the
41 population status are anticipated to continue to be
42 addressed, again, through seasons and bag limits.

43
44 The OSM conclusion is to support
45 Wildlife Proposal 18-24.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

50

1 Questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Summary of
public comment.

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MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
You'll find your comments beginning on Page 278 and 279
in your meeting materials, also in your supplemental
materials, Supplemental Section Page 7-29.

13

14

15

Sharon Alden wrote in opposition to
WP18-24 opposing it in the strongest possible terms.

16

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Francis Mauer opposes 18-24 stating the
proposal will open the door to harassing of wildlife by
snowmachines and violates the basic premise of hunting.

20

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26

The Lake Clark National Park commented
on this proposal and they discussed the proposal and
decided not to comment since the use of snowmachine is
already allowed for access to hunting grounds within
Lake Clark National Park, though, not for the
positioning of game.

27

28

29

That concludes the written public
comments.

30

31

32

33

34

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
With that we open the floor to the public.

35

36

37

38

MR. NUKWAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
Members of the Board. My name is Kenneth Nukwak. I am
the proposer of this WP18-24.

39

40

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46

The reason being is we, as hunters from
Manokotak, even other communities within that region,
we try to follow the laws that are set but, we,
ourselves, have unwritten laws that has been ingrained
in us from childhood. I come to you guys in a friendly
manner. I could have gone to other sources but I chose
this one first, after long thought over.

47

48

49

50

So where it came from, I forgot how
many years ago, I got cited for following the caribou
and my passenger was my wife and my 14 or 15 year old

1 son, at that time, was on another snowmachine and a
2 Federal wildlife trooper, two of them were behind me, I
3 didn't know that until I stopped maybe the second or
4 third time. So I was following the caribou and not
5 trying to scare them off or anything, but the caribou
6 are always running off as soon as they see a
7 snowmachine, they see us as predators already, they
8 know what -- that's within their nature in the Nushagak
9 Peninsula or within the whole state for that matter,
10 that's their intrinsic nature, to run off, as soon as
11 they see you within a mile, half a mile to a mile away,
12 a mile and a half, they see you on a sunny day, the
13 leaders of the herd of caribou are already looking at
14 your direction. If you look with your binoculars
15 they're already looking at you and the first thing they
16 do, never fails, they're running off to the south, only
17 place where they're running to. And where I'm from
18 it's open country, not -- within that Nushagak
19 Peninsula area, it's open country. And if it's not
20 open country there's hills with pike like trees, we
21 call them, (In Native Language), they're pike like
22 trees and there's red brush (In Native Language), in
23 the red brushes, where the ptarmigans feed. So that's
24 the kind of topography where we are hunting the caribou
25 and the only thing they're seeing is -- first thing is,
26 oh, my goodness, there's going to be -- man there's
27 company, the leaders go and tell his herd and here's
28 company and they're off.

29

30 So that's where the proposal came from.

31

32 At first I didn't know where to go to
33 when I got cited that day. And it was \$500 just for
34 following the caribou trying to put meat on the table.

35

36 And on top of that I was told that the
37 meat would be taken away from me at that spot as I --
38 if I had gotten caribou, and a good thing I was a
39 terrible shot then.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. NUKWAK: According to that report,
44 I was sent from the Federal wildlife trooper that made
45 the report, it stated in there that I am -- Kenneth
46 shot and he missed. I'm a terrible shot, I can't even
47 hit a moose from here to that sign right there, that
48 screen right there without using a scope. I'm in my
49 '50s now and I got to use reading glasses to read.

50

1 I just want to hunt freely and try to
2 follow the laws that are placed in there except that
3 law, if they -- if that law is not written according to
4 the standards of how we hunt, what I was taught from my
5 father and my grandfather and my great-grandfather, and
6 my great-great-grandfather taught that down to the
7 generation, I'm that generation, and now I'm teaching
8 it down to my generation.
9

10 If these laws are written according to
11 our standards then I wouldn't be here.
12

13 And I didn't know there was a CFR 36
14 written in there. According to the herding, harassing
15 and hazing is not allowed, that goes against my way of
16 hunting. We try not to harass. We don't try to haze.
17 We're just trying to put meat on the table. If you
18 guys understand -- if you were in my shoes you'd do the
19 same thing without trying to break the law, but the law
20 states that I can't do that. And a devoted agent will
21 follow you and he will cite you if you do that. So we
22 need to find a way to write it down according to the
23 standards of the Native way of hunting, which has been
24 practiced for thousands of years. The only difference
25 is years ago there wasn't technology, there was no
26 snowmachines. They were using dogs, dog teams to go
27 out hunting. And if they had to, with their spears
28 they'd go on foot and herd a specific animal, they will
29 pick out an animal that is weak that will fall behind
30 like the wolves do. A group of wolves hunt and once
31 the -- once the weakest starts falling behind then they
32 get that through the study. I've been paying attention
33 to. The study I've been learning from -- the
34 technology and from experience.
35

36 So I'm asking for you guys to kindly
37 please help me out, help you, and I want your help,
38 too, at the same time.
39

40 I think that's about it.
41

42 I'm glad I don't have a timer right
43 here waiting for it to buzz off.
44

45 (Laughter)
46

47 MR. NUKWAK: That's what I had to do in
48 the State Board of Game testimony. And the State had
49 passed this one with wording is in there where you can
50

1 get the wording from Gayla Hoseth, I think she's got
2 the wordings that Larry Van Dale had put in, I think,
3 or recommended.

4
5 If we don't change this -- if we don't
6 accept this law into place, there were more people from
7 Manokotak asking for help. Since I am probably the
8 first one from Manokotak to be here in front of you
9 asking for a law change, if that does not happen, they
10 will be cited and they will probably come to me and
11 I'll probably be sitting in front of you again. This
12 is my first time sitting in front of the Federal
13 Subsistence Board, and thank god I'm not afraid to sit
14 in front of you guys.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 MR. NUKWAK: It's like I'm sitting in
19 front of a group of friends, where we are just in
20 disagreement over how I hunt, where we can modify that
21 in a friendly manner. In a Native way we'll turn on
22 the steam house and invite you at 8:00 o'clock in the
23 evening and go to steam house and if you don't agree
24 I'll set up the temperature to 300 degrees.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. NUKWAK: Do you guys agree.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 MR. NUKWAK: That's about it, I'll stop
33 here. Because we've have a very long day. I'm pretty
34 sure you guys have a very long day too.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
37 your testimony.

38
39 MR. NUKWAK: Yes, sir.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
42 taking the time to come here and speak for a hunting
43 method that's been utilized for years.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. NUKWAK: Thank you, sir.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions

50

1 for him.

2

3

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other public we have here on -- Gayla, you're up next. We're going through the list, did you put in a white card as well, okay, we'll get to you.

MS. HOSETH: Hello, again, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. I didn't think I'd be coming up here this many times during this meeting but for the record Gayla Hoseth, Second Chief of Curyung Tribal Council.

I just wanted to put in the record kind of my testimony, what I gave during our tribal consultation and got more clarification on that process from when I spoke earlier.

Just to give you guys another idea, just as a location of where we're at. Bristol Bay is located in Southwest Alaska, we're about 300 miles away from Anchorage, southwest of here. And Kenneth, where Kenneth lives, he's about 60 miles away -- yeah, about 20, 30 -- very close proximity to Dillingham, it's a 10 minute plane ride. And the terrain where all these caribou are, it's very, very flat there and when we had the Board of Game out there Hazel said, you know, if you'd see a dog out there running, you could see your dog run for a long way so it's not like we have a lot of trees and stuff in our -- in the way.

The Curyung Tribal Council is in support of WP18-24 to position caribou, wolf and wolverine with a snowmachine submitted by Kenneth Nukwak and I am glad that he was able to come here and share his story with you here today.

Our tribe supports this proposal as it was written to have our traditional ways of hunting taught by our ancestors recognized in this regulatory system world that we live in now. Our people have always hunted in this manner, to position caribou and technology has replaced our feet with snowmachines. This method of hunting to position is the same and that was taught by our elders.

This was very controversial, like I

1 stated in our tribal consultation session that we had.
2 It was a very controversial topic when we were in
3 Dillingham at our AC meetings, and also during the
4 Board of Game, Board of Game member Larry Van Dale
5 conducted a town hall meeting with a lot of the local
6 hunters in the area and got clearer clarification.
7 That really helped in clarifying this proposal and I
8 would defer to Lem to give you guys the language and
9 actually what took place at the Board of Game for the
10 State side. And I believe Frank Woods is going to be
11 calling in on the phone, he's one of our tribal chiefs
12 as well and he very much participated in this
13 discussion.

14

15 Frank, are you on the phone.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'll call on
20 him.

21

22 MS. HOSETH: Okay. So we have that and
23 hopefully I could also send him a message and maybe get
24 him to call in, he's getting ready for herring fishing.

25

26 But I just wanted to put it on the
27 record, our tribe is in support of this and just to let
28 you know that Dillingham is the primary hub of the
29 Bristol Bay region and our tribal council has the
30 largest tribal members of the region, and so we
31 represent a lot of people in the area.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
36 Gayla.

37

38 Christopher.

39

40 MR. MAINES: Thank you. Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Board of Game. My name is Christopher
42 Maines. I'm a resident of the Dillingham area. Much
43 like Gayla said, we're over 350 air miles southwest of
44 here.

45

46 And we live in a dual management area
47 and that causes a little complication here and there
48 and it brings to mind something that I used to think
49 about in regards to deer down in the Lower 48. A long
50

1 period of time ago, well, not so long ago, but just
2 about 10 years ago, I heard of this interesting
3 phenomena that was happening where white-tailed deer
4 were crossing the Mississippi, breeding with mule deer
5 and creating hybrid animals. And so met with a
6 predator, a white-tailed deer runs away, a mule deer
7 just stands still and stands its ground. These hybrid
8 animals, they don't know what to do, they trip all over
9 themselves and they fall down. That's kind of what
10 it's like for us living in a dual management area where
11 we are subject to not only Federal regulations but also
12 State regulations and it's hard to tell sometimes where
13 you are, what you need to because you're going against
14 a lot of your natural instincts and the practices that
15 your elders and fathers have taught you over the years
16 to, you know, use when hunting.

17
18 Now, as stated earlier, in Section .801
19 of ANILCA it allows us the continued opportunity to use
20 our subsistence activities for rural residents on
21 public lands and also have a meaningful role in its
22 management. But in the book, Alaska Subsistence and
23 NPS Management History by Frank Norris written in 2002
24 for the Department of Interior, he states that the FSB
25 regulations were copied directly from the sports
26 hunting regulations. With the caribou being
27 reintroduced to that Peninsula in '88 as a primary food
28 source for those seven eligible communities, this food
29 source was introduced before those regulations were put
30 in place formally in 1992, so now we're using a
31 subsistence food source and now they're being put under
32 sports hunting regulations, it just doesn't seem to
33 blend well together. And I know there isn't a great
34 way to bridge the gap on all regulations but with the
35 Board of Game passing this very same issue with
36 modifications, I think this is an opportunity for the
37 Federal Subsistence Board to reflect those same changes
38 and make it easier on the residents down there.

39
40 So currently Section .811 of ANILCA
41 permits the use of snowmobiles on public lands for
42 subsistence purposes, subject to reasonable
43 regulations. But later on in CFR 36.12(d) it does not
44 allow snowmobiles to be used in a fashion that involves
45 the herding, harassing, hazing or driving of wildlife
46 for hunting or other purposes. It doesn't directly
47 reflect subsistence use, it just says other purposes, I
48 find this to be a little confusing.

49
50

1 As stated earlier, it's a very flat
2 area where these caribou live. If any of you are
3 familiar with the area and if those of you who aren't
4 familiar with the area, just look at the Bonneville
5 Salt Flats in Utah to give a good visual image of what
6 these hunters are dealing with. It's serious, they
7 literally see you miles away.

8
9 So these traditional tactics that our
10 people have been using for generations, as Kenneth
11 mentioned earlier, were derived from how wolves
12 traditionally hunt animals like caribou on open plains.
13 The faster females, they get away from the pack, they
14 direct the other animals into the rest of the wolves so
15 they could take it down. And so our people seeing this
16 method, found it to be very practical and the best
17 course of action to get what you need.

18
19 And as mentioned just a moment ago,
20 Larry Van Dale, at the Board of Game, just two months
21 ago proposed some optional language that is now going
22 to be legal on State lands, and I think that the Board
23 of Game, again, can use similar language in case they
24 want to modify this proposal.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
29 that. Any questions.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing
34 none, thank you for your testimony, appreciate it.

35
36 We'll move on to Speedy Sam. Are you
37 in the house. Andala, andala, 'eehaw.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MR. SAM: Good afternoon. Thank you,
42 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Board.

43
44 I'd like to thank the other people that
45 gave their testimony. For the record, my name is
46 Speedy Sam, I'm Second Chief of the village of Huslia.
47 It's a small village of 360 people that lives on the
48 Koyukuk River. We live a very strong subsistence
49 lifestyle, we live a strong Native culture of beliefs
50

1 that we believe in that what our grandparents and our
2 parents taught us, how to hunt, how to trap and how to
3 fish. Because if we don't -- when my parents were
4 teaching me at the young age how to provide for a
5 family for one day when I become a father of my kids
6 and a husband and provider, and they've been doing that
7 ever since I was little. And once I caught on, how to
8 respect all that and respect our animals, and that goes
9 a long ways if you want to be a successful provider for
10 your family.

11
12 And today I'd like to help my fellow
13 people that that's how I was brought up, is to help our
14 people to have a successful life on our traditional
15 grounds and how to hunt our animals to provide for our
16 people, and today I support 18-24.

17
18 And if I may state the other support
19 and oppose, because I'm going to be catching a flight
20 pretty soon, if I may do that.

21
22 I'll make it quick.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

25
26 MR. SAM: I also support 18-46. Oppose
27 18-56 and 18-36, 33.

28
29 The one 18-33 if I could really make
30 this fast, is in my area on the Koyukuk River, what I
31 hunted back in the '80s, late '80s and '90s, we had 500
32 hunters that comes up the Koyukuk River to hunt the
33 moose. When I came home from the Marine Corps, I did
34 four years, it changed, I asked my dad what happened,
35 where are all these hunters coming from, and, you know,
36 we talked about it for years, and been fighting it, so
37 in the mid'90s we finally got it down to 250 hunters to
38 come up to the Koyukuk River. We're still fighting
39 that and then in the '2000s we got 100 hunters that
40 come up the Koyukuk River to hunt. And to this day, to
41 this day we probably have about 50 hunters that come up
42 the Koyukuk River now.

