

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Inupiat Heritage Center
Barrow, Alaska
March 16, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
Rosemary Ahtuanguak
Lee Kayotuk
Esther S. Hugo
Wanda T. Kippi
Steve Oomituk

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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1 PROCEEDINGS
2
3 (Barrow, Alaska - 3/16/2017)
4
5 (On record)
6
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER:after
8 9:00, maybe we can have Madam Coordinator do a quick
9 check on who all's online.
10
11 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Welcome,
12 everyone. Thank you for joining us this morning both
13 here in Barrow and also online. And maybe we'll start
14 with introductions with who has joined us on
15 teleconference this morning.
16
17 MS. BEHE: Good morning, this is
18 Carolina Behe with the Inuit Circumpolar Council.
19
20 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Carolina.
21 And anyone else joined us on teleconference this
22 morning?
23
24 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, this is Steve
25 Oomituk.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Steve.
28
29 MR. OOMITUK: Good morning.
30
31 MS. RATTENBURY: Good morning, this is
32 Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Hi, Kumi. And anyone else
35 join online?
36
37 MR. SUMMERS: Good morning, this is
38 Clarence Summers with the National Park Service in
39 Anchorage.
40
41 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good
42 afternoon, Clarence. Anybody else?
43
44 (No comments)
45
46 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, was
47 Rosemary going to rejoin us this morning?
48
49 MS. PATTON: Yes, Rosemary had planned
50

1 to rejoin us for the day this morning. We will keep
2 checking in with other folks and introductions and see
3 if she's able to connect with us and I'll send a text
4 and see if she needs assistance getting back on
5 teleconference.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.
8 And if you could just do roll call here for us that are
9 present and see if we can establish a quorum.

10
11 MS. PATTON: I was looking to our Mr.
12 Secretary. Okay. Alrighty.

13
14 Gordon Brower, Barrow.

15
16 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.
17 I'm here this morning.

18
19 MS. PATTON: And Robert Shears is
20 absent today.

21
22 Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

23
24 MS. HUGO: Good morning, I'm here.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

27
28 And Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

29
30 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, I'm here.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Good morning.

33
34 And Steve Oomituk, Point Hope.

35
36 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, good morning.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Steve.

39
40 Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.

41
42 MR. KAYOTUK: Here.

43
44 MS. PATTON: And Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk,
45 Nuiqsut.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MS. PATTON: We don't have Rosemary

50

1 yet, but she was planning to rejoin us for the entire
2 day today. So we'll check back in with her.

3
4 We could do introductions, we have some
5 new folks who have joined us here today.

6
7 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madam
8 Coordinator, it would be great if you could say that
9 we've established a quorum so if there's any action
10 items that come before us we're able to act on those.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Sure. We do have five
13 Council members present and that does make quorum for
14 the Council at this time. So even if Rosemary has
15 difficulty connecting with Steve Oomituk on line the
16 Council can take action on items.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
19 And I think it would be good to have introductions this
20 morning of those that are present on day two.

21
22 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli, BIA
23 Anchorage.

24
25 MR. MATTHEWS: Vince Matthews, Arctic,
26 Kanuti and Yukon Flat Refuges.

27
28 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon, the
29 Department of Fish and Game.

30
31 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park
32 Service.

33
34 MR. EVANS: Good morning. Tom Evans,
35 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
38 Tom. And I'm going to be talking loud to keep you
39 awake.

40
41 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
42 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning,
45 Hollis.

46
47 MR. BRUNING: Good morning, Darren
48 Bruning, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning,
2 Darren.
3
4 MS. GREGG: Hi, I'm Aubie Gregg from
5 ICAS. And Rosemary may not be here because there's an
6 NPR-A working group meeting this morning, a
7 teleconference from 9:00 to 10:00 so she might be at
8 that.
9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you,
11 Aubie. And welcome this morning and thanks for letting
12 us know.
13
14 MS. ELBERTAI: Clarissa Elbertai from
15 ICAS.
16
17 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you,
18 Clarissa.
19
20 MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak, Sr., Bureau of
21 Land Management, Barrow office.
22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
24 Roy.
25
26 MR. NAGEAK: Morning.
27
28 MR. COGSWELL: Good morning, Council.
29 Stewart Cogswell, Office of Subsistence Management in
30 Anchorage.
31
32 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning,
33 Stewart.
34
35 MR. REAM: Good morning. Joshua Ream,
36 anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
37 Management.
38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right,
40 Joshua. And we got out recorder over there.
41
42 REPORTER: Lynn.
43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: And her name's
45 Lynn. Anybody else that haven't introduced themselves
46 this morning online before we get started?
47
48 MR. GALLOWOOD: Chester Gallowood,
49 Point Hope.
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
2 Chester.

3
4 With that I think we're -- we've
5 established a quorum, we're out of recess and, Madam
6 Coordinator, if you could point us to where we are on
7 the agenda and we'll get started from there.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair and Council. So yesterday there were a couple
11 action items that we didn't take up that we will need
12 to take up today while we have quorum. One was
13 election of officers and again we currently have the
14 Chair seat is vacant with the retirement of Harry
15 Brower, Jr., and even with participants by
16 teleconference the Council can still make nominations
17 and vote on a Chair and Vice Chair and Secretary.

18
19 We do have as an action item the call
20 for wildlife proposals. And as we discussed yesterday
21 we were trying to organize that so that we would get
22 the introduction to the Federal subsistence call for
23 wildlife proposals, how that process works. We have
24 some new Council members here so Tom Evans will help
25 walk through that process.