43
44 But that was too late.

45
46 We had a big decline in our moose, and
47 to this day we -- a lot of our families that hunted for
48 the fall time to fill to their freezers, you know,
49 they're not able to do that because of the moose count
50

1 was down. The villages above us, Allakaket, Bettles,
2 Hughes, they're way more hurting than Huslia, and
3 that's why I oppose this 33/36 because it's going to
4 decline the moose count if we don't stop this now.
5

6 And I'd just like to thank you guys for
7 hearing my voice and I wish you guys to have a safe
8 trip home.
9

10 Thank you.
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
13 your testimony and safe travels for you today as well.
14

15 Next we have Percy. Percy Loninitz
16 (ph)
17

18 PERCY: Hi. My name is Percy
19 (Indiscernible). Good afternoon.
20

21 I'm a Koyukon Athabascan. I'm from the
22 Interior, that's on the Middle Yukon.
23

24 Mr. Chair. Members of the Board.
25 Staff. I want to thank you for this opportunity to
26 speak. I am humbled and honored.
27

28 Before I came down here I really didn't
29 know what I was getting into. I had been to a Federal
30 Subsistence Board meeting, I would say about 20-plus
31 years ago and when I went and got the training this
32 past week, I heard and I've seen a lot of changes.
33 There has been changes that's been made really didn't,
34 you know, impacted -- I think my main purpose here is
35 to try to see if I can -- you know, I'm not here to fix
36 anything, I'm not here to damage anything. I've been
37 an advocate for a few years and I testified before the
38 Board of Game, before the fish -- the Fish Board,
39 National Pacific Fisheries Council. There's -- you
40 know, this is all due to the fact that there was -- I
41 wouldn't say discrimination, but I think the bottom
42 line was that there was -- it seemed like our way of
43 life was being jeopardized, so back in the days they
44 had to do a lot of different techniques to -- that
45 mechanism they call the State, the Federals, the
46 Northern Pacific Fishery, that mechanism, in order to
47 make a difference to, you know, advocate for my
48 children, I figure I had to step up and do something
49 about it.
50

1 First of all, I want to say to our
2 neighbors over there in the area, the proposal 18-24,
3 we had sat in that room and we listened to a young man
4 and his elder, they tell stories of how it used to be,
5 how it was then and I noticed in the crowd there, that
6 was -- there was always this thing of unwritten law
7 that was brought up throughout the conversation, so,
8 you know, I was thinking that this unwritten law, it'll
9 never go away but we're the only ones that got it. I
10 say that because I know there's a high percentage of
11 you that's sitting out here, you probably wouldn't have
12 any idea what I'm talking about. You may have heard of
13 it but you have to go out there and you have to live
14 it.

15
16 This provision, food security, that's a
17 really high priority. It doesn't matter where you come
18 from. You can come from the Lower 48, from Southeast,
19 up north, it doesn't matter, it's something that we
20 have to work together, compromise, give us that
21 opportunity to sit with you guys and talk about how we
22 live, we can educate you. The door is open. Education
23 is a really big concern. It could be when I was
24 sitting next to the Senator about a week ago we talked
25 about different issues and concerns that we had over
26 the years and I told her, you know, what was my
27 feelings and we started talking about education. I
28 told her, Senator, you know, we have a lot of people
29 out there that has degrees, they weren't educated in
30 the Western way but they have degrees and they were
31 passed on, passed on from generation after generation
32 after generation, I said we have that, it's here. I
33 said you need to sit with me, talk with me, visit with
34 me, you wouldn't be surprised how much you can learn
35 just by sitting there in a day or two.

36
37 So I want to speak a little bit about
38 18-33/36.

39
40 I speak in opposition of this.

41
42 We had talked about it, deliberated,
43 came to consensus and we see that there was a need
44 there. When you have a red flag going up and you see
45 that need, we can't sit there and look at each other
46 and say that we can't do nothing, there's nothing we
47 can do, there's something we can do.

48
49 So we needed to step in and opposition
50

1 of that proposal.

2

3 I want to share a little bit about why
4 my purpose, I believe, for coming down here to
5 Anchorage, taking me away from my home, I have work,
6 just like any one of you but when you see that you're
7 needed somewhere or they ask you or they select you,
8 however, I feel that it's really important.

9

10 Now, we all know that what ANILCA,
11 Title VIII stands for, a section in there that was -- I
12 believe it was .809. When ANILCA came out, it was
13 passed by Congress, there was maybe what we can call
14 today is a promise, and it was to provide for a way of
15 life, for who, I'll leave that at that. I'll let that
16 go for a minute.

17

18 And I want to get into the
19 administrative structure.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Excuse me. Are
22 you traveling out today, I don't mean to interject with
23 you but we're.....

24

25 PERCY: Yeah. I checked with my flight
26 before I came into the room.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, you're
29 going to fly out today then.

30

31 PERCY: I'm going to fly probably not
32 today but it like it might be in the evening.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tomorrow.

35

36 PERCY: No.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Tonight. Oh,
39 okay, I'm just making sure because.....

40

41 PERCY: Yeah, pretty soon.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:I'm just
44 trying to accommodate for people who are leaving today
45 but I also.....

46

47 PERCY: Okay. So if I may, I just want
48 to say.....

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:want to
2 see if there was any specific.....

3
4 PERCY:just a few more words.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. I'm just
7 making sure that I'm accommodating.

8
9 PERCY: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 So anyway I'd like to just put a few
12 things in there like the administrative structure.
13 There's some things that, you know, could work, some
14 things that could not. And if it's working maybe we'll
15 just leave it alone. And I want to say that the equity
16 in funding, the equity in representation, this all
17 falls under ANILCA.

18
19 And last but not least, I want to
20 mention the sins of imbalance. I'm not here to pick
21 fights or point fingers, I'm just stating my concerns.
22 So like any other Board, whether it be State, Feds, you
23 name it, I hold you guys accountable and I ask that you
24 look into this concern.

25
26 That was it, thank you, Mr. Chair, for
27 your time, Board members.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you very
30 much for your powerful testimony, appreciate it.

31
32 PERCY: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I hope you
35 have safe travels today.

36
37 PERCY: Okay, thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Bruce
40 Irvin. Yeah, and we are on 24, I know we've made a few
41 exceptions today for those who are traveling out, but
42 if you are going to be here tomorrow, we please ask
43 that you stay to the proposal WP18-24.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. IRVIN: I'm not going to be here
48 tomorrow but I'll make mine really quick. I realize
49 you guys are trying to get through this. So I'll go
50

1 ahead and start.

2

3 Thank you, Chairman, Members of the
4 Board and Staff. My name's Bruce Irvin. I'm a student
5 with the tribal management program with the University
6 of Alaska-Fairbanks.

7

8 I'd like to start off today talking
9 about respect. First off, out of respect for the
10 Dena'ina people, I would like to thank them for
11 allowing us to use this traditional lands here in
12 Anchorage to conduct this Federal Subsistence Board
13 meeting. From the day that we are born we learn
14 respect from our elders. In the words of Elder Howard
15 Luke, we don't take care of our animals, we just don't
16 care and that's the reason all our animals are
17 disappearing, especially our ducks. Every year it's
18 getting lesser and lesser and that's what I mean,
19 they're not coming back. I mean if I was mistreated
20 I'm not going to go back too, well, it's the same way
21 with animals, and that comes from Howard Luke.

22

23 This is why I support Ahtna InterTribal
24 Resource Commission because they have an ancestral
25 respect for animals, from a government to government
26 perspective. Food sovereignty needs to be discussed
27 with an Alaska Native Tribal voice involved in the
28 process. The Ahtna/Dena'ina people have been properly
29 been managing the subsistence balance since time
30 immemorial, and with that long history why are we even
31 questioning their ability. I urge you to respectfully
32 support Ahtna Dena'ina people.

33

34 I also support WP18-24 because it
35 allows for traditional practices supported in the past
36 by the Board of Game. We cannot let our Alaska Native
37 people be criminalized for practicing their traditional
38 hunting, fishing and gathering practices. I ask you to
39 support WP18-24.

40

41 Almost done.

42

43 I oppose WP18-33 and 36 because this
44 proposal did not involve the Alaska Native voice in the
45 process and several chiefs from the GASH area have
46 brought this information forward.

47

48 I want to say thank you for pulling
49 this proposal.

50

1 I support WP18-46 with the OSM
2 modification.
3

4 I oppose WP18-56 because it's important
5 to allow for continuing subsistence opportunity. I
6 have a great respect for the Arctic Village Gwich'in
7 people. They are the protectors of traditional
8 ancestral way of life. The Gwich'in operate on a
9 system of balance and only receive what is needed from
10 the flora and fauna. If you break this time immemorial
11 balance with the flora and fauna, the flora and fauna
12 and the Gwich'in people will be the ones that have to
13 live with the results. I urge you to respect the
14 Gwich'in people and oppose WP18-56.
15

16 I would respectfully like to see a
17 stronger Alaska Native voice in the InterAgency Staff
18 Committee. This Committee has significant impact on
19 our ability to practice our ancestral ways of life. I
20 ask that you take up this issue and ensure our voice is
21 at the table.
22

23 In closing, I would like to thank the
24 Chairman, Members of the Board and the Staff for
25 listening to my testimony.
26

27 Gunalcheesh (in own language) Quyana.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
30 questions.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate you
35 taking the time to come and testify. Thank you.
36

37 MR. IRVIN: Thank you.
38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Darrel Vent.
40

41 MR. VENT: Good afternoon, Chair,
42 Members and Staff. I'll try to be brief here.
43

44 I support 18-24.
45

46 I oppose 18-56.
47

48 And I am going to speak on behalf of
49 18-46, which affects my area of living.
50

1 Now, that, you know, when I was a young
2 kid growing up we used to always get warned by our
3 parents, get inside, the caribou are coming, because
4 they would be coming through the village, getting
5 caught in our clothes lines. And then we got into a
6 meeting and the State said we're going to put a
7 pipeline and it's going to go right through our
8 backyard. So they said, they made promises, it's not
9 going to affect our wildlife, it's going to be good for
10 us, so there was an agreement made and it was oral,
11 like we do, when we say something, our word, we meant
12 it. And that did not happen. Because after that we
13 noticed that our caribou didn't come back, they weren't
14 coming through the village no more. We were getting
15 different caribou herds, what was coming in from the
16 west side, which was the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd,
17 which my friend spoke about on behalf of that, and he
18 explained, you know, the necessity of what our
19 lifestyle was built on. We depended on the caribou
20 just like everybody else along the, you know, the west
21 region and it hurted us. Our people had to improvise.
22 So we depended on moose. And we got hurt there, too,
23 because our people, they started finding moose with
24 antlers and they were worried more about the antlers
25 because we noticed that when we go to Galena after
26 hunting season there'd be big piles of moose meat
27 sitting there in the dump, which is disrespectful. We
28 noticed that there'd be big piles in Anchorage, which
29 was disrespectful. Seattle, disrespectful.

30

31 What was being done.

32

33 We don't want to say, you know, it's
34 not an argument, but that was ruining our food because
35 we were dependent on the moose, we're dependent on the
36 caribou, which was limiting us. Now, you know, our
37 people are having a hard time. We go out there and try
38 to catch moose, you spend \$1,400 and you come home with
39 nothing. And your livelihood depends on this. You
40 can't live off the food in the store, you don't have
41 the money to do that.

42

43 So when he talk about the caribou, and
44 about putting in the boundaries, I support him, because
45 this is our way of life, we have to go 100 miles to
46 catch a caribou and the amount of money and the parts
47 (ph) to catch the caribou, that would really help us.

48

49 So that was my testimony. I want to be

50

1 brief to you guys because you guys got a lot to do
2 today and I thank you for your time.
3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I appreciate
5 your brevity and hopefully you have a safe trip home
6 and thank you for your testimony today. Appreciate it.
7

8 Steve Kakaruk.
9

10 MR. KAKARUK: Good afternoon, Chairman
11 and other Board members. My name is Steve Kakaruk, I'm
12 from Fairbanks where I presently reside for 28 years.
13 I'm from the Native Village of Teller originally. My
14 family is from there. I'm here today to testify in
15 support of 18-24.
16

17 I do come from a family that has
18 hunting backgrounds. My parents have instilled within
19 all of us in my family care of the meat and respect for
20 the animals and how to receive them. It is always an
21 honor to take a caribou and we do it respectfully. We
22 don't waste the animal and never, do we ever harass any
23 animals in this process. And it is my opinion that the
24 Native way of life of subsistence is in jeopardy daily,
25 yearly and it has been since first contact from Western
26 encroachment into Alaska. And it's not that I'm in
27 support of that because of that, it's because the laws
28 are here now stating that subsistence is open to all
29 and the practices is what we're trying to define today
30 and you have heard from Kenneth, and I don't know if I
31 could say any more to that, but I am in support of his
32 process, coming to you today.
33

34 I am also, because I'm getting on a
35 plane, I'm in support of 18-46. I do know that the
36 TransAlaska Pipeline has played a very vital role with
37 the extraction of oil and has brought in many, many
38 people from many ways of life, many were not Alaskans
39 at that time but they came for work and they brought in
40 with them their values on how they were harvesting and
41 taking animals. But now those need to be protected.
42 Because the people there believe and know because they
43 are there on the land and they are first to witness the
44 changes that are affected by them when other hunters
45 come into the area. So that's why it's very important
46 to listen to people that are coming from the area that
47 have knowledge when they see changes in the resources.
48

49 And I invite any of you that are on the
50

1 Board to come out to the villages, to come out to the
2 communities and see for yourself, talk to the people.

3

4 And, lastly, I am opposed for 18-56.
5 The Red Sheep and Clear Creek Sheep herd has always
6 been there for the Gwich'in people. And subsistence
7 needs to protect the animals there especially because
8 they are in constant competition with outside hunters
9 that come in, primarily big game guides, in my opinion,
10 who come in and are driven by actually a dollar to
11 fulfill their desire to take non-qualified subsistence
12 users, or hunters out into their area to take perhaps
13 moose or sheep or animals, which are in direct conflict
14 for qualified subsistence users. So when you have this
15 type of activity where non-qualified hunters are in
16 direct competition -- well, they're qualified by the
17 mere fact that the State allows for taking of animals,
18 but in the eyes of subsistence users, it's in
19 competition with their traditional way of life.