26
27 And then we were going to provide
28 information and updates on the various caribou herds.
29 So Western Arctic and Teshekpuk which you have a
30 handout on some of the information there. Central
31 Arctic and Porcupine caribou herd, and if it works well
32 for the Council to get information on each of the
33 caribou herds, ask questions and then deliberate if you
34 wanted to submit proposals addressing, you know, a
35 particular wildlife issue.

36
37 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native),
38 Eva. And when we're entertaining and looking at
39 proposals we got to go following this little spiel
40 right here on the board, right?

41
42 MS. PATTON: Actually this is for when
43 the proposals come to the Council at the fall meeting.
44 So today we're developing the proposals so it's the
45 opportunity for the Council to get information, ask
46 questions, have discussion with other Council members,
47 with the public that's attending. So this comes when
48 the proposals come back to the Council for your review
49 at the fall meeting.

50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).
2 Thanks for the clarification and we don't currently
3 have any proposals yet, right?

4
5 MS. PATTON: No, this is the
6 opportunity -- if the Council wishes this is the
7 opportunity at this meeting for the Council to develop
8 proposals. The call for wildlife proposals has been
9 delayed due to change in Administration, there's no
10 Federal Register notices which are required for the
11 call. So this is the opportunity still for the Council
12 to develop proposals and then they'll be submitted when
13 that call goes out.

14
15 The public is open to develop
16 proposals, ask questions and staff are available to
17 help with that and we'll make sure that that
18 announcement goes out to all the villages and
19 communities and tribes. So the public will have an
20 opportunity to develop proposals and submit those as
21 well once the call goes out.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you,
24 Eva. And I think after hearing about caribou
25 presentations I think we may think about something like
26 that and just keep that in mind.

27
28 So with that I think we -- you asked us
29 to be very flexible on -- when we got quorum to be able
30 to do the action items. And I'm going to ask the
31 Council if they want to go back to item six, election
32 of officers. Since we have a quorum we're able to do
33 elections and propose nominations.

34
35 What's the wish of the Council.

36
37 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kaktovik.
40 Lee.

41
42 MR. KAYOTUK: I believe we should go
43 through the elections for officers and get that on the
44 way to get it revised.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. There's
49 a wish from Kaktovik to go to item six for election of
50

1 officers. Do you all concur?
2
3 MS. KIPPI: Second.
4
5 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been
6 seconded to go into elections of officers.
7
8 MR. OOMITUK: Question.
9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's
11 been called for. We are now back to item six of the
12 agenda, election of officers. First item is nomination
13 for Chair of the North Slope Regional Subsistence
14 Advisory Council. So now nominations should be
15 forwarded now.
16
17 MR. OOMITUK: I nominate -- this is
18 Point Hope. I nominate Gordon Brower.
19
20 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.
21
22 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
23 There's a -- I think we can -- without -- you don't
24 need to second them, but you can.....
25
26 MR. OOMITUK: I ask for unanimous.....
27
28 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER:you -- if
29 you want to have a vote you could nominate another
30 person or you can ask for unanimous consent or you can
31 do various different things to elect your Chair.
32
33 MR. OOMITUK: I ask for unanimous
34 consent.
35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a
37 motion on the floor to nominate Gordon Brower as the
38 Chair of the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
39 Council and asking for unanimous consent.
40
41 MR. OOMITUK: Unanimous consent, year.
42 Do you object to this, the.....
43
44 MS. KIPPI: I second the motion.
45
46 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been
47 seconded, any other dialogue, any discussion?
48
49 MR. OOMITUK: Call for question.
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's
2 been called. All those in favor of appointing Gordon
3 Brower as the new Chair of the North Slope Subsistence
4 Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.

5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I voted for myself.
9 (In Native). Thanks for the confidence in me. I'll do
10 my best to help steer the North Slope Regional Advisory
11 Council. I take these things to heart and I'll conduct
12 myself accordingly.

13
14 (In Native).

15
16 MR. OOMITUK: (In Native).

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Vice
19 Chair, we need nominations or Vice Chair.

20
21 MS. KIPPI: I'd like to nominate Lee.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination
24 on the floor to nominate Lee for Kaktovik as Vice Chair
25 of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

26
27 MS. HUGO: I ask for unanimous consent
28 for Lee Kayotuk.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Nomination on
31 the floor for Lee, unanimous consent is requested. All
32 those signify by saying aye.

33
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
37 Congratulations, Lee, you are now the Vice Chair, if I
38 happen to be sick you're going to have to take over.

39
40 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 I'll do my very best to provide information to the RAC.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). And
46 Secretary, we need nominations on the floor to have a
47 Secretary for the North Slope Regional Advisory
48 Council.

49
50

1 MS. HUGO: I nominate Wanda Kippi.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination
4 for Wanda Kippi on the floor. Any other nominations?

5

6 MR. OOMITUK: Ask for unanimous
7 consent.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's been a
10 request for unanimous consent. All those signify by
11 saying aye to elect Wanda as the Secretary of the North
12 Slope Regional Advisory Council.

13

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15

16 MS. KIPPI: I'm not sure, do you.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
19 Congratulations, Wanda.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think all of these
24 are very important. I've been on the Council, I don't
25 know, I think since 1999 or 1998. I took a three year
26 hiatus because I forgot to reapply, but it was not
27 intentional. And but I did go to every meeting that
28 they had. I think I've been to every meeting. I don't
29 think I've been sick in any of these meetings.

30

31 So I think we're back up to speed. And
32 thank everybody for concluding on item six of the
33 agenda and I'm going to ask Madam Coordinator where we
34 should go back to the agenda.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
37 since Steve Oomituk has just joined us this morning it
38 would be a nice opportunity for him to share from Point
39 Hope in his Council members reports. Also in the
40 morning we offer an opportunity for public and tribal
41 comment on nonagenda items. And then we can go back
42 into our action.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madam
45 Coordinator and I think that's a -- it's a great
46 opportunity to be able to do that.

47

48 Steve, we had a lot of tribal -- not --
49 we had some tribal comments yesterday and open the

50

1 floor every morning to comments that any tribe may want
2 to bring before the Council and also the Council member
3 reports. Each of the communities that were present
4 provided a report of their region, how their hunting
5 is, any issues and concerns that the Council may want
6 to hear from the community. So we're going to yield
7 the mic over to Steve Oomituk from Point Hope. As a
8 Council member from Point Hope you have the floor.

9
10 MR. OOMITUK: Good morning. (In
11 Native). It's been a good year for (in Native). You
12 know, a lot of caribou this year, it's -- you know,
13 it's like, you know, a lot better than last year.
14 Caribou are close by, just, you know, half a mile out
15 there, you know the -- by the snow fence. But you can
16 hear them, they're all over the place there. And
17 they're still there. At the -- since the corridor of
18 unit 23 is on Federal lands to sporthunters and
19 nonresidents the caribou have migrated towards Point
20 Hope in the last couple years. It's been a good couple
21 years since the closure.

22
23 But, you know, things are looking good.
24 We -- our ice conditions are very thick this year, you
25 know, (indiscernible - distortion) to guys like that
26 (indiscernible - distortion). A lot of snow, a lot of
27 wolves, a lot of predators out there. And some of our
28 hunters are going home with, you know, six wolves at a
29 time, you know. There's a lot of predators, not as
30 many wolverines, but a lot of caribou are staying in
31 our area. Very good year, a lot of our young hunters
32 are catching their first caribou. It's been a very
33 good year, we're looking forward to summer, spring and
34 fall. So everything's looking good. It's been a cold
35 winter, a lot of east wind. Usually when, you know,
36 the caribou go towards the wind, but, you know, even
37 though with a lot of east wind the caribou stayed
38 around. So I don't know if the predators are around
39 out there even in -- to the west. I know Chester
40 Elhorn is there and he works for the Native Village of
41 Point Hope wildlife. He's one of our (indiscernible -
42 distortion) young directors for wildlife. I don't know
43 if he had much to say, he's out with one of young
44 hunters out there too.

45
46 But other than that it's been a good
47 year.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). It

50

1 sounds like very prosperous for subsistence in your
2 community. It's good to hear these things. Not all of
3 our communities are fortunate.....

4

5 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER:like that. But
8 it's good to hear when it's good.

9

10 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, it's been quite a
11 while since the caribou have been this close and, you
12 know, the last -- how many years it's -- you know, they
13 had to go quite a ways out, you know. But since the
14 closure to sporthunters and nonresidents on unit 23
15 we've seen a big change. And even though the
16 population of the caribou have dropped quite a bit a
17 lot of young calves out there, but I think the
18 population will come back up.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Steve.
21 And (in Native), you're good with your report?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that would
26 conclude Steve Oomituk Council member report from their
27 community and I'm going to open it up to item nine
28 which is public and tribal comments on nonagenda items.
29 So if you're a tribal entity and you want to make
30 comments to address the North Slope Regional Advisory
31 Council it's an opportunity to do that now including
32 general public comments.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If you
37 wanted to make comment from the villages it's your
38 opportunity. You could be a tribal member, you could
39 be a tribal agency or general public. So don't all
40 stampede to the mic all at once.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. PATTON: Is there anyone who's
45 joined us on teleconference that would like to address
46 the Council or who has any questions or.....

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, this is Gordon.
2 Will there still be an opportunity throughout or do we
3 just open that up during the morning, what if somebody
4 comes in during the afternoon and we're still on and
5 has an urgent need to address the Council?
6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
8 there's always an opportunity. We have sign in sheets
9 there, the little blue cards, that if someone wants to
10 address the Council that alerts us that they would like
11 some time to address the Council. Sometimes it's
12 regarding the issue at hand and if it's not then we can
13 find time to address their questions.
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good, Madam
16 Coordinator, if you can point us to the next agenda
17 item, I know we've been jumping around being as
18 flexible as possible. And that was item nine and we --
19 it states that we will make that available each morning
20 that we're here. And so we must be on either item 11
21 because I think we finished old business yesterday and
22 we were going to start on new business.
23

24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, so
25 we're now on the call for Federal wildlife proposals.
26 And we have Tom Evans who will provide an overview for
27 that process and especially for our new Council members
28 about the Federal subsistence regulatory cycle, how it
29 works. And you can find basic information on page 28
30 in your meeting books.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, you have the
33 floor.
34

35 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
36 members of the Council. My name's Tom Evans and I work
37 as a wildlife biologist for the Fish and Wildlife
38 Service, Office of Subsistence Management.
39

40 As Eva mentioned before normally we
41 have a call for wildlife proposals, it's normally
42 signed off for and usually goes from about mid January
43 to the end of March. This year because of the change
44 in Administration we haven't gotten approval from
45 Washington, DC yet, but we're still trying to get
46 proposals here.
47

48 (Off records comments)
49
50

1 So at this time I'll just go over the
2 proposal process. And the Council can submit proposals
3 at this time or at least get them ready and then when
4 the call gets signed off by Washington, DC then we can
5 -- they can be submitted to OSM.

6
7 The Board will consider proposals to
8 change Federal hunting and trapping seasons, harvest
9 limits, methods of harvest, customary and traditional
10 use determinations on Federal public lands. The
11 Federal public lands include National Wildlife Refuges,
12 the National Parks and Monuments and Preserves,
13 National Forest, National Wild and Scenic Rivers and
14 Bureau of Land Management areas that are not part of
15 the national conservation system. The Federal
16 regulations do not apply to State of Alaska lands,
17 private lands, Native allotments or selected Federal
18 lands by State or Native corporations. The Councils
19 may choose to work with OSM staff to develop a proposal
20 and the proposals addressing these issues may also be
21 submitted by individuals and organizations as well.