20

21 An example of this is there's a band of
22 sheep that was primarily just decimated and these sheep
23 were from the Kantishna Mountains just outside Denali
24 National Park, early miners came into the area in seek
25 of gold, minerals and perhaps just to find a way of
26 life and bring back whatever they can and leave in the
27 early 1900s. And when they came there to this land,
28 the sheep were just wiped out. That's just a good
29 example there how, in my opinion, what could possibly
30 happen when you allow big game guides and outside
31 resources such as outside hunters coming into the area.

32

33 So I'll leave it at that and I thank
34 you for your time and I hope you give my testimony the
35 weight that it really needs.

36

37 Thank you, very much.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
40 Steve, for your testimony. I really appreciate you
41 taking the time, safe travels to you today as well.

42

43 Moses.

44

45 MR. TOYUKAK: Quyana, Mr. Chairman, the
46 rest of the Board. My name is Moses Toyukak, Sr., my
47 Native name is (In Yup'ik), which means standing. And
48 I'm a commercial fisherman in our area, I've been doing
49 that all my life. And I hunt and fish and trap for our

50

1 family and other families too. I've got lots of
2 grandkids and family and friends in our area that I'm
3 -- I've been a pilot as well, I used to fly and been
4 wearing lots of hats. Currently I'm Chairman of the
5 Walrus Commission and I teach net mending at the school
6 and also sled making for the kids.

7
8 And, you know, throughout the years we
9 hunt for moose, caribou and other animals to feed our
10 children and community members. When we go hunting,
11 when I was growing up our parents used to teach us how
12 to hunt, I mean they taught it to us, talking to us in
13 our language, which is, Yup'ik. I speak fluent Yup'ik.
14 And when my great-great-grandmother taught me to get
15 something for her, I'd jump up and go get it for her
16 because I respect her. And she was the first one to
17 tell me to learn how to speak English and let me tell
18 you a little story of my growing up.

19
20 We had -- my dad was a janitor for the
21 school and in our school a barge would come in,
22 bringing in fuel to the school, well, anyway, when one
23 of the guys that operated that barge said good morning
24 to me in the morning, I was playing boat and I said --
25 I'm a good imitator, okay, I turn around and I said,
26 good morning, and then come afternoon, I go home and go
27 eat and then came back down, I saw him again and I
28 said, good morning, and he turned around and he said
29 good afternoon.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. TOYUKAK: It went down like that.
34 I learned three words. Good morning. Good afternoon.
35 Good evening. So after playing I went up to the house
36 to my mom, now, she's not an English speaker, she said,
37 mom -- I mean I said to my mom, I'm a Gussak, I said, I
38 can say good morning, good afternoon, good evening.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MR. TOYUKAK: And she laughed and then
43 she said you're a full Yup'ik.

44
45 But anyway growing up was fun where we
46 hunted for our elders. My elders were -- starting from
47 my great-grandmother, aapa and grandma, and then other
48 grandpa and aapas from other families that are related
49 to us. And, you know, my great-grandmother met some
50

1 people from Russia too, she was that old, and she said
2 (In Yup'ik), which is in our language, Russians, or
3 Russian people, they used to come over here to trade
4 and hunt in our area too. And my father, when he was
5 young in 1920s to '36 was a herder, caribou herder, and
6 he used to tell stories about good times, bad times,
7 the worst time that they had was when the caribou
8 started dying off because of wolves. Wolves in our
9 area, they multiply so fast when there's lots of food
10 for them and so that's one thing that, you know,
11 destroyed the caribou herd that my dad was herding at
12 that time.

13

14 Now, this 18-24 is what I'm supporting
15 wholeheartedly because I live there 365 days a year the
16 past 66 years and -- oh, I'm telling my age, I'm real
17 old.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. TOYUKAK: But now I'm a senior
22 citizen in our community too. And younger folks, some
23 of them that remember they share some of their catch
24 with me and I've got 24 grandkids and that's lots, some
25 of them are here and in Kipnuk and back home. But I
26 support 24 because we don't have dog team anymore.
27 Earlier you guys listened to somebody talk about his
28 dog team, he oils it, fuels it up and maintains it, but
29 that same machine, this, you know, that we are using
30 today as sled, or dog team, is a machine that can
31 break. Ladies and gentlemen if it's really cold
32 outside that same fast machine won't keep you warm.
33 Dogs will keep you warm. That's what one of the guys
34 in Manokotak had told us. You know, years ago we used
35 to travel with dog team, you guys traveled with the
36 fast Sno-Go now days, if it breaks down you're 40 or 50
37 miles away from the village, alone, you could freeze,
38 because environment, it's not friendly at times.

39

40 But I'm in support of this.

41

42 And also in reference to why I support
43 it, 50 CFR 36 Federal regs states; about our
44 subsistence way of life. Like subsistence is hunting,
45 about making sure animals do not run away from us, to
46 ensure food security for our families and children and
47 their children too. And so I hope that you guys could
48 pass 18-24.

49

50

1 And also I oppose 18-56 and 18-22.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

4

5 MR. TOYUKAK: Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate your
8 testimony today. Are you flying out tonight, too?

9

10 MR. TOYUKAK: Pardon me?

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are you flying
13 out tonight as well?

14

15 MR. TOYUKAK: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, okay.
18 Thank you for your testimony, appreciate it.

19

20 MR. TOYUKAK: Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Ashley Woods.
23 And, again, we'd just ask testifiers that if you are
24 going to be here to, please, testify to Proposal 24.

25

26 MS. WOODS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
27 and the Board. RAC members. And any chiefs in here.

28

29 Thank you for your patience and for
30 your hard work, it doesn't go unnoticed. You guys
31 showed that by starving yourself an extra hour all the
32 while talking about moose.

33

34 So I am leaving today so I want to show
35 my -- well, first my name is Ashley Woods and I'm
36 originally from Manley Hot Springs outside of
37 Fairbanks, I'm Koyukon and Gwich'in Athabascan. I was
38 raised up in Manley and partly in Angoon. My family's
39 originally from Tanana and Fort Yukon and so it
40 compasses a large part of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers.
41 It's also called Nuchalawoyya and it's where the two
42 rivers meet.

43

44 I help out with the
45 Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC, information sharing, but I'm
46 going to be speaking on my own behalf. And I just
47 wanted to show my support today for the WP18-24. I
48 don't think Kenneth could have said it any better. And
49 the only thing that stood out for me with his testimony

50

1 was, I don't think his child or son should have saw his
2 dad get treated that way.

3
4 And I would also like to support the
5 WP18-46 and 18-47.

6
7 And at this time oppose WP18-56.

8
9 And also use my voice today to just
10 show my support for a government to government
11 relationship, that being the Federal, State and Tribal.

12
13 I think I would like to encourage
14 tribes and their chiefs to be here at these meetings.
15 I think if we had all 200 chiefs here in this room we
16 would only then be able to grasp who we are working
17 for.

18
19 Also a few housekeeping things that I
20 wanted to mention while I'm here is, someone called in
21 and it sounded like they were speaking their
22 traditional language but there was no interpreter here
23 to confirm so it's important to get that available.

24
25 And one of the concerns that was raised
26 from my area about coming to these meetings is that
27 when we submit proposals, we want to make sure the
28 Staff is not changing the language so much that we're,
29 in return, going against our own proposals. And so I
30 just want to ensure that we are being accountable for
31 that. And, again, your hard work doesn't go unnoticed,
32 the beneficiaries of these efforts are our kids, all of
33 our kids.

34
35 And I also support that there needs to
36 be some Tribal representation in the InterAgency Staff
37 Committee. And maybe -- it's just really hard to grasp
38 all the tribes by having -- with, you know, with all
39 due respect to Mr. Orville, the Tribal Liaison, but
40 it's one person representing 200-plus tribes, so we
41 really need to have in attendance all of our chiefs
42 here.

43
44 And that's all I've got today.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
47 Ashley for your testimony, appreciate it.

48
49 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
appreciate you taking the time to come up and support.

7

8

MS. WOOD: Uh-huh, thank you guys.

9

10

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Next we have
Mackenzie.

12

13

14

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19

MS. NOLLNER: Thank you for having me
here today, Mr. Chairman and the Board members.
Mackenzie Nollner and I'm from Ruby, Alaska and that's
along the Yukon River. I'm a junior in high school.
And I would like to speak on two testimonies because I
will not be here tomorrow, I am leaving tomorrow
morning.

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36

I've been hunting since I was a baby.
I've been taught my tradition ever since I was born and
it's always been my family's way of life to be taught,
learning all of our traditions and I've been slowly
learning some of the language. I don't know much of
it. And I know most of our traditions for hunting and
fishing. And I can't say that for most people have
learned that these days. I don't know -- I mean I've
met so many young people that don't even know how to
fish or hunt the proper way, or how to fish and hunt
with your regulations. There is so many regulations
that we have to follow and not many people have been
taught that way or read the guidelines. And I've met
many subsistence users that show their love and respect
for the land and for the animals.

37

38

39

And today I'm here to show my support
for 18-24, which allows the traditional practices.

40

41

42

43

44

And I would like to oppose the 18-56 to
allow for a continued subsistence opportunity. I
wouldn't want to see people compete for their food that
our Native, because we already compete enough.

45

46

47

And that's all I have to say, thank you
for letting me speak here today.

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
Mackenzie. We appreciate you students taking the time.

1 Oh, Rhonda has a question.

2

3 MS. PITKA: I do have one question.
4 Who are your parents?

5

6 MS. NOLLNER: Bertha Rickman and Barney
7 Nollner.

8

9 MS. PITKA: Say hi to your mom for me.

10

11 MS. NOLLNER: I will.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Must be proud.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I see a future
20 RAC member there.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Calling on
25 Tommy Kriska.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Did we lose
30 Tommy.

31

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's you
36 Enoch. Enoch Mitchell, is that you -- oh, that's the
37 Enoch right there -- oh.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: He raised his
42 hand a long time ago.

43

44 MR. MITCHELL: Hello, my name is Enoch
45 Mitchell. I'm one of the regular folks from Northwest
46 Alaska. I'm from the village of Noatak.

47

48 I am in support of 18-24. I can relate
49 to this proposal. We had this same proposal in our
50

1 region. We began this proposal when one of our hunters
2 got cited. He was a young man and he didn't know that
3 there was this proposal, that he was breaking the law
4 when he was going out there, he was hunting caribou,
5 and he ran into a wolverine out there and so he began
6 to track, follow it, trying to get a good shot, and get
7 around it and the troopers up there right above him and
8 they spotted him and watched him and they spotted him
9 get the wolverine and took it home and the next thing
10 we know that trooper landed in Kivalina and go talk to
11 him, took his gear, his hunting gear, took his rifle
12 and took his wolverine, his animal that he caught.
13 And once we found out about that, we started this
14 proposal. I also went to talk to him because I'm the
15 AC representative for Noatak/Kivalina and I was working
16 on that proposal too and I wanted to talk to him myself
17 and so I went over and I did talk to him. And he said
18 he didn't even know he was breaking the law and he
19 didn't even when -- after it happened, after he went
20 home, he didn't even want to go out of his own house,
21 he was embarrassed. He didn't want to look at his own
22 people. He was embarrassed, he was hurt. He didn't
23 know he was breaking the law. He didn't even want to
24 go out and hunt no more because he didn't know what law
25 he might be breaking. That's something he didn't know
26 about. I didn't know about that.

27
28 That law, I began working on that
29 proposal and I found out that that law was in there for
30 over 30-plus years and why weren't we cited in between
31 those 30-plus years and why did it happen just then. I
32 was confused with that one.

33
34 But I got to say that we wrote up that
35 proposal, we brought it before the Board of Game and it
36 passed and it works. It worked today for each of our
37 hunters, our hunters don't feel like outlaws anymore.
38 And even after it happened, before the proposal, there
39 was a span there between, hey, man, I don't go hunt, I
40 might be an outlaw, I don't want to break the law, you
41 know, we're law abiding citizens and we respect the
42 rules and regulations. We respect our land. We
43 respect the animals. Highly. And when we find out
44 we're breaking something and we didn't know we were
45 breaking something, then we want to fix it so we wrote
46 proposals and fixed it.

47
48 But I want to say I'm in support of
49 this 18-24. It's safe and it works. It's also a
50

1 safety issue.

2

3

4 I, myself, I'm a hunter. And this
5 happened to me one time, I was out there hunting, my
6 snowmachine broke down, I mean I got stuck in the creek
7 and I had a full load beluga on my sled, I just
8 happened to look out of the side of my eye there was
9 something brown coming down the side of the hill and
10 that hill just comes right up to my snowmachine right
11 there and I was out there right in the middle of
12 nowhere, I had a .223 rifle, lucky I had metal case
13 bullets in there, I saw that bear coming down that
14 mountain coming straight for me, path, he was coming at
15 me, I had a beluga, a good load of beluga in my sled
16 and it was really coming, the closer it got to me, the
17 faster it started coming, the closer and closer, man, I
18 didn't know bears could run that fast, I mean it was
19 running fast the closer and closer, I jumped off of my
20 snowmachine, I pumped those shells and I waited until
21 it was right up to the -- right up to -- and, boom, and
22 I was going to shoot it again but one shot did it, it
23 was right under the neck, it was right through the
24 heart and right out the back, the metal case, one shot,
25 and that bear slid about 10, 15 feet, (makes sound)
26 it's like someone punched him in the stomach (makes
27 sounds) stop there, two steps back and it dropped.
28 Whoa, man, I was lucky. If that bullet didn't stop it,
29 I know that my snowmachine sitting there would not
30 protect me. That big bear was big. I mean big. The
31 head was like this. It could have -- I mean the size
32 of it was -- the skin was -- I got a 10 foot sled, the
33 skin was hanging over the edges. That bear could have
34 just (makes sound) throw my snowmachine out of the way
35 and get me, you know, and start munching on me.
36 Because it's -- I'm saying that because it is safe to
37 use a snowmachine, it is safe, it is part of our tools,
38 like our gun. The gun replaced the spear and the bow
39 and arrow. The snowmachine replaced the dog teams.
40 That's what they should see when they begin these laws.

41

42

43

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50

They should sit down with us when they
start doing these laws again so they can relate, they
can understand.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

That's what I got to say. It's safe
and it works.

47

48

49

50

Taikuu.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
2 Enoch, for your testimony. Appreciate it.

3
4 That concludes the public testimony on
5 paper we have. Is there anybody on line.

6
7 OPERATOR: We have no questions or
8 comments on the phone line.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
11 thank you.

12
13 Regional Council comments.