22
23 The information to be included in the
24 proposal is your name and organization, contact
25 information, the regulation you wish to change,
26 including the management unit number and species. It
27 helps to quote the current regulation if you know it.
28 If you're preparing a new regulation it's good to state
29 that then the regulation as you liked to see it
30 written, i.e., the changes you'd like to see made. An
31 explanation as to why the regulatory change should be
32 made and a description of the impact of the change on
33 the wildlife populations or the change on subsistence
34 uses might have from the change in the regulation. And
35 then a description and then also a description of any
36 affects that might be on other uses such as sport,
37 recreational or commercial interests.

38
39 Proposals can be submitted by mail or
40 hand delivery to OSM. They can submit it as a Federal
41 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting such as
42 this and it can be submitted on the web through the
43 government Federal rulemaking portal. We do not accept
44 emails so make sure you just do it one of those three
45 ways.

46
47 So that concludes what I'm -- for the
48 proposal process.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Are
2 there any questions from the Regional Council on the
3 proposal process to affect regulatory changes to the
4 subsistence in Federal public lands within our
5 jurisdiction?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got one.

10
11 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to yield to
14 Anaktuvuk.

15
16 MS. HUGO: Yes, I just want to know
17 where do we -- do we -- if we need to do a proposal
18 like the unit 23 do -- we can do that?

19
20 MR. EVANS: Yes, you can do a proposal,
21 you can generate a proposal at anytime. And when the
22 calls for proposals comes out that's when you can
23 submit it, but we can develop a proposal when -- at
24 this point.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Yes, and maybe I could
27 clarify a little bit too. So for today this is the
28 Council's opportunity to develop proposals. And so if
29 the Council wishes to discuss those types of options
30 and submit a proposal then today is the opportunity for
31 the Council to do that. And this is the timeline, it's
32 the time that the Council has when you can take formal
33 action on it. For the public since the call has not
34 since opened there's still that opportunity as soon as
35 that announcement goes out generally they have a
36 minimum of 60 days for the public to be able to submit
37 proposals too. So today's the Council's opportunity
38 and then there will be opportunity if for example
39 Anaktuvuk Pass wanted to consider a proposal too
40 there'd still be an opportunity for the public and
41 tribes and communities to submit proposals later.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
44 was that you can make a proposal, if you want to talk
45 about it first or -- and because we can make proposals
46 up. If you see something wrong with the current
47 situation in unit 23 and something that's going to be
48 more advantageous to your community or to make some
49 changes that would help your community, this is a good
50

1 time to think about what -- and here's an example too.
2 When we were helping NANA region on their unit 23 for
3 an emergency action, is that also in this purview to be
4 able to make a proposal for an emergency action in the
5 same context of how unit 23 and then probably it was
6 extended or something like that. Can you talk about
7 that a little bit?

8

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MR. EVANS: So.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's just say --
let's just say that all of the guides and outfitters
that were in unit 23 had no more opportunity to do that
on unit 23 and around the Squirrel River and all these
other communities that had a conflict with guides and
they found the opportunity in unit 26 was open and all
that guide pressure and the urban hunters decide well,
the North Slope is wide open and we're going to do all
our hunting on the North Slope now and we suddenly see
all of that pressure and be inundated in the same way
and during a period of time when there is a drastic
decline in caribou. I mean, that's what I can think of
as something that hasn't been addressed is the shift in
hunting pressure to unit 26 from 23.

MR. EVANS: So I can answer that.
There's two things that you kind of covered there.
Yes, you can make a proposal to limit non-Federally-
qualified users in unit 26, that's a proposal. And
remember the proposals that we generate this time would
be for the 2018/2020 regulations which wouldn't go into
effect until the 2018 -- July 1st of 2018. So there's
a period in between that in 2017 if there was something
you wanted to do this year you could submit a special
action which would cover this period for that if you
want to make a proposal for that too. They're two
separate actions, but, yes, you could do both of those.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So on emergency
action would be -- went through and the Federal
Subsistence Board acted on it it would be immediate or
is there a timeline with that?

MR. EVANS: It could be several
different ways. It could be immediate or it could be
based on the time period in which the special action
was requested for, but it would be for this -- it would
be for this calendar -- for the year that it was -- it
would -- up to the next proposal period, not more than

1 a year.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. It's
4 good to learn some of these and the timings and we
5 could do a regular proposal that'll take -- enact in
6 2018 and followed by an emergency action to think about
7 the hunting pressure shift to unit 26 as a consequence
8 of unit 23's limited access to only rural residents.

9

10 Joshua.

11

12 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
13 the record this is Joshua Ream, anthropologist with
14 OSM. If it would be helpful to the Council I can do a
15 brief overview of the actions that were taken by the
16 Northwest Arctic Council.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
19 the Council, you want to hear a little bit of what --
20 how the NANA Region in unit 23 there -- what is -- is
21 it Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council, is that
22 how.....

23

24 MR. REAM: Yes, sir.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:it's stated?

27

28 MR. REAM: Yes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What they did to
31 protect their subsistence rights to their communities.
32 I think that's what Joshua is asking, do you want to
33 hear a little bit about that from them?

34

35 I think it's a yeah, if you could
36 recount some of that. And I think we learn from others
37 too by example. So it's important to talk about some
38 of these things especially when we're looking at MOUs
39 that want the State and the Federal agencies to try to
40 align regulatorily so there's less overlap and aligned
41 regulatory response in proposals that might be crafted
42 under the MOU that start to say that it's time to put
43 hunting licenses and permits for everybody on the North
44 Slope when there's other tools in the box that can
45 maybe do a little bit more conservative measures before
46 we go that far.