14
15 Donald.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Before we proceed to Regional Advisory Council
19 comments, I'd like to present a quick summary of the
20 Council's action at its winter meeting in Naknek held
21 this past spring.

22
23 The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council voted unanimously at its winter 2018
25 meeting to request that the Federal Subsistence Board
26 remove Proposal WP18-24 from the consensus agenda at
27 its April 2018 wildlife regulatory meeting, limited by
28 the concerns of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the
29 Council could not make any specific recommendations
30 aside from its original recommendations developed at
31 its fall 2017 meeting, rather the Council wanted to
32 make sure that the Board was aware of the issues
33 surrounding the adoption of a related State proposal
34 and the reason for the Alaska Board of Game's adoption
35 of it. Discussion at the Council meeting of the Board
36 of Game's proposal centered around how important it was
37 to provide clear guidance to hunters and the strong
38 need for a vigorous educational and outreach strategy
39 to ensure compliance and understanding.

40
41 It was also noted that while some
42 people do engage in outright chasing of caribou in
43 clear violation of the law, many hunters are concerned
44 about whether their benign practices could be violating
45 the law, due, in part, to the lack of clear guidance.

46
47 Concerns were also expressed about
48 potential inconsistencies between State and Federal
49 regulations if the Federal Subsistence Board does not
50

1 receive a briefing on the WP18-24 analysis and have the
2 opportunity to fully deliberate the proposal with this
3 new information at its meeting.

4
5 The Council noted that if the Board
6 does not remove the proposal from the consensus agenda
7 the proposal is consequently rejected. The Council
8 will work on drafting a proposal for the next wildlife
9 regulatory cycle to provide for consistency between
10 State and Federal regulations.

11
12 That's the rationale for the request
13 from the Council to take WP18-24 from the consensus to
14 the non-consensus.

15
16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
19 Donald.

20
21 OPERATOR: Excuse me, we did get two
22 cued up on the phone lines, would you like to take
23 those quick.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah.

26
27 OPERATOR: Okay. Susanna Henry, your
28 line is open.

29
30 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
31 Members of the Federal Subsistence Board, and RAC
32 members and others that may be present there in
33 Anchorage. This is Susanna Henry, I'm the Refuge
34 Manager at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and I'm at
35 the headquarters in Dillingham. Sorry that I couldn't
36 be there today.

37
38 I just wanted to point out a few things
39 regarding WP18-24.

40
41 If passed, it would, as some folks have
42 already noted, it would run up against existing 50 CFR,
43 that's Code of Federal Regulations 36.12 that states
44 that snowmachines can't be used for hazing, driving, or
45 herding or harassment of wildlife for hunting or other
46 purposes, and even with that -- with the current
47 situation on the Nushagak Peninsula, which is part of
48 Unit 17, hunters have been very successful in
49 harvesting caribou. It is not as flat as the
50

1 Bonneville Salt Flats as Christopher Maines mentioned,
2 it does have some rolling terrain, and places where
3 people can stalk animals and sneak close, in fact,
4 during the winter of 2016 to 2017, 373 harvested
5 caribou were -- caribou were reported harvested, I
6 should say, and this year for 2017/2018, we're now at
7 104 that have been reported harvest, with about a third
8 of the hunters reporting in, we expect that number will
9 go up as we approach the deadline on the 15th for
10 people to report in.

11

12 So we've had very good success.

13

14 If you consider success meaning that
15 someone harvested at least one caribou, even when more
16 tags might have been available, we had about 50 percent
17 hunt success.

18

19 We've talked a little bit, you all did,
20 about the population of the caribou, they seem to have
21 reached a peak and are starting to go down. According
22 to the Nushagak Caribou Peninsula planning document, it
23 suggested if the population dropped and is on a
24 dropping trend we'll have to reduce the number of
25 permits available in the future so there might not be
26 as many available for the success -- so the number of
27 animals harvested may go down in the future.

28

29 Also with regard to citing, citations.
30 Mr. Nukwak mentioned that he'd been cited for chasing
31 caribou. His was only one of three that were given in
32 the last seven years on the Nushagak Peninsula and
33 those were only in cases where individuals had pursued
34 the caribou in such a way that was really egregious,
35 and I believe in his case that he had pursued the
36 caribou in excess of five miles and had taken a shot at
37 them and I believe he had missed, so there were no
38 caribou to seize in that case and I did check with the
39 Federal wildlife officer that was there, so there was
40 no seizing of any wildlife at that time. But it's a
41 very rare citation. It's only given in the cases that
42 are very egregious.

43

44 Thank you for giving me an opportunity
45 to speak. I appreciate your time.

46

47 OPERATOR: Okay. Thank you, Susanna.
48 Next up is Dan Dunaway, your line is open.

49

50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yes, Dan
2 Dunaway with Bristol Bay RAC.

3
4 I want to thank Donald for that
5 excellent summary of our official actions for the RAC.

6
7 As you can see this is of high
8 interest. I think this topic has been discussed in
9 every steam bath, bar, and any other gathering place
10 that hunters are since it first came out. And I think
11 one of the big issues the clarity of the law of what
12 constitutes legal hunting with a motor vehicle.
13 Personally, I've even experienced some paranoia of
14 whether I was being legal or not and I believe I'm a
15 very careful fair chase hunter.

16
17 But, yes, it would be great for this to
18 be resolved. This new information that came out of the
19 Board of Game meeting here in Dillingham in February,
20 and the language that came out is a nuance approach
21 compared to what we saw as being available to us in our
22 November meeting.

23
24 So I can't veer out beyond what legal
25 constraints of the RAC are, but I want to thank you for
26 thoroughly hearing Kenneth and other people on this
27 issue and appreciate your work on it.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

32
33 OPERATOR: We have no further questions
34 or comments cued up.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

37
38 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39
40 Donald, would you repeat for me, I
41 apologize, what the final perspective was provided by
42 the Regional Advisory Committee [sic], you were going a
43 little bit quick there and I'm not sure I quite
44 followed it. You said there was some consideration
45 that, depending on the action, that was being
46 requested.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Donald.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Did
2 you want me to restate the rationale on the record over
3 again if that would help?

4
5 MR. SIEKANIEC: Yeah. But when you got
6 close to the end of your little presentation you said
7 this is the position of the Regional Advisory Committee
8 [sic].

9
10 MR. MIKE: Okay, I'll start somewhere
11 in the middle.

12
13 It was also noted that while some
14 people do engage in outright chasing of caribou in
15 clear violation of the law, many hunters are concerned
16 about whether their benign practices could be violating
17 the law, due, in part, to the lack of clear guidance.

18
19 Concerns were also expressed about
20 potential inconsistencies between State and Federal
21 regulations if the Federal Subsistence Board does not
22 receive a briefing on WP18-24 analysis and have the
23 opportunity to fully deliberate the proposal with this
24 new information at its meeting.

25
26 The Council noted that if the Board
27 does not remove the proposal from the consensus agenda
28 the proposal is consequently rejected. The Council
29 will work on drafting a proposal for the next wildlife
30 regulatory cycle to provide for consistency between
31 State and Federal regulations.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair. And if you have
34 any technical -- or further questions we have the Staff
35 biologist present to answer questions.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen.

40
41 MS. MOURITSEN: Mr. Chair. I have the
42 -- I didn't understand what you said where you said
43 they said if it's not removed from the consent agenda
44 it fail -- I forgot the word you said, fails, but I'm
45 not understanding that part. And is what you're
46 saying, on Page 275 it says the Bristol Bay Regional
47 Advisory Council, at the top, it says oppose and then
48 it had a few sentences, is that the same as what you're
49 talking about?

50

1 I'm not understanding.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To
4 clarify what you found in the meeting materials in your
5 book of the Bristol Bay Council's recommendation was to
6 initially oppose the proposal, but with the recent
7 action by the Board of Game the Council wanted the
8 Federal Subsistence Board to take into consideration
9 the recent action of the Board of Game to include as
10 part of the deliberation on Proposal 18-24.

11

12 The Council, at its meeting, opposed
13 the proposal stating that, you know, the rationale for
14 opposing the proposal was the lack of guidance as far
15 as the definition of either chasing or harassing an
16 animal.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. MOURITSEN: Can I followup.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

23

24 MS. MOURITSEN: So I understand at
25 their -- I guess that was at their original meeting
26 they said they opposed because they noted the confusion
27 over these definitions. Are you saying they met again
28 later after, yeah, did they meet later and change their
29 position?

30

31 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. They did not
32 change their position, what you have in your meeting
33 materials is the recommendations to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board but what I'm saying is this recent
35 action of the Board of Game that met in March, they
36 passed a similar proposal that the Bristol Bay Council
37 acted on to oppose, and in light of the decision by the
38 Board of Game, they requested that the Federal
39 Subsistence Board take this 18-24 into consideration
40 with the new information that the Board of Game took
41 action on at it's March meeting in Dillingham.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 And we have Mr. Carl Johnson to have
46 further explanation.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. And I'll note
2 I got a non-verbal approval from the Chair and
3 recognized by the Chair. My name is Carl Johnson, I'm
4 the Council Coordination Chief at OSM. I'll fill in a
5 missing piece of the puzzle here for Member Mouritsen.
6

7 And that is the action by the Board of
8 Game happened too close to the publicly noticed meeting
9 for the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Council to
10 provide public notice that the Council would be, again,
11 examining WP18-24. So in the middle of Donald's blurb
12 he mentioned due to constraints of the Federal Advisory
13 Committee Act, they couldn't fully deliberate and come
14 up with a new recommendation, that's why, the timing
15 didn't provide public notice.
16

17 Similar to with the Southeast Council
18 in 18-11, where they couldn't change their
19 recommendation, but they wanted to bring new
20 information to the Board's attention and allow the
21 Board to fully deliberate with this new information
22 rather than letting the consensus agenda position of
23 oppose stand without the new information.
24

25 I hope that helps.
26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
30 Carl, for that clarification. Did that help you Karen.
31

32 MS. MOURITSEN: Yes.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So we
35 ended up blending the public testimony and we heard the
36 Regional Advisory Council recommendation, Bristol Bay.
37 Now, we are on to Tribal, Alaska Native Corp.,
38 comments, Native Liaison.
39

40 MR. LIND: Chairman. Members of the
41 Board. During the consultation session on September
42 14th there was no discussion on this wildlife proposal,
43 18-24.
44

45 Thank you.
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
48 Orville. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
49

50

1 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Members of the Board.

3
4 The Department's neutral in methods and
5 means. They generally reflect ethics, which vary from
6 hunter to hunter. If adopted, we don't believe that
7 this is going to create a biological concern.

8
9 The Board of Game does act on these
10 types of issues, methods and means, they've adopted the
11 positioning of wolves and caribou in Unit 17. Although
12 we do note that it's not allowed on Federal lands by
13 Federal regulations. So that's part of it.

14
15 We don't think that the harvest is
16 going to increase substantially. As was mentioned it's
17 probably -- if there is a use for this, it's probably
18 the Nushagak Caribou Herd, which is managed through a
19 quota system. So, again, that can be controlled and
20 seasons and bag limits can be adjusted, if needed, to
21 address any concerns that may arise.

22
23 To fill in the last piece, people keep
24 alluding to what the Board of Game did at their
25 meeting. So, again, they recently adopted the
26 positioning of caribou. They amended the proposal to
27 allow hunters to approach caribou one time within 300
28 yards at 15 miles per hour. So that's how they went
29 ahead and defined it. And that's the piece that has
30 been alluded to several times at this meeting.

31
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
35 questions.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: ISC.

40
41 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
42 InterAgency Staff Committee had the standard comment
43 for WP18-24.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
46 Board discussion with Council and State liaison.

47
48 MS. MOURITSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 just have a question.

50

1 I'm now kind of understanding what, I
2 think what's going on, and that there's several
3 different definitions in sets of regulations. So my
4 question is, how consistent do the Federal -- these
5 Federal Subsistence Board regulations need to be to
6 avoid confusion between your State regulations, the
7 existing Federal regulations for the specific units.
8 I've heard people talk about positioning a hunter,
9 positioning a -- using a snowmobile to position a
10 hunter to position an animal, chase versus positioning,
11 and then there's the BLM regulations, which are a
12 little different.

13
14 I'm just wondering how consistent we
15 need to be or is there any need to be?
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I'm going
18 to let Tom here, but I think the inconsistency comes
19 from different mandates that the land managers each
20 have and what is allowed on their property. And I
21 think the consistency by the Federal Board is to try to
22 stay consistent with that, albeit, though, there is a
23 patchwork of land ownership that may lend to us making
24 a decision here today. But I'll let Tom speak to
25 something he has here.

26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, I think that
28 we've seen a wide variety of different things, but on
29 other National Wildlife Refuges, in fact, Yukon Delta,
30 if you look at Unit 18 hunting in the Federal
31 regulations handy-dandy book here, you may not pursue
32 with a motorized vehicle an ungulate that is at or near
33 full gallop. And at that time I was at the Refuge and
34 we worked and wrestled with that issue to try to
35 accommodate some sort of making sure that still the
36 access by snowmachine was available, but also that
37 people weren't running animals excessively.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 MS. MOURITSEN: Can I.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen.

44
45 MS. MOURITSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46 Well, I mean would there be any desirability to having
47 our regulation be similar to the State regulation or
48 that regulation, I think as far as I can tell we've got
49 another variation here that we're being asked to adopt.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

4
5 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Tom, thanks for that note.

7
8 In looking through the various
9 information that I've been provided, so we now have 50
10 CFR 36 1.2 on a National Wildlife Refuge, prevent the
11 herding, harassment, you've heard it all, you know,
12 hunting or other purposes. We now have the subsistence
13 regulations, and I'd like to remind us all that it does
14 read too; except for provisions found and then you move
15 down to Section 5, using a motorized vehicle to drive,
16 herd or molest wildlife is prohibited. We just heard
17 from the State saying we now have a perspective that a
18 rate of speed of greater than 15 miles an hour would
19 potentially be the violation and any closer than 300
20 yards. We also have other regulations that indicate
21 that you may position a hunter in order to harvest of
22 caribou, wolf and wolverine. I believe the State also
23 only addressed caribou in this particular instance.

24
25 We have a myriad of rules in a variety
26 of forms, which I think we heard quite a bit from the
27 testimony that we're never certain what's going on
28 where.

29
30 I believe I also heard earlier that
31 Unit 23 was modified to only have specific to BLM
32 lands.

33
34 I'm very concerned with the amount of
35 confusion that we are putting into a variety of
36 regulations relative to this particular topic out on
37 the landscape.

38
39 So, for now, thank you.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
44 the light on the confusion that we find ourselves in
45 here, and an hour and a half of deliberating right now.

46
47 I think I seen Enoch with his hand up
48 there.

49
50

1 MR. SHIEDT: Okay. Attamuk here from
2 Northwest Alaska on Proposal 18-24. We have one,
3 similar one in Northwest Alaska.
4

5 And to pursue this, when we put this
6 together that we do harvest and chase caribou, my deal
7 is this, when I am after caribou, I try to get the
8 better of the bunch, just not shooting any one, so I
9 position the caribou to harvest it, and not to harvest
10 this one I don't want. I do that with snowmachine
11 also. When I was 14, I grew up around dog team being
12 the only one in the family, I did chase caribou by dog
13 team. My dog team was good enough when I asked them to
14 stop, they stopped, they did not keep going after the
15 caribou. I've done this with dog team. We did it to
16 put food on the table at the time and it was easier for
17 me. Also when we were younger, we used to chase the
18 caribou all day where they can't run no more. We did
19 not give them a chance to feed. Any animal you chase
20 long enough, if they don't feed, they will lose their
21 stamina and lucky us Natives have more stamina than
22 caribou, we chased them up to five, six hours, non-stop
23 and we get them and position them where we want to
24 shoot them and we get what we want and we let the rest
25 go.
26

27 We never harvest no more than what we
28 need. We've done this.
29

30 And what Enoch was talking about, that
31 kid that got cited, they were threatening to take his
32 snowmachine away. The snowmachine he uses is not only
33 to hunt caribou, he go whaling, he haul wood, he haul
34 ice, and he use it to go visit his relatives or
35 sometimes to the hospital, and they were threatening to
36 take it away, and these are the things we go through.
37

38 And I would like to see this one passed
39 because we did it before, our forefathers did it
40 before, and due to the long late delay, it's just that
41 we're all tired and I will support it and if you have
42 any questions after hours, you can gladly ask me, that
43 way you could explain -- I could explain it better one
44 on one with you, make it pass.
45

46 Thank you.
47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Enoch.
50

1 Bert, go. Oh, sorry.

2
3 MS. PITKA: No, no, he was pointing at
4 me.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MS. PITKA: No, I just wanted to say I
9 think what Kenneth, I can't say his last name, I'm
10 sorry, I apologize, it's really late, was talking about
11 was a long standing practice. And hypothetically, not
12 that anybody would ever break the law deliberately, but
13 I think having those sorts of common practices put into
14 regulation makes sense.

15
16 Especially when -- I don't know if a
17 lot of you actually live in Refuges around here, the
18 Refuge law enforcement officers can be very heavy
19 handed. They come at you and they say that they're
20 going to take your snowmachine, take your guns away,
21 you know, and that's the only way that you have to
22 provide for your family. And then they throw a \$500
23 fine at you when you may make \$13,000 a year. So I
24 completely understand and I empathize with what Kenneth
25 was saying. Having those threats hanging over your
26 head for a common practice for feeding your family is
27 egregious. I believe that's what the Refuge manager
28 said and I'm going to use that word, too. That is
29 egregious. I don't think that it's okay to do that
30 sort of thing to people, especially in front of their
31 family.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
34 that Rhonda.

35
36 MR. POLACCA: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Lynn.

39
40 MR. POLACCA: I guess I'll have to
41 throw this question out because, you know, after taking
42 a look at it, I see that there is definitely a
43 discrepancy with the regulations that we have that
44 govern some of our Federal lands that are out there and
45 how do we actually implement, you know, subsistence
46 uses that are out there that are currently going on
47 that have been used for, you know, years and years.
48 You know, the foundation -- I guess one question that I
49 wanted to ask was, and this will probably go to Fish
50

1 and Wildlife Service and National Parks since they're
2 the ones that are underneath that, their lands, and
3 really I guess where the regulations that were actually
4 written, was that actually written from the viewpoint
5 of sports hunting? And, you know, with the intent of
6 what subsistence uses are and all that, is there a need
7 to take a look and see whether or not we actually need
8 to change that or propose some kind of language to
9 incorporate a modification in some form or another?

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Lynn. I'll go with Greg.

13

14 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Lynn, we have 565 National Wildlife Refuges scattered
16 across the United States. The regulation on the use of
17 motorized vehicle was probably not given a sport kind
18 of recognition or definition, it was probably given a
19 very general perspective of how you operate motor
20 vehicles on any National Wildlife Refuge concerning the
21 wildlife that's there, meant, not to disturb, harass,
22 harm, chase. So it was probably much more in a general
23 sense of how you should use motorized vehicles
24 associated with a National Wildlife Refuge, not from a
25 sporthunt consideration or a subsistence hunt
26 consideration.

27

28 MR. FROST: So, Lynn, I don't know for
29 sure but from just the reading of the regulation, this
30 is an Alaska-specific regulation for the National Park
31 Service, and those were written after ANILCA to
32 implement ANILCA. And if you look at Section A of CFR
33 36.460, where this regulation is, it says:

34

35 Notwithstanding, you know, the
36 provision of this chapter, the use of snowmobiles,
37 motor boats, dog teams and other means of surface
38 transportation traditionally employed by local rural
39 residents engaged in subsistence uses is permitted
40 within Park areas, except in those times and those
41 areas restricted by the Superintendent.

42

43 So definitely we're talking about
44 subsistence.

45

46 But then down in Section D it
47 specifically says, in such a manner in -- I mean it
48 says: motorboats, snowmobiles, dog teams and other
49 means of surface transportation traditionally employed
50

1 by local rural residents engaged in subsistence uses
2 shall be operated, and then number 3 is, in such a
3 manner as to prevent the herding, harassment, hazing,
4 or driving of wildlife for hunting or other purposes.
5

6 So from reading that, it sounds like
7 they were thinking about subsistence and hunting
8 purposes when the Park Service regulation was written.
9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. So I
11 guess my thought is, is that's where we sometimes have
12 a cross here with the Board is what lens that we are
13 actually utilizing when we scrutinize the proposals.
14

15 You know, bear in mind, I think, ANILCA
16 is the law of the land, in Alaska. And, albeit, we
17 have to recognize across the board each agency-specific
18 regulations that they must mind to as we develop these
19 and how our decisions affect those, ultimately this
20 Board, and the lens that we should be, I believe,
21 looking at these proposals, through, is ANILCA. And
22 however that affects that and what we need to change
23 looking at our perspective agencies is the homework, I
24 believe, we need to do, seeing Alaska is a very unique
25 situation, a lot different than the Lower 48. And,
26 hopefully, we can try to find some way to get past this
27 hurdle that we keep coming up against as far as trying
28 to help the users, the subsistence users on the
29 landscape, get these caribou.
30

31 And, albeit, you hear the testimony,
32 they're getting smarter, you know, animals, they do
33 start to acclimate to their environment and we are a
34 big part of it and they hear the engine coming over the
35 hill, they run a little faster, I think, and so -- I
36 mean how do we start to look at these proposals through
37 the lens of ANILCA.
38

39 I just wanted to put that out there.
40

41 We do have somebody on line, I believe
42 the Bristol Bay RAC Chair wanted to say something so at
43 this time I'll recognize you on line.
44

45 OPERATOR: And, Dan, your line is open.
46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dan
48 Dunaway, Bristol Bay RAC. Yes, I'll try to get back to
49 earlier questions on consistency and so on.
50

1 I think there's a strong desire for,
2 number 1, clarity, what constitutes chasing versus
3 normal hunting. In my personal case, I went down
4 hunting in this very area, saw a large herd a long ways
5 away, in the process of trying to get behind some hills
6 and try to flank that herd, caribou leaped out of the
7 bushes in front of me totally surprised and runs away.
8 At that very moment I was worried if somebody saw, I'm
9 trying to go fast, the caribou is running fast in front
10 of me, I had no interest in him, I can't remember, I
11 think I just veered off or waited for a minute, but at
12 that very moment I recall going, oh, my God, somebody
13 would think I'm chasing this thing right now, which was
14 not my intent.

15
16 Of course, every shade from absolutely
17 no chasing, no -- maybe some folks take a Sno-Go down
18 and then ski around and shoot, too. I have seen a
19 couple of times where somebody was running straight at
20 a herd at probably 50, 60 miles an hour. So many of
21 us, I think, would really like to have something
22 clearer, clear guidelines to what constitutes legal
23 activity and illegal activity.

24
25 Consistency is also critical.

26
27 At times, parts down in that area and
28 other parts of the state where sometimes you're on
29 Federal lands, sometimes you're on State land or
30 private lands that falls under State rules, we're not
31 going to be out there hunting with a GPS and a surveyor
32 in one hand trying to manage our Sno-Go and going,
33 well, what rules apply right now. Also just from a
34 season to season, day to day, we need consistency and
35 uniformity so that we don't get into an accidental
36 violation. The more consistent the better. And that's
37 been one of my personal goals as a member of the RAC,
38 is to keep rules as consistent as possible, so it's
39 easier to know that you're following the rules and
40 easier to know what those rules are. With big flat
41 country out there, there's some dotted lines on a map
42 that sometimes say you're in Curyung land and sometimes
43 you're in Federal lands and sometimes you're in State
44 lands.

45
46 I did want to acknowledge that I know
47 from the Board of Game activity in February, that they
48 did switch the chasing, positioning discussion to just
49 caribou and left wolves and other animals out of it.

50

1 Another part of a lot of the
2 discussion, and something I brought up in, I believe,
3 both of the RAC meetings, the fall meeting in November
4 and the winter meeting in March, was that requested the
5 agencies work together to develop an educational
6 program to accompany whatever regulations eventually
7 gets adopted so we could go village to village and
8 display like a video or a cartoon or something, some
9 program to say this is chasing, this is not chasing.
10 This is ethical hunting, this is not. And I think we
11 even had some members of the public stand up and
12 advocate for that as well.
13

14 So I hope that helps guide the
15 discussion. But consistency -- also consistency of
16 enforcement is one of the concerns. Some enforcement
17 agents tend to be way more vigorous in the
18 interpretation of the law and other ones maybe a little
19 less vigorous. So, again, there's this concern that,
20 oh, we got a new trooper in the area, we got a new
21 enforcement guy up at the Refuge, he or she, are they
22 going to be one of these real sticklers or are they
23 going to accommodate what appears to be common
24 practice.
25

26 So I've yakked enough, I hope you
27 consider that.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
32 that feedback, appreciate it.
33

34 Jack.
35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. I think
37 the Board has identified that there needs to be
38 statewide policy, regulation on pursuit of animals.
39

40 I want to remind the Board that CFR
41 regulations were promulgated and passed without any
42 customary and traditional input by subsistence users at
43 all. Those regulations were put in place before the
44 Regional Councils were even formed, long before there
45 was any meaningful role by subsistence users in the
46 promulgation of those regulations.
47

48 So I feel that the Board needs to look
49 at this in a broad aspect of statewide regulations that
50

1 become consistent with what the State has done and what
2 customary and traditional comments on what -- how
3 people utilize resources historically, those need to
4 enter into a statewide regulation by the Federal
5 Subsistence Board on this issue of pursuing animals and
6 what constitutes legal abilities through the state, all
7 Federal subsistence users should have very consistent
8 regulation on no matter what kind of Federal land it is
9 on, and State lands, so that we know what we're doing.

10

11 I have constituents in my region that I
12 know utilize these harvest practices. I know they do.
13 They did it long -- when I was a little kid, they did
14 that. When they first invented Sno-Gos they were
15 pursuing animals with them. They did it with dog
16 teams.

17

18 There was no comment by subsistence
19 users in those CFR regulations that are being
20 implemented on Refuge lands and Park Preserve lands and
21 Park lands. And I feel that the Federal Subsistence
22 Board has that management authority and so this should
23 be revisited.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Don.

28

29 MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah, I would agree
30 with that. I think a lot of us would agree with that.

31

32 I think as a followup, kind of in the
33 meantime, I think the Board should support this
34 proposal and I think the Federal managers should direct
35 their Staff and enforcement people as to how they want
36 this disparate group of CFRs and regulations enforced
37 in the meantime because this process that Jack was
38 talking about could take several years and I think
39 people want to see some changes right now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Gordon.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I would agree with
44 Jack and Donald over on that side of the aisle, exactly
45 what they said. I think it's good to look at this and
46 move ahead with its adoption and really look at
47 seriously, at the CFRs and working towards a consistent
48 approach that we all know what it is, whether you're on
49 Federal or State land.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Louis.

2

3 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just
4 a comment. You know, C&T is written all over our stuff
5 here and cultural and traditional ways of hunting go
6 back many, many years.

7

8 Up on the Seward Peninsula, up in the
9 lava beds there was a site that was noted to be where a
10 frame of a kayak or a paddle or something that existed,
11 was made some two or 300 years ago and was stored
12 inside near a lake and so you have to understand that
13 if that kayak is there for the lake, it's not to go out
14 there and row around and look at the stars at night, or
15 the sun in the day time, it was there because it was a
16 traditional grounds for caribou to be where they
17 herded, they harassed, they hazed or they did whatever
18 they needed to do to get those animals into the water
19 so they could make a kill. There's stories about that
20 in the Book of the People of Kawerak.

21

22 And so C&T is important.

23

24 And like Jack said, they didn't make
25 any of these CFRs with anybody's input that really had
26 any meaningful understanding of the subject back then.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Louis.

32

33 Enoch.

34

35 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, all I want to do is
36 quote someone from the Federal Subsistence Northwest
37 Alaska states, on BLM managed lands only, a snowmachine
38 may be used to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine
39 for harvest provided that the animals are not shot from
40 a moving snowmachine. I just wanted to quote it, it's
41 here.

42

43 Thanks.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

46 Della.

47

48 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
49 would agree with everybody's comments. I know our

50

1 subsistence users also do use snowmachines.

2

3 As it is there's times that they do
4 feel threatened or, you know, feeling like they need to
5 be sneaking around, I think, when they probably not
6 need to be. But also he did, as he pointed out, it
7 does, on Page 112, state, not only from the BLM side,
8 but right above that, that basically does outline. And
9 I think the need for an overall policy is beneficial
10 for everybody. And that eliminates the confusion of
11 what you can and cannot do depending on where you're
12 at.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 Louis, one more time.

16

17 MR. GREEN: Yes, sir, thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. It says right above what she was reading there;
19 it says caribou may be taken from a boat moving under
20 power in Unit 22 -- on 23, swimming caribou may be
21 taken with a firearm.