47

48 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To
49 begin, the Northwest Arctic Council did submit a

50

1 wildlife special action labeled WSA 17-02 to close
2 moose during the 2017/2018 regulatory year to non-
3 Federally-qualified users in unit 23. That came before
4 their Council, they were the proponent, and they did
5 support their own action.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that an emergency
8 or was that just a regulatory change?

9
10 MR. REAM: A temporary wildlife special
11 action.

12
13 MR. EVANS: So just to clarify a little
14 bit there's two kinds of special actions, there's a
15 temporary special action and there's a emergency
16 special action. Emergency special actions are for 60
17 days or less and a temporary special action is for up
18 to a year.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. And
21 welcome, (in Native), Jerry, welcome to sit in and
22 listen to about caribou at a Federal Subsistence
23 Council. My classmate, Jerry Ayuguk.

24
25 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, a second action
26 that the Council took was to align their regulations
27 with the State when it comes to moose harvest a bit
28 more. They removed the antlerless cow season and just
29 put cow into the regulations as a proposal and they
30 reduced their own cow season by three months to align
31 with the State. They also voted to establish a
32 wildlife working group and they're hoping to be able to
33 communicate across Councils in the region including
34 yours. And so I think that they are hoping that you
35 will also appoint members to a working group.

36
37 There was a new wildlife special action
38 voted on and approved that will be forwarded for
39 analysis into the Board to continue the closure for
40 caribou in unit 23 to non-Federally-qualified
41 subsistence users through the 2017/2018 regulatory
42 year. This would be an extension of 16-01, but it is a
43 new special action.

44
45 There was a motion made for a wildlife
46 regulatory proposal that would close caribou in unit 23
47 to non-Federally-qualified users starting in the 2018
48 regulatory year and it's a more permanent close until
49 it would be lifted by special action or a subsequent
50

1 proposal. That motion did fail in front of the
2 Northwest Arctic Council.

3
4 There was.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Josh, on that
7 particular one and that's a regulatory proposal that
8 would make it more permanent instead of living off of a
9 one year emergency action to close. Was there negative
10 public testimony on that or something, why the Council
11 would go as far as to do an emergency action and then
12 develop a proposal that essentially just extend that in
13 a more permanent fashion and then it failed. I mean,
14 it -- was there a recommending body from OSM supporting
15 that or was -- did OSM provide some negative feedback
16 on the proposal. It would be good to hear what OSM
17 said to the people and what ADF&G said to the people on
18 that type of regulation for it to fail in that fashion.

19
20 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, OSM did not have
21 a recommendation, we allowed the Council to discuss
22 their options. And there was quite a bit of discussion
23 among the members about previously qualified Federal
24 subsistence users, those that now live in urban areas
25 that are returning to hunt with their relatives in the
26 area and that they found the restrictions somewhat of a
27 hurdle to get passed in terms of where they were able
28 to hunt now with those individuals. And that was the
29 emphasis of the discussion on why they wouldn't close
30 more permanently. I think that the Council -- I don't
31 want to speak for the Council, but I think they're
32 looking to see the numbers from year to year as to
33 what's happening with the herd.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
38 Joshua. and I did remember on the emergency action for
39 unit 23, some of the folks that used to live in the
40 rural community that moved to Wasilla, that live in
41 Anchorage, some of them in Fairbanks, that wish to go
42 back home and hunt, they suddenly found themselves in
43 conflict because now they're urban hunters and they
44 still wanted to be rural hunters. I think to me that
45 seems to be a weak argument when you're looking at 34
46 communities that subsist off of the Western Arctic herd
47 and for a few that go out of their way to live outside
48 of the communities to have best of both worlds is I
49 think a detriment to the communities' harvest. And

50

1 would still continue to bring those conflicts and
2 arguments that we hear about in the Squirrel River area
3 by Noatak where guides and hunters are arguing, I mean,
4 they're yelling and waving guns at each other
5 sometimes, that's what I've heard. And it just brings
6 that kind of argument back to a traditional hunting
7 experience to pass down to our young people, you're
8 passing down an argument. And I would have thought
9 they would be a little more thoughtful deliberation on
10 that. And I was -- I think I was supposed to call in
11 and I was stuck in other meetings and I really was
12 thinking about how that proposal was going to go
13 because they had looked to us on the North Slope for
14 advice quite a bit on the emergency action for unit 23.

15
16 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, I might also
17 mention that the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
18 Cooperative Management Working Group did vote to submit
19 a proposal once proposals are open for submission that
20 would be the more permanent wildlife regulatory
21 proposal to begin in 2018. And so that analysis will
22 come before both your Council and the Northwest Arctic
23 in the fall.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you elaborate on
26 the Western Arctic working group's proposal, is it
27 similar to the emergency action that was passed?

28
29 MR. REAM: So this would be the longer
30 term closure to non-Federally-qualified users and that
31 is the same proposal essentially that failed at this
32 past Northwest Arctic Council meeting.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, that's
35 great information and I look forward to debating that
36 when it comes before us.

37
38 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
39 at Point Hope on the phone.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve,
42 Point Hope.