22

23 I recall a time hunting, flying same
24 day, learned from an oldtimer that said, caribou can
25 hear a snowmachine from a couple miles away and start
26 running, hunting with a same day land and shoot, he
27 said, it doesn't disturb them, they don't get excited.
28 Maybe there's -- since then -- but I actually went out
29 and did it back in the '80s when it was legal and he
30 was right, they don't get excited about an airplane.

31

32 So I don't know where this is going but
33 other than the fact that there's stuff in this book
34 that says it's okay to hunt from moving vehicles. I
35 don't know what the issue is with the CFR issue.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we're
40 ready to go to No. 9, Federal Subsistence Board action.
41 I think we've deliberated and talked about this as much
42 as we can.

43

44 Greg.

45

46 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
47 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

48

49 Thanks for the great discussion and the

50

1 debate. I would like to make a -- I would like to move
2 that we adopt Proposal WP18-24 as written on Page 259.
3 And if I get a second to the motion, I will provide my
4 justification as to why I intend to actually oppose
5 this motion.

6

7

MS. PITKA: I'll second.

8

9

MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Rhonda.

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You know I'm -- as you've already heard, very, very concerned about the multiple existing Federal regulations that conflict with the adoption of this proposed regulation as written. Both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, and as I noted, our own Federal Subsistence regulations are in conflict with that. The majority of the Federal lands in this particular unit we're talking about are administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service that I believe in the range of 75 percent of the lands that we're talking and another probably 10 percent by the National Park Service.

I also am opposing this because I did hear very clearly from the Bristol Bay Regional Advisory Committee [sic] that we don't need more confusion around this, we need clarity. We need consistency. Both consistency of how the law reads and how it affects people, but also consistency then allowed through the enforcement of it. We talked greatly at length about how the State regulation now is going to be entirely another set of regulation. And not only is another set of regulation in regards to how you use a vehicle, it is specific to caribou. This proposal is also -- adds wolverine and wolf, so now we have another inconsistency that people would need to be thinking about as to where and when they are on the landscape.

I'm just greatly concerned that from a Board perspective we would be doing a disservice in this because the law of 36 CFR is still going to be on the books, we are not getting rid of that law by way of our action. The current regulation presently does allow a hunter to position themselves with the use of a snowmachine, this does nothing to take away the use of a snowmachine, it does nothing to change the opportunity for them to use the snowmachine to position themselves relative to it. What it does not allow them

1 to do is to manage or move the caribou with the purpose
2 and intent that's been described.

3
4 I just think we have too much
5 confliction here in what this thing would put on the
6 land for users.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
11 Greg. Anybody else want to discuss, more deliberation.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Everyone saying
16 no. I just want to say any means necessary means any
17 means necessary. And I think human's have been driving
18 animals on the American landscape for thousands of
19 years and most of the landscape is actually dotted with
20 those drive lines and those cliff falls and those
21 places where we got rid of ungulates in the Lower 48 by
22 the thousands because it was an impact to their
23 agriculture way of life, and up here more or less
24 because the tundra's big, flat and wide and they needed
25 ways to get these animals into a smaller area.

26
27 And so I just want to say that I
28 support subsistence, any means necessary. And I know
29 we have laws and regulations that we have to be mindful
30 to, but I want to speak to that, to support what I've
31 heard from the people on the land.

32
33 MS. PITKA: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Rhonda.

36
37 MS. PITKA: It is a common practice and
38 I think having, you know, those regulations in Parks
39 and Refuges, it makes it difficult for a common hunting
40 practice to be provided for without criminalizing it
41 further.

42
43 Thanks.

44
45 Oh, so I support.

46
47 MR. C. BROWER: Question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
50

1 called. Let's call for a roll call on this one.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Alrighty. This is
4 Wildlife Proposal 18-24. The motion on the floor is to
5 adopt Proposal WP18-24 as found on Page 259 of the
6 meeting book.

7

8 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.

9

10 MR. FROST: I oppose for all the
11 reasons that Greg had mentioned and I don't think I
12 need to rehash those.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
15 Management, Karen Mouritsen.

16

17 MS. MOURITSEN: I oppose based on the
18 original recommendation from the RAC to oppose because
19 of the confusion over the terms and with the
20 expectation that OSM and the RACs would talk to whoever
21 they need to talk to, including the State and come up
22 with something soon that would look at all these
23 different terms and regs and try to come up with
24 something that was less confusing to propose to us if
25 they saw fit.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Karen.

30

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

33

34 MR. SIEKANIEC: I oppose. And with
35 very similar reasons with deference to the Bristol Bay
36 RAC given that they were asking for clarity,
37 consistency and a consideration of how you might take
38 the State recent consideration into what might be
39 allowed on the Federal lands in the unit as well.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Greg.

44

45 Forest Service, Wayne Owen.

46

47 MR. OWEN: Oppose.

48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Lynn Polacca.

50

1 MR. POLACCA: I support.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Rhonda
4 Pitka.

5

6 MS. PITKA: I support in defiance of
7 the RAC because it would be detrimental to the
8 satisfaction of subsistence needs.

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Charlie
11 Brower.

12

13 MR. C. BROWER: Support. It would be
14 detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence users.

15

16 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
17 Christianson.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
20 well.

21

22 MR. DOOLITTLE: We have a tie,
23 four/four, the motion fails.

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. I'm
26 going to call for a five minute break and we'll come
27 back and we still have some business to do today.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (On record)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right. We
34 look to the analysis, Region 5, Kuskokwim Delta.

35

36 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
37 name is Suzanne Worker. And the next proposal on the
38 docket is 18-28. WP18-28 was submitted by the Togiak
39 National Wildlife Refuge and this analysis begins on
40 Page 895 of your Board materials.

41

42 The Refuge requests the addition of a
43 winter may be announced moose season in the portion of
44 Unit 18 in the Goodnews River drainage and south to the
45 Unit 18 boundary. In January 2017 the Board of Game
46 established a may be announced season in this hunt area
47 which allows the area biologist to determine the length
48 and timing of an opening and to establish a harvest
49 quota for the hunt. So that is in addition to the

50

1 existing fall hunt. This proposal seeks similar
2 flexibility for the Federal manager to open a winter
3 season when it's warranted.

4
5 Moose are relatively new to this area
6 and the population has grown substantially in the last
7 decade. In March 2017, the population estimate was
8 approximately 600 moose and although there is some
9 uncertainty in that number, the population is believed
10 to have grown in the past several years. There were 47
11 bulls to 100 cows in late 2016 and calf production and
12 recruitment have been sufficient to sustain growth. So
13 this population appears to be doing well.

14
15 Moose harvests has been allowed in the
16 Goodnews drainage since 2008 and since that time all
17 but one moose has been taken by Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users, primarily by residents of Goodnews
19 Bay and Platinum. Those are the two communities that
20 are located within the hunt area. The average reported
21 harvest is 13 moose annually and the annual harvest has
22 never exceeded the quota of 20 moose that was
23 established in 2011. So a winter hunt would provide an
24 additional opportunity to meet that quota.

25
26 These changes are not expected to
27 affect the moose population in the area since they've
28 already been made in State regulation. And, because
29 Federally-qualified subsistence users are already
30 hunting with State registration permits. However,
31 having the ability to open a winter season gives local
32 managers the flexibility to respond to dynamic moose
33 population while the use of registration permits and
34 harvest quotas guards against overharvest.

35
36 The OSM conclusion is to support WP18-
37 28 with modification. Simply to delegate authority to
38 the Refuge manager to close the fall season and open
39 and close the winter season and to set harvest quotas
40 and restrictions.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
45 questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
50

1 Susan. Hearing none, we'll go to summary of public
2 comments.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Members of
5 the Board. For the record, Eva Patton, Council
6 coordinator for the YK Delta Subsistence Regional
7 Advisory Council.

8

9 While there were no written public
10 comments submitted during the comment period, several
11 ACs did meet and submitted comments. You'll find in
12 your supplemental Section 7, beginning on Page 39 there
13 were six Alaska Fish and Game Advisory Committees that
14 met from the Western Alaska region. All six were in
15 support of Proposal 18-28, and these include the Mid,
16 Lower Yukon AC, the Central Bering AC, the Coastal
17 Lower Yukon, the Central Kuskokwim AC, the Bethel AC
18 and the Lower Kuskokwim AC were all in support of WP18-
19 28.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 And that concludes comments submitted
24 for this proposal.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.

29

30 With that, I'll open up the floor for
31 public testimony.

32

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We have no
37 white cards for this one. Whew.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there
42 anybody on the phone.

43

44 OPERATOR: We have no question or
45 comment on the phone.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Nobody on line.

48

49 OPERATOR: No, no question or comments

50

1 from the phone line.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
4 We'll move on to Regional Advisory Council
5 recommendation.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Members of
8 the Board. Again, Eva Patton, Council coordinator for
9 the YK Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
10 The newly elected Chair for the YK Delta RAC, Alissa
11 Rogers had to just depart to catch her flight home so
12 I'll be reading the Council recommendations into the
13 record.

14

15 And, Alissa, did wish to express her
16 gratitude for the warm welcome here and participation
17 in the Board process. She started attending RAC
18 meetings as a child herself. Her late grandfather John
19 Hanson served for many years as the YK Delta RAC Chair
20 in the earlier days, so she's bringing up the next
21 generation. So she wished to express that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 So the YK Delta Subsistence Regional
26 Advisory Council supports WP18-26 [sic] and they
27 support this as an additional subsistence opportunity
28 in the region. The Council concurred with feedback
29 from local residents of Goodnews Bay and Quinhagak that
30 if they were not able to get the moose on their permit
31 during the fall hunt season, a winter hunt season would
32 be very beneficial to give them another opportunity to
33 harvest a moose for their family. Council Chair at the
34 time, Lester Wilde, Sr., noted that in the region they
35 had worked very hard during the moose moratorium on the
36 Kuskokwim River, which was a joint effort from
37 communities all along the Kuskokwim River and in the
38 region for many years to get to this point to where
39 there are moose to harvest and the Council and public
40 recognized that that effort had come to fruition, and
41 so they're very happy to see that the population -- the
42 moose population was back up where everyone in the
43 region has an opportunity for much needed protein the
44 moose provides, and he noted that this increased
45 opportunity is a very good thing to see and they're
46 very much in support.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Western Interior.

3
4 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Western Interior deferred this to YK Delta region. We
6 have customary and traditional use within Unit 18 but
7 none of our constituents would go this far and we
8 deferred to the Yukon Delta Council.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Jack.

14
15 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp., comments.

16
17 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
18 members. Consultation was held on September 7th and
19 I'd like to read a statement from a person over
20 actually off of Healy Lake. And he asked why tribes
21 aren't calling in and I shared with him upon contacting
22 the region and talking to several tribal members and
23 leaders that they wouldn't be available because of the
24 upcoming moose seasons. And sometimes our timing
25 doesn't allow a lot of phone calls to come in from the
26 tribes because they're doing exactly that, they're out
27 moose hunting. And I did state to him that, you know,
28 we try to make a real effort and try to accommodate the
29 tribes to let them know about consultation dates and
30 times. And when I did talk to, I believe, six members
31 they were stating that they would attend the Regional
32 Advisory Council meetings when it happened.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
37 Orville.

38
39 Alaska Department of Fish and Game
40 comments.

41
42 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
43 Mark Burch. A special projects coordinator for the
44 Department of Fish and Game.

45
46 Our comments are on Page 905 in the
47 book. The State of Alaska supports, with modification
48 to change the bag limit to one moose to align it with
49 the State regulations. We concur with the analysis of
50

1 the situation provided by OSM and we do not believe
2 that adoption of this proposal will have appreciable
3 effect on the population.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
8 InterAgency Staff Committee.

9
10 MS. HARDIN; Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
11 InterAgency Staff Committee made the standard comment
12 for WP18-28.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 Board discussion with Council Chairs and State liaison.

16
17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
21 seeing none, Federal Subsistence Board action.

22
23 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Greg.

26
27 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Greg, with Fish and Wildlife Service.

29
30 I'd like to move to adopt Proposal
31 WP18-28 as modified by OSM and noted on Page 895 of the
32 meeting book. Should I get a second on this motion, I
33 will gladly provide a justification.

34
35 MS. MOURITSEN: Second.

36
37 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Karen.

38
39 I agree with the OSM justification
40 provided on Page 903 and 904. Modification provided by
41 OSM simply clarifies the regulatory language and does
42 not change the intent of the proposal as written and,
43 thus, would be supported by the Yukon Delta Regional
44 Advisory Committee [sic]. Establishing a winter season
45 provides an additional opportunity for Federally-
46 qualified subsistence users to harvest moose if they
47 are unsuccessful in the fall. Relative to a preset
48 season, a may be announced season, poses little risk to
49 the moose population in the area since it allows local
50

1 managers to be responsive to changing population and
2 harvest dynamics.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
7 further discussion. Questions by the Board.

8

9 MS. PITKA: I just wanted to address
10 something that Orville Lind said in the comment, the
11 tribal comment, he said something about there were no
12 tribes on line because everybody was out moose hunting.
13 That's going to be true if you have your consultations
14 in the month of September, pretty much everywhere. So
15 maybe keep that in mind when we form tribal
16 consultation, is nobody's going to be anywhere in
17 either September or June.

18

19 MR. LIND: Thank you, Rhonda for that.
20 Absolutely. And, again, you know, we don't know when
21 special actions are coming in or proposals are being
22 sent in so, again, we try to accommodate the tribes the
23 best way we can. And for the last three years there
24 was a couple of times where we actually held the
25 consultation after the Regional Advisory Council
26 meetings.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
31 question.

32

33 MS. C. BROWER: Question.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
36 called. Can we read into the record please.

37

38 MR. DOOLITTLE: Certainly. This is
39 Wildlife Proposal 18-28 and the motion on the floor is
40 adopt Proposal WP18-28 as modified by the Office of
41 Subsistence Management. That modification can be found
42 on Page 895 of the meeting book.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. All
45 those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same

50

1 sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
6 unanimously.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 The floor is yours.
11
12 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Good evening, Mr.
13 Chair, members of the Board. My name is Megan
14 Klosterman and I'm a wildlife biologist with OSM. I
15 will be reviewing WP18-30, which can be found on Page
16 911 of your meeting materials.
17
18 The proponent, and, forgive me I know
19 I'm going to butcher this pronunciation, Orutsararmiut
20 Native Council, or ONC.
21
22 MS. PATTON: Orutsararmiut Native
23 Council.
24
25 MS. KLOSTERMAN: What was that again?
26
27 MS. PATTON: Orutsararmiut Native
28 Council.
29
30 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you so much.
31
32 Requests that the season for ptarmigan
33 harvest in Unit 18 be shortened from August 10th
34 through May 30th to August 10th through March 31st, and
35 that the harvest limit be reduced from 50 ptarmigan per
36 day and 100 in possession to 15 ptarmigan per day and
37 30 in possession.
38
39 The proponent states that Unit 18 has
40 experienced a decline in Willow ptarmigan populations.
41 The proponent also states that ptarmigan are an
42 important subsistence resource for residents of the
43 Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, and that in the past ptarmigan
44 would sustain local residents during the early spring
45 until spring weather arrived. The proponent contends
46 that decreasing the harvest limit and shortening the
47 season will allow ptarmigan populations to rebound.
48
49 There are currently no population
50

1 surveys being conducted for ptarmigan in Unit 18.

2

3

4 Ptarmigan abundance naturally
5 fluctuates along with the snowshoe hare populations and
6 specialist predator populations. The Alaska Department
7 of Fish and Game Staff have observed lower ptarmigan
8 populations in Unit 18 than in the past, however.

8

9

10 Ptarmigan in Unit 18 are locally
11 migratory, wintering in the Interior and breeding along
12 the coast. Male ptarmigan begin to arrive along the
13 coast of Unit 18 in late April and females do not fully
14 arrive to the coastal areas in Unit 18 until late May.

14

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15 The majority of Unit 18 ptarmigan
16 harvest takes place from April through June.

18 Harvest estimates based on household
19 surveys averaged 15,901 ptarmigan taken annually
20 between 1986 and 2001 and 12,298 between 2002 and 2015.
21 However, harvest estimates from the Alaska Migratory
22 Bird subsistence harvest estimates household surveys
23 have high levels of variation and provide limited
24 utility for assessing impacts of management decisions
25 on ptarmigan populations.

27 Harvest levels of Willow ptarmigan
28 above 15 percent could be additive to natural mortality
29 and a harvest of 30 percent of the post-breeding
30 population could become super additive, that is,
31 harvest could cause additional natural mortality
32 following the harvest.

34 If adopted, this proposal would reduce
35 the harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified
36 subsistence users residing in coastal areas of Unit 18.

38 Since Willow ptarmigan do not begin to
39 arrive to coastal areas until late May, or late
40 April/early May, closing the season on March 31st would
41 end the season prior to the arrival of ptarmigan to
42 these coastal areas. This proposal may protect
43 ptarmigan populations during the critical breeding
44 season and allow the population to rebound. However,
45 the proposal would make Federal subsistence regulations
46 more restrictive than State regulations.

48 So the OSM conclusion is to support
49 Proposal WP18-30 with modification, to leave the season
50

1 unchanged. Decreasing the harvest limit while
2 maintaining the current season may provide an
3 opportunity for ptarmigan populations to rebound while
4 still providing harvest opportunity for coastal
5 communities in Unit 18. But it is important to note
6 that a proposal would also need to be submitted to the
7 Board of Game to really have an impact on the harvest
8 in the area.

9
10 And that's all I have and I'm open to
11 any questions.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
20 Summary of public comment.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 Again, for the record, Eva Patton, Council coordinator
24 for the YK Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

25
26 Again, you can find public comments
27 submitted by the State Fish and Game Regional Advisory
28 Committees beginning on Page 39 in Section 7 of your
29 supplemental packet. All six of the ACs supported as
30 amended, and, again, this includes the Mid, Lower Yukon
31 AC, the Central Bering AC, the Coastal Lower Yukon, the
32 Central Kuskokwim AC, the Bethel AC and the Lower
33 Kuskokwim AC. And in addition to those comments, they
34 all supported as amended, to support those coastal
35 communities as that migration of ptarmigan come from
36 the inland out to the coast and arrive at a later date,
37 so they all supported maintaining the current dates but
38 limiting the harvest.

39
40 Several ACs also had further comments.
41 Their Council members from communities throughout the
42 region noting that they, too, were seeing a decline in
43 ptarmigan in their usual hunting areas. In particular,
44 going back to usual hunting areas where they would see
45 abundant ptarmigan, this year they had gone to hunt --
46 or this past year, and they didn't see any ptarmigan
47 and they noted that in similar efforts, as the moose
48 hunting moratorium that was supported by subsistence
49 communities on the river, that they felt they were also

50

1 in support of reducing subsistence harvest to support
2 the future generations.

3

4 And that concludes the comments for
5 Proposal WP18-30.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Eva.

10

11 Questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I would open
16 the floor to public testimony.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing none, I
21 call on the line, the phone.

22

23 OPERATOR: No question or comment on the
24 line.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
27 We'll move to Regional Advisory Council recommendation.
28 Is Bristol Bay still on.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

33

34 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our
35 Bristol Bay representative had to leave for other
36 functions. I will read into the record the Bristol Bay
37 Council's recommendations.

38

39 The Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
40 Advisory Council supports WP18-30 with modification to
41 change the season to August 10th to May 15th and change
42 the season bag limit to 20 per day and 40 in
43 possession. The modification to align the season with
44 current State regulations for ptarmigan and the harvest
45 limit with the adjacent hunt area in Unit 17. The
46 ptarmigan population has decreased in Unit 18 and the
47 proposal as amended will reduce regulatory complexity
48 between Federal and State hunting regulations. The
49 Council agreed action is needed now and reducing the

50

1 harvest limit is a starting point. Reducing the
2 harvest limit will address the conservation concern and
3 bring the population level back up for subsistence
4 users future needs. Some subsistence users harvest
5 ptarmigan out of real need and this action will benefit
6 future subsistence harvest.

7
8 The modified regulation should read:
9 Unit 18 ptarmigan, both Rock and Willow, Unit 18, 20
10 per day, 40 in possession, season dates August 10th
11 through May 15th.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. YK.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 Again, Eva Patton, Council coordinator for YK Delta
19 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and I'll be
20 reading the Council's actions on behalf of Chair Alissa
21 Rogers.

22
23 The Yukon Delta Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council supports WP18-30 as modified by OSM.
25 All Council members, a 13 member Council with Council
26 members from throughout the YK Delta region all
27 discussed their personal observations around their
28 communities of the decline in ptarmigan population,
29 noting that over the last 10 years or so there have
30 been fewer ptarmigan along the Kuskokwim River as well.
31 The Council stressed that even if there was a lack of
32 data, biological data on the declines, local hunters
33 observe populations ever year and see what's going on
34 with the animals and the environment and local hunter
35 observation should be considered valid in consideration
36 of this proposal.

37
38 Overall, the Council shared the
39 importance of ptarmigan for subsistence in the region
40 and expressed great concern for its decline. The
41 Council voted to support efforts to help the population
42 rebound by reducing subsistence hunting pressure. The
43 Council discussed that as hunters they have noticed the
44 decrease and expressed that the future of this very
45 important subsistence resource should be cared for by
46 the people that are going to be coming after us.

47
48 The Council voted to maintain the
49 current season upon consideration for the disparate
50

1 impact that the shortened season would have on the
2 coastal communities, again, as the ptarmigan migrate
3 out to the coast later in the season as the snow
4 recedes. And, overall, the Council noted the
5 importance of ptarmigan especially for hunting of
6 resources when their chinook salmon are in decline and
7 they're losing their winter and spring food. So even
8 though it's a very important subsistence resource, they
9 felt that the conservation was also imperative at this
10 time for future generations.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
15 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp., comments, Native Liaison.

16

17 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
18 members. During the consultation on September 7th
19 there was no discussion on Wildlife Proposal 18-30.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

24

25 Alaska Department of Fish and Game

26

27 MR. BURCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
28 Mark Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

29

30 Fish and Game is neutral on this
31 proposal and the reason is, is that it would cause a
32 discrepancy between the State and Federal season, it
33 would be more restrictive. And users could still hunt
34 under State regulations, and so the discrepancy could
35 be confusing.

36

37 As you heard we don't have any current
38 population figures so assessing this proposal is
39 difficult, although harvest during the springtime,
40 during the breeding season is generally considered to
41 be more additive mortality and so there is potential
42 for that effect, especially since ptarmigan, both Rock
43 and Willow ptarmigan males are especially susceptible
44 to harvest during that time because of their behavior.

45

46 So just to reiterate, the Alaska
47 Department of Fish and Game is neutral on this
48 proposal.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 InterAgency Staff Committee.

3
4 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
5 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
6 comment for WP18-30.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Board
9 discussion with Council Chairs, State liaison. Any
10 questions, deliberations.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
15 seeing none, we'll move for Board action.

16
17 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chair. Greg
18 Siekaniec, Fish and Wildlife Service.

19
20 I would move to adopt WP18-30 as
21 modified by the Office of Subsistence Management as
22 indicated on Page 923 of the meeting book and supported
23 by the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Committee [sic].
24 Keep the season dates unchanged and to modify the bag
25 limit to 15 per day and 30 in possession. Should I get
26 a second on this motion I will provide further
27 justification.

28
29 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

30
31 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie.
32 Maintaining the current season dates maintains a
33 Federal subsistence priority and provides more
34 opportunity than what is currently available under
35 State regulations. Although it is expected that
36 ptarmigan population declines are likely caused by
37 climate change, human harvest during spring may have an
38 additive mortality effect on the already declining
39 population. It may be important to limit harvest until
40 ptarmigan numbers rebound to maintain this resource for
41 local users. The proponent stated that the subsistence
42 users are responsible for a majority of the harvest and
43 this proposal would limit these users, somewhat, and
44 provide some potential for the population to rebound.

45
46 And I do fully recognize that we are
47 adding another element of inconsistent State and
48 Federal application of season, or of harvest limit,
49 which is just another discrepancy and we should always
50

1 be mindful when we're doing that.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Greg.

7

8 Any discussion.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
13 call for the question.

14

15 MR. FROST: Question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Will you please
18 read into the record the motion please.

19

20 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is Wildlife
21 Proposal 18-30. The motion on the floor is adopt
22 Proposal WP18-30 as modified by the Office of
23 Subsistence Management as indicated on Page 923 of the
24 meeting book.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All those in
27 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
32 sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
37 unanimously.

38

39 The floor is yours.

40

41 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 WP18-31 begins on Page 931 of your book. This proposal
43 was submitted by the ONC. And they are concerned about
44 the conservation status of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd
45 so they're requesting that the caribou season in Unit
46 18 be shortened from the current season of August 1st
47 to March 15th, to a new season of August 1st to
48 February 28th.

49

50

1 Like I mentioned earlier today, the
2 Mulchatna Caribou Herd is estimated to be around 27,000
3 animals and that was in 2016. And this is just below
4 the lower limit of the population objective. But the
5 bull/cow ratio has improved markedly in recent years
6 and has approached or exceeded the population objective
7 of 35 bulls to 100 cows since 2014.

8
9 Reported harvest by Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users has averaged fewer than 500 caribou
11 annually since 2000 and, again, we do anticipate that
12 harvest is higher than reported.

13
14 Almost 50 percent of the reported
15 harvest from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd occurs in early
16 spring in either February or March. Among Federally-
17 qualified subsistence users, nearly 50 percent of the
18 reported harvest occurs in Unit 18. And so what
19 happens in Unit 18 in the spring probably isn't
20 inconsequential in terms of harvest of this population,
21 however, if this proposal was adopted the Federal
22 season will be shorter than the State season by 15
23 days, and since there is nothing preventing Federal
24 users from hunting under State regulation, there is
25 expected to be no actual effect on the caribou
26 population or on subsistence users. Rather, the main
27 effect of this proposal would be to increase the
28 regulatory complexity, which is unnecessary in the
29 absence of a conservation benefit.

30
31 So the OSM conclusion is to oppose
32 WP18-31.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Summary of
41 public comment.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council --
44 or Board, rather. Again, for the record, Eva Patton,
45 Council coordinator for the YK Delta Subsistence
46 Regional Advisory Council. You will find written
47 public comments in your supplemental Section 7 from the
48 Western Alaska ACs.

49
50

1 Five of the Western Alaska ACs were in
2 support of WP18-31, and those ACs were Mid-Lower Yukon
3 AC, Central Bering Sea AC, the Central Kuskokwim AC,
4 the Bethel AC and the Lower Kuskokwim AC were all in
5 support of WP18-31, however, some did note it would
6 disalign with the State regulations in the area.

7
8 One AC was opposed to WP18-31, the
9 Coastal Lower Yukon AC had noted that it would be out
10 of alignment with the State regulations and add to
11 confusion for hunters in the region and felt that the
12 15 day shortening of the season wouldn't have a strong
13 enough conservation effect for the effort. And they
14 also had noted they weren't certain that it was
15 subsistence hunter harvest that was having an impact on
16 the caribou herd, and had noted that there were high
17 rates of predation on the -- and, again, they felt that
18 the shortening by 15 days wouldn't have the
19 conservation effect but the disalignment may have some
20 confusion for folks.

21
22 And that concludes public comments for
23 WP18-31.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

26
27 Open the floor to public testimony.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: On the phone.

32
33 OPERATOR: No question or comment on the
34 phones.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
37 Regional Advisory Council recommendation.

38
39 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
40 the record, Donald Mike, Council coordinator for
41 Bristol Bay. I'll be reading the Council's
42 recommendation into the record.

43
44 Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
45 Advisory Council opposes Proposal 18-31. Although the
46 herd is not growing as desired, there appears to be
47 enough bulls to support the harvest. The proposal
48 would have a detrimental effect on other subsistence
49 users and the timing involved for the users from the
50

1 Bristol Bay region, typically use the resource later in
2 the season and it will affect their abilities to access
3 the resource if the later season dates are taken away.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. YK.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Members of the
10 Board. Eva Patton, YK Delta Subsistence Regional
11 Advisory Council speaking for our Chair Alissa Rogers.

12

13 The YK Delta Subsistence Regional
14 Advisory Council supports this proposal. The Council
15 discussed that the proposal specifically requested to
16 shorten the caribou hunt at the end of the season in
17 the spring and felt that that would be supported by
18 communities since the fall hunt was a more important
19 time to be out for hunting.

20

21 Some Council members noted that the
22 overlap of the fall moose and caribou hunt allowed for
23 an opportunity to harvest caribou at the same time if
24 they were not able to get a moose. They felt that
25 reduction in the season at the tail end would help
26 reduce pressure on caribou at the end of the winter,
27 without overly impacting subsistence communities in the
28 region. However, because all of the subsistence is
29 integrated the Council did discuss concerns about the
30 reduction in salmon fishing opportunity and that they
31 may run out of dry fish come spring and that springtime
32 may be an important time for hunting to meet their
33 subsistence needs as well.