43
44 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know it's a
45 closure to nonresidents and sporthunters on Federal
46 lands, you know, it's still open on State lands, you
47 know, they just can't go in front of the herd, you
48 know, in unit 23 on the Federal lands where they're
49 dropping off and changing the migration routes of the
50

1 caribou. And they weren't coming into the villages
2 where the caribou normally migrate to or (indiscernible
3 - distortion) villages (indiscernible - distortion) in
4 those areas because the caribou migrated right through
5 there, but once the sporthunters and nonresidents
6 started using planes and going above these villages and
7 changing the migration routes all these years and, you
8 know, the caribou stopped coming through here. Now the
9 population of the caribou has dropped by more than half
10 and that was the concern of the Western Arctic herd
11 working group. And that was for full closure to
12 nonresidents. You know, it was tough, there was some
13 debate, you know, family members that moved away that
14 wanted to, they can still come and hunt on State land,
15 you know, it's the Federal lands that the closure --
16 there is State lands in the areas where the caribou
17 come through, it's just that they can't go above us on
18 Federal lands and, you know, because the migration
19 routes of the caribou was being changed and the caribou
20 wasn't coming to a lot of our villages anymore because,
21 you know, we were always taught to let the first herd
22 come through so the rest would follow, you know, and
23 these sporthunters are going above and -- yeah. And
24 that's why the closure was there.

25
26 And, you know, the emergency closure
27 because the Western Arctic caribou, that herd has
28 dropped by more than half, it's under 200,000, right
29 around 190. You know, at the highest peak there were
30 450,000 to 500,000 caribou in that herd. You know,
31 190,000 caribou, you know, in a short period of time,
32 you know, was -- and that was the emergency closure.
33 So we had some concerns even though, you know, our
34 nonresidents even though they were from our area, some
35 that went to school, you know, we heard those concerns.
36 It was a tough decision, but, you know, we had to
37 ensure the safety of, you know, the caribou and try to
38 get that population back up without interfering with
39 the -- because they got calves, there's feeding grounds
40 up there, you know, and they're being chased around
41 with planes and it's not good for the caribou to be
42 running all the time, you know, especially in falltime.
43 But I just wanted to comment on that.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Point
48 Hope. Thank you, Steve. That kind of brings a good
49 enlightenment of -- and I applaud the Western Arctic
50

1 Caribou Working Group to put in a more permanent
2 regulatory to protect that in the spirit of the
3 emergency action in unit 23. I think it really did
4 help and it also provided a measure that the Council is
5 looking at conservative management and sustained yield
6 principles. And I really want to as we talk about MOUs
7 with the State convince the State to do likewise and, I
8 mean, if they want to permit and give us permits and
9 register for hunting licenses they got to give in
10 somewhere as well. And I think north of Anaktuvuk Pass
11 they need to think about the hunting pressure that's
12 going to ensue on State lands in the open range of when
13 the State is thinking about how they manage caribou and
14 allocating it for urban hunters when it's time to
15 seriously think about tier hunts, what is there tier
16 one, tier two. And I haven't seen any proposals like
17 that from the -- anybody on State land because they're
18 under different regulatory regime that doesn't
19 recognize rural subsistence priority, but they do have
20 tier hunts. And I think if they want to impose
21 stricter regulations on Federal lands and we're going
22 to align ourselves through MOU they need to give in. I
23 mean, you're talking about Central Arctic herd. I
24 thought that Central Arctic herd was 50,000, now I've
25 heard it's less than 20,000. Some liberal hunting
26 practices somewhere, something's not being accounted
27 for when Central Arctic herd was doing very good, now
28 you're down to less than 20,000. It's a scary thought.
29 And when our own inspectors from the Borough go down
30 the Haul Road and they're reporting caribous with
31 arrows stuck in them and walking around. I think that
32 something's the matter on State land. And it's just --
33 it's just too liberal I think. And then we're going to
34 think about north of Anaktuvuk where Anaktuvuk north of
35 it is State land and we need to think about that and
36 maybe ADF&G can describe what is tier one, what is tier
37 two, what is tier three.

38
39 And the other thing is for Tom and
40 Joshua. And we're talking about how to submit a
41 proposal to change Federal subsistence regulation. Now
42 if I wanted to as a Federal Subsistence Advisory
43 Council and have this whole Board vote to submit a
44 regulatory change on the State subsistence board and
45 their advisory council, you should be able to help us
46 do that so we can affect the State land from a Federal
47 body. And, you know, if you're going to go and hold
48 hands with MOUs, that means we're -- we should be doing
49 that type of best for the residents.

50

1 And anyway I -- you know, I couldn't say enough.

2

3 And I thank you guys for helping us to
4 understand especially when we got new folks how they
5 can affect regulatory change for wildlife and to make
6 proposed changes.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
11 to Tom and Joshua or do you have any other feedback you
12 can provide?

13

14 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, members of the
15 Council, there are several more proposals that the
16 Northwest Arctic decided to submit for this upcoming
17 proposal cycle. The next one is a wildlife proposal to
18 reduce the caribou harvest limit from five per person
19 per day to three per person per day for Federally-
20 qualified subsistence users.

21

22 Another one is to increase the harvest
23 of brown bears, the brown bear harvest limit from one
24 to three bears annually in unit 23 for Federally-
25 qualified subsistence users.

26

27 And yet another is a wildlife proposal
28 to allow for the selling of raw brown bear hides and
29 skulls by Federally-qualified subsistence users in unit
30 23 with a limit of two annually.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a question on
33 that part. And selling of the raw hide to who, to
34 another Federally-qualified user or to Joe Schmo?

35

36 MR. REAM: The Northwest Arctic Council
37 didn't clarify and so we're under the assumption that
38 it is to anyone.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean, that's
41 a little bit alarming, but I know if I was going to do
42 that with a polar bear I'd probably go to jail, you
43 know. And that's pretty audacious I think, but all
44 right.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, responding to a
49 previous question. Your Council I believe and my
50

1 colleagues can correct me if I'm wrong, but can look at
2 the wildlife and fishery cycles with the State and
3 submit proposals as well to those cycles.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for Tom
8 and Joshua? If you don't have one I already have one
9 about fish.

10
11 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
12 Steve.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve,
15 Point Hope.