34

35 However, overall, the Council concurred
36 with observations and concern for a decline in the
37 Mulchatna Caribou Herd and felt this was their
38 opportunity to take action on the Federal lands and
39 voted in support of this proposal in an effort to help
40 the population be sustained for future generations.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

45 Seward Penn.

46

47 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48 Seward Peninsula RAC weighed in. We have two

49 communities right at the top there just outside the

50

1 boundaries but they have C&T of taking these caribou.

2

3 The Council opposed this proposal
4 because it would only shorten the Federal season by 15
5 days and likely have no appreciable impact conserving
6 caribou in this area. All hunters can use a State
7 registration permit to hunt the Mulchatna Caribou Herd,
8 therefore, changing the Federal season would also
9 create confusion in the State and Federal seasons that
10 are already currently aligned.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
15 for RAC Chairs.

16

17 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp., comments.

18

19 MR. LIND: Thank you, Chair. Board
20 members. During the consultation of September 7th
21 there was no discussion on Wildlife Proposal 18-31.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Alaska
24 Department of Fish and Game.

25

26 MR. BUTLER: Mr. Chair. Members of the
27 Board. The Department's opposed to the adoption of
28 WP18-31 because it doesn't provide any clear benefit to
29 the population and it makes subsistence regulations
30 more restrictive and, generally more confusing in the
31 area with the differences between the State and Federal
32 seasons and bag limits.

33

34 The harvest on the Mulchatna is pretty
35 light right now, mostly because the herd is relatively
36 inaccessible to people. The herd can support quite a
37 bit more harvest and still grow, given its current
38 population dynamics. So, again, there's really no need
39 to limit harvest at this point and it's likely a
40 distribution problem if people are seeing fewer
41 caribou.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 InterAgency Staff Committee.

45

46 MS. HARDIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
47 InterAgency Staff Committee provided the standard
48 comment on WP18-31.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
2 Board discussion with Council Chairs and State liaison.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
7 seeing none, Federal Board action.

8
9 MR. SIEKANIEC: Mr. Chairman. Greg
10 Siekaniec, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

11
12 I would like to move to adopt WP18-31
13 as noted on Page 931 of the information book. Should I
14 get a second I will provide my justification that I
15 believe is consistent with the Bristol Bay Regional
16 Advisory Committee [sic], and the Seward Peninsula
17 Regional Advisory Committee [sic], as to why I would
18 intend to oppose this motion.

19
20 MR. C. BROWER: Second.

21
22 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you, Charlie. I
23 believe this proposal is not expected to address the
24 proponent's or the Yukon Delta Regional Advisory
25 Committee's [sic] conservation concerns as we have
26 heard from others, and does not provide any clear
27 benefit to the population biology of the Mulchatna
28 Caribou Herd or to Federally-qualified subsistence
29 users. Because harvest will remain legal through March
30 15th under State regulations and because Federally-
31 qualified subsistence users may hunt on both State and
32 Federal lands under State regulation throughout Unit 18
33 it will have negligible effects on subsistence harvest
34 or on population dynamics of the Mulchatna Caribou
35 Herd. In addition, the misalignment of State and
36 Federal seasons will, again, result in confusion among
37 Federal users, which I believe is unnecessary in the
38 absence of a conservation benefit as noted by the OSM
39 evaluation.

40
41 Once, again, I'd like to remind the
42 Board that, you know, we should try and avoid these
43 confusing settings for people out on the land.

44
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
48 Open the floor for discussion.

49
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
4 question.
5
6 MR. C. BROWER: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Do roll call on
9 this one.
10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: This is Wildlife
12 Proposal 18-31. The motion on the floor is adopt
13 Proposal WP18-31 as found on Page 931 of the meeting
14 book.
15
16 Roll call vote.
17
18 National Park Service, Herbert Frost.
19
20 MR. FROST: Oppose.
21
22 MR. DOOLITTLE: Bureau of Land
23 Management, Karen Mouritsen.
24
25 MS. MOURITSEN: Oppose.
26
27 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
28 Service, Greg Siekaniec.
29
30 MR. SIEKANIEC: Oppose.
31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: U.S. Forest Service,
33 Wayne Owen.
34
35 MR. OWEN: Oppose.
36
37 MR. DOOLITTLE: BIA, Lynn Polacca.
38
39 MR. POLACCA: Oppose.
40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Public member, Rhonda
42 Pitka.
43
44 MS. PITKA: Oppose in deference to two
45 RACs.
46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Rhonda.
48
49 Public member, Charlie Brower.
50

1 MR. C. BROWER: Oppose.

2

3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Chairman Anthony
4 Christianson.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oppose.

7

8 MR. DOOLITTLE: Motion fails.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right now I'm
11 going to make a quick exception to do public testimony
12 for somebody who has to leave. And so if Cynthia
13 Kruger can come on up and speak to the proposal she has
14 on the paper here.

15

16 MS. KRUGER: Hi. Mr. Chairman and
17 respective Board Members. I'd just like to say I
18 oppose the proposal WP18-33 and WP18-36.

19

20 In the proposal it states that we don't
21 take advantage of the early hunt and we do. We use
22 that time to bring our youth out, we have an annual
23 cultural camp and we teach them boating safety and gun
24 safety and we teach them how to harvest a moose during
25 that time. It's a pretty big thing for our youth, our
26 young boys, you know, to get their first moose. And to
27 have it -- to shorten it and have it at the same time
28 when the outside hunters come in and hunt, adding that
29 extra competition and extra pressure, I don't like that
30 idea.

31

32 So -- oh, my name is Cynthia Kruger, by
33 the way, from Grayling.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
36 for Cynthia -- are you finished Cynthia?

37

38 MS. KRUGER: (Nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead, Ken.

41

42 MR. LORD: Cynthia, the culture camp,
43 is it done under a cultural education permit or is it
44 just during the regular season, or do you know?

45

46 MS. KRUGER: I don't. I'll have to get
47 that -- I can get it written down and emailed to you
48 guys.

49

50

1 MR. LORD: We can find out, that's
2 okay, thank you.

3
4 MS. KRUGER: Okay.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
7 Cynthia, for your testimony, appreciate you taking the
8 time and safe travels home.

9
10 MS. KRUGER: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: What I am going
13 to say is 18-34 will be our last one for the day.
14 There's hope in the air.

15
16 (Laughter)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Lynx get it on.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair. I just want to
23 clarify, are you skipping over 33/36 until tomorrow
24 or.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I'm looking
27 at the wrong sheet here.

28
29 MR. MCKEE: Because you did remove that
30 from the consensus, just as a reminder.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm on the
33 right one, aren't I?

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, you're on the
36 right one.

37
38 MR. MCKEE: You removed 33/36 from the
39 consensus agenda.

40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: Oh, 33, oh, I see what
42 you did because it's 33/36.

43
44 MR. MCKEE: I don't want to point you
45 in any direction, I just want to remind you that that
46 was taken off.

47
48 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, we're
2 looking at the old list here.
3
4 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is 33/36 a
7 combined proposal?
8
9 MR. MCKEE: It is, yes.
10
11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is it a fast
14 one?
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I don't want to
19 get into.....
20
21 MR. MCKEE: No.
22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:an hour
24 long one.
25
26 MR. MCKEE: 34 would probably be
27 better.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can we, by
32 consensus here, skip over and do lynx, and then we'll
33 get to this 33/36 in the morning.
34
35 (Board nods affirmatively)
36
37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
38
39 Whew.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44
45 (Off record comments re dinner)
46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
48 yours. I'm giving you the Chair for just a moment,
49 while I step out (to Siekaniec)
50

1 The floor is yours, go ahead.

2

3 MS. KLOSTERMAN: All right. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair. Again, my name is Megan Klosterman and I'm
5 a wildlife biologist with OSM. I'm reviewing WP18-34
6 which can be found on Page 949 of your meeting
7 materials.

8

9 The proponent, Jack Reakoff, of
10 Wiseman, requests that the lynx trapping season in Unit
11 24A be lengthened by one month from November 1st
12 through February 28th, to November 1st through March
13 31st. The proponent states that this proposal would
14 align the lynx and wolverine trapping seasons which
15 would limit incidental take of lynx while targeting
16 wolverine. Lynx populations fluctuate in tandem with
17 the lag of about one to two years with snowshoe hare
18 population trends. Snowshoe hare have what is known as
19 a super peak or abnormally high population spike every
20 other peak cycle. Snowshoe hare are currently in a
21 super peak cycle with populations expected to crash
22 within the next two to three years. Likewise, lynx are
23 also expected to be reaching a super peak in the near
24 future. Due to the cyclical nature of the lynx
25 population it is difficult to determine a population
26 estimate, however, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
27 biologists expressed that there is no -- there are no
28 indications of any biological concerns at this time.

29

30 In Unit 24 the lynx harvest typically
31 fluctuates along with the population cycle, which you
32 can see in Figure 2 on Page 956. This proposal would
33 provide additional harvests opportunity to Federally-
34 qualified subsistence users as the lynx population
35 reaches a super peak stage of the population cycle.
36 This proposal would also align the lynx and wolverine
37 trapping seasons, which would allow Federally-qualified
38 subsistence users to harvest lynx and wolverine in the
39 same trapline and reduce incidental take of lynx out of
40 season.

41

42 The OSM conclusion is to support WP18-
43 34, due to there being no indication of conservation
44 concerns pertaining to lynx in Unit 24A.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 And I'm available for any questions.

49

50

1 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you for your
2 comments. Do we have any comments or questions.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MR. SIEKANIEC: Hearing none, let's go
7 to a summary of the public comments.

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair,
10 Members of the Board, this is Zach Stevenson,
11 subsistence Council coordinator for both the Western
12 Interior and Northwest Arctic regions.

13
14 There were no written public comments
15 received for Wildlife Proposal 18-34. I do want to
16 point out that the Council felt that this proposal
17 would provide increased subsistence opportunity for
18 users within the Western Interior region and did not
19 present any conservation concerns.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 MR. SIEKANIEC: Thank you. Any
24 questions on the public comments.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. SIEKANIEC: Nothing there.

29
30 Welcome back, Mr. Chair, you're opening
31 the floor to public testimony.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. The
34 floor is open for public testimony.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
39 on the phone.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Everybody's
44 home already.

45
46 Regional Council recommendation.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman. Western
49 Interior Regional Advisory Council supported the

50

1 proposal for Unit 24A for lynx season extension.

2
3 The Council supported the proposal
4 reflecting that there will be increased opportunity,
5 there will be no conservation concern and that the fur
6 is still in good condition in March. In fact, it's
7 much better than the fur in November when the season
8 opens. We used to have a lynx season that went through
9 the end of March, then the fur prices went up over \$500
10 a lynx and then there was conservation concerns when
11 there was lots of trapping pressure. There's currently
12 low fur prices and there's going to be lots of lynx
13 under harvested, so that's why I submitted the
14 proposal. The Council supported the proposal.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: Eastern Interior took up
19 this proposal and the Council noted that lynx
20 population cycles follow the hare cycles and that lynx
21 taken in March have the best fur. Also the Council
22 noted that aligning the lynx and wolverine season in
23 24A will make it less confusing for the users and will
24 allow trappers to keep lynx caught incidentally in
25 wolverine sets.

26
27 Finally, the Council recognized that
28 there's no biological concern pertaining to lynx in
29 24A.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you two
34 for that, appreciate that.

35
36 Tribal, Alaska Native Corp., Native
37 Liaison.

38
39 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Board
40 members. Again, during September 7 consultation there
41 was no further discussion on 18-34.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

45
46 MR. BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 Members of the Board.

48
49 The Department's changing its
50

1 recommendation on this to being neutral. We recognize
2 that there's no biological concern for the lynx
3 population if this proposal is adopted and it's likely
4 to result in minimal additional harvest. We do
5 recognize, though, that it complicates regulations in
6 the area and if it's adopted we recommend a similar
7 proposal be submitted to the Board of Game to get
8 things aligned again in the area.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
13 That brings that to a consensus.

14

15 ISC.

16

17 MS. HARDIN: Mr. Chair. The
18 InterAgency Staff Committee made the standard comment
19 for WP18-34.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I like how
22 we're all still happy at our job at the end of the day.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Board
27 discussion with Council Chairs and State liaison.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we're
32 discussed out. That opens it up here for Board action.

33

34 MS. MOURITSEN: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
35 make a motion. I move to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-
36 34, the extension of the lynx trapping season in Unit
37 24A as shown on Page 949 in the meeting book. If I get
38 a second to the motion I will speak in support of it.

39

40 MS. FROST: Second.

41

42 MR. POLACCA: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The floor is
45 yours Karen.

46

47 MS. MOURITSEN: Thank you. First, I
48 want to note the two RACs have supported this proposal,
49 the Eastern Interior and Western Interior RAC, and also

50

1 OSM is supporting this and also ADF&G has indicated
2 that they did not identify any biological concerns for
3 the lynx population in Unit 24A because they think that
4 it'll be minimal additional harvest. I understand that
5 the State had a tiny bit of concern about the proposals
6 misalignment of trapping seasons between the Federal
7 and State trapping seasons but they're not opposing for
8 that reason anymore.

9
10 And then I do note, that, even given
11 that, this change will benefit the subsistence users
12 who trap those lynx and wolverine in Unit 24A. On
13 average 17 lynx are taken each year in Unit 24A by
14 trappers and hunters typically in small isolated areas
15 of the unit that have better access. The majority of
16 Unit 24A receives little or no hunting or trapping
17 pressure for lynx.

18
19 Thanks.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
22 Board discussion.

23
24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
28 question.

29
30 MR. OWEN: Question.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
33 called. Read into the record the motion.

34
35 MR. DOOLITTLE: The last motion of the
36 day, Wildlife Proposal 18-34. Motion, adopt Proposal
37 WP18-34, extension of the lynx trapping season in Unit
38 24A as shown on Page 949 in the meeting book.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All those in
41 favor signify by saying aye.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
46 sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
2 unanimously.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 And I truly appreciate the patience and
7 all the hard work that went into today and pushing the
8 buttons and getting us to start expediting the process
9 there a little bit. But, again, remind everybody here
10 we're here for the public and this is the one shot
11 wonder we have to listen to the people we serve, so,
12 definitely appreciate the patience by everyone.

13
14 See you in the morning, 8:30.

15
16 (Off record)

17
18 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, Pages ____ through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING, VOLUME III taken electronically by our firm on the 12th day of April 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of April 2018.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18