16
17 MR. OOMITUK: Are you putting this
18 proposal in front of the Board right now or is it
19 coming up soon, is there a deadline on this?

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, I think
22 for clarity he's just running the gambit of the
23 proposals that the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
24 Council has done. We're just getting informed as to
25 what our neighbors are doing. It's not something that
26 we're.....

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER:doing, but we
31 could follow suit and do some of these things, we just
32 got to make proposals. He's just giving us what our
33 neighbors are doing.

34
35 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I know we had a
36 joint meeting with them like one time, you know, the --
37 I think it was a third of the Western Arctic Caribou
38 Herd Working Group when we met together. And.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe that might be
41 something we can consider sometime again and that thing
42 about the emergency action was that one period of time
43 where there was a joint North Slope and Northwest
44 Arctic Regional Advisory Council deliberations and
45 before it went to the.....

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Federal

50

1 Subsistence Board I think.

2

3 Okay. I have a question on fish if I
4 may, if the Council doesn't have any other -- doesn't
5 have questions yet.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yesterday we talked
10 about -- we mentioned some -- on our Council's report
11 my -- one of my concern is something's going on with
12 Tasigruaq (ph) Lake. And I don't know exactly how to
13 make a proposal to see what's the matter with
14 Tasigruaq, why the low numbers of fish that all these
15 fishermen are reporting. And I don't know if the lake
16 is draining or if there's something the matter with the
17 lake or, you know, why we're not getting the type of
18 numbers we're used to getting in Tasigruaq Lake. And
19 if I gave you -- if I had a pointer I would point you
20 exactly which lake, it's been used for hundreds of
21 years maybe. And -- except for when the Navy dynamited
22 it in the '40s, trying to collect seismic data. But
23 that lake had come back in the '50s and '60s where it
24 was useful for fish and it was good through '70s, '80s,
25 '90s. And in the last five year it's changed, like
26 something's the matter with production over there.

27

28 And I'd like to see some attention
29 given to Tasigruaq Lake to -- if you're not going to do
30 it, I'm going to do it. I'm going to go put a lot of
31 fish in there and try to restock it.

32

33 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, members of the
34 Council, I'm sure you're aware of our Fisheries
35 Resource Monitoring Program. We have the Council
36 periodically develop a list of priority information
37 needs. The only problem is that the waters in which
38 the fish live that we are studying and our contractors
39 are studying need to have a Federal nexus. And so I'm
40 not sure of the land status surrounding that lake.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's NPR-A, man.
45 It's NPR-A, Federal. It's your lake, it's my lake.
46 Well, I'm going to say it's mine because we use it,
47 you're obligated to fix it, I think.

48

49 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, I would suggest

50

1 that either the Council as a whole or your FRMP, your
2 fisheries working group submit that concern as one of
3 your priority information needs for the next cycle.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua. I
8 thought I'd convey that as a fish concern before I call
9 Doreen. A lot of the fishermen that fish there are now
10 moving to (in Native) to (in Native), they're going
11 fishing that far, going an extra 30 miles to go get
12 that fish from that lake. And that's how they're --
13 much they're revered for that lake fish. And we want
14 to -- Tasigruaq is only 18 miles from Barrow and that
15 it was a major subsistence resource in -- that's what
16 I've heard from various different fishermen. They're
17 going the extra mile to go to (in Native) to go get
18 those lake fish. They have similar fish in that lake.
19 So I think that's good information.

20

21 With that we have Doreen Lampe from
22 ICAS. She wants to.....

23

24 MS. LAMPE: Yeah, before you guys leave
25 I just had some questions on the caribou.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
28 opportunity to provide comments on this.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Doreen,
31 from ICAS.

32

33 MS. LAMPE: I'm the executive director
34 for ICAS. We're a Federally recognized regional tribal
35 government encompassing all eight villages on the
36 Arctic Slope.

37

38 And our last three years of annual
39 meeting has been the number 1 concern is low flying
40 aircraft harassing and deterring the caribou migration
41 from their regular caribou migration routes when they
42 -- when they're going camping in the summertime, late
43 summer, early fall. And we have our meeting in August
44 and that's about the time a majority of our hunters
45 experience harassing, low flying aircraft and deterring
46 the caribou from heading towards their campsites. We
47 see these caribou trails, they have historic
48 traditional trails that they migrate through our
49 region. And we basically use our campsites knowing

50

1 that the caribou migrate through that route. And I've
2 gone before the BLM RAC, the BLM SAP, and I even called
3 the State office of Special Office of Subsistence
4 Management, that's what you are, Office of Subsistence
5 Management. So we've been trying to get a handle on
6 the numerous low flying aircrafts that seem to harass
7 the hunters all the way from (indiscernible) to
8 Kaktovik, from Barrow to Anaktuvuk Pass. It's all the
9 same related concerns by our membership that hunt these
10 renewable natural resources.

11
12 So we hope to -- we hope to get a
13 handle on that. I liked Mr. Roy Nageak's
14 recommendation to put a GPS tracking on all these
15 sporting outfitters that are permitted to fly in our
16 Arctic Slope region so that when they go from point A
17 to point B that's what they do, they don't go around
18 swerving and diving and deterring caribou where they
19 want them to go. So we hope that gets a serious
20 consideration by all Federal managers that manage the
21 caribou.

22
23 And also I've been voicing my concern
24 just individually, I have no actual proof of this, but
25 it's been -- I've heard it said by some other hunters
26 that when you introduce muskox to our region the
27 vegetation is so much lower than in the south that the
28 muskox stomp and put a stench on that tundra where
29 they're roaming and that conflicts with the caribou,
30 the caribou will avoid those areas where the muskox
31 have been because of the stench of the muskox. So I've
32 opposed introducing of muskox on the Arctic Slope. I
33 don't think there has been any real serious
34 consideration on the impacts of introducing muskox on
35 the Arctic Slope to the caribou population. And there
36 needs to be more consultation with the tribes and the
37 communities. Do the communities want muskox introduced
38 into their region versus having a sustainable caribou
39 population free of muskox stench and odor and ruining
40 their habitat.

41
42 So there have been some concern on the
43 growth of the vegetation, on the caribou just eating
44 the lichen and they grow back versus other species and
45 animals that go eat down to the root like the snow
46 geese. So the snow geese have like really boomed in
47 the Dalton Highway area where the caribou roam. And
48 those snow geese are eating the roots of the vegetation
49 on the tundra. And those are having a negative impact
50

1 on the caribou habitat.
2
3 So these species that are being
4 introduced and migrating into our region have
5 negatively adversely impact the habitat of the caribou.
6 And I don't see any policies or any recommendations by
7 any other organizations, but just to target the
8 hunters. Let's target the hunters, let's stop them
9 from hunting then the population will boom back up
10 again. No, you can target all you want, but if those
11 adverse impacts are still occurring we're not going to
12 solve the problem, they're going to continue to decline
13 because their habitat has been impacted, their
14 vegetation has been impacted.

15
16 So we need some serious consideration
17 and changes made in the way muskox are being
18 reintroduced to the Arctic like that's
19 some great change. No, we don't want them there, we
20 prefer the caribou. I prefer the caribou. So if
21 you're going to make some policy, make some policy that
22 doesn't do selective enforcement and just target
23 hunters and restrict them, if you really want to see
24 those numbers rise protect their habitat, protect their
25 vegetation, quit mixing muskox and caribou together.

26
27 I know the Western Arctic Working Group
28 -- Caribou Working Group has been around for quite a
29 number of years. The fellow that was there for over 20
30 years, Jim, Jim Dow, he really built up the trust and a
31 working relationship between those residents in
32 Kotzebue and the organizations there. But we don't see
33 that up here, you know, we don't see something like
34 that. I believe the North Slope Borough did try to be
35 a part of that organization, but it wasn't -- they're
36 too far away and the cost to attend those meetings was
37 a budget constraint item. So their work is separate
38 and mainly for their area, their region. And then they
39 make these regulations and they impact our region. And
40 just by one group trying to conserve that population
41 even though they migrate out of their boundary, out of
42 their jurisdiction, is something that needs to be
43 looked at in a bigger management scale. I know they're
44 trying to do that with the polar bear right now,
45 they're trying to establish quotas on the polar bear,
46 the Chukchi polar bear, 29 for Alaska.

47
48 So they haven't even consulted with the
49 tribes, we found this out late last year and we're not
50

1 being consulted. I seen some papers where there's
2 supposed to be some consultation, supposed to meet with
3 the impacted people when you make regulations, you're
4 supposed to consult with them and how that is going to
5 impact them. So people that subsist in the villages
6 that don't have a store to go buy New York steaks or
7 whatever, this impacts them. And very few people are
8 attending meetings nowadays, they're tired of attending
9 meetings. It's just a one way flow of information,
10 this is what we're proposing, thank you, have a nice
11 day. And then the hunter goes over his bag limit and
12 gets what, sent to court, gets a fine, what happens
13 when they go over their bag limit. You guys enforce a
14 swift hand of penalty.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question
17 maybe for Doreen.....

18
19 MS. LAMPE: Can they answer that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and probably for
22 Josh and Tom. The regulatory process that we go
23 through to affect changes as a recommending body to the
24 Federal Subsistence Board, what are we entitled to to
25 make recommendations on fish and wildlife, is there
26 another regime that regulates marine mammals because
27 polar bear is considered a marine mammal and how that
28 process works? And looking at the proposal process is
29 it only the Federal Regional Subsistence Advisory
30 Council, this body, that can propose a regulation for
31 you to consider or can ICAS submit a proposal to affect
32 what's in this regulatory book that we're having to
33 abide by once it's enacted by the Federal Subsistence
34 Board? Just a couple of those two questions, I think
35 it might help clarify some of the differentiations
36 between marine mammals and wildlife and fish that we're
37 obligated to -- under our purview.

38
39 MR. EVANS: So I'll answer the first
40 question first on the polar bears. Polar bears fall
41 under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and so they're
42 under a different jurisdiction than what we're doing
43 the Federal subsistence regulations here for. And the
44 way those regulations -- to make changes to those
45 concerning marine mammals, we have a marine mammal
46 office for the Fish and Wildlife Service and you can
47 make a recommendation or make I guess -- it's a
48 different process, it's not a regulatory process per
49 se, but it -- but like for the polar bear you were
50

1 concerned about the hunting on polar bears and not
2 being consulted in terms of that, the Alaska Nanuuq
3 Commission and the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the Sea
4 Otter Commission were all set forth supposedly to
5 represent the villages concerning the actions that
6 happened with those three species. And recognizing
7 that there's a lot of tribes and it's hard to contact,
8 each community is pretty much a tribe up here so
9 there's a lot of villages so the idea was to get like
10 the Alaska Nanuuq Commission and they would represent
11 all the tribes that were concerned about polar bear
12 issues. And so the tribes would submit, you know,
13 comments to Alaska Nanuuq Commission, Alaska Nanuuq
14 Commission would represent their issues to -- when
15 decisions are being made about polar bear issues and
16 then that would go forward to determine what actions
17 would happen with regard to population management,
18 harvest management, whatever. Up to this point there's
19 been no limit on polar bear harvest, but recognizing
20 that polar bears are affected by sea ice, loss of sea
21 ice, there is a potential that polar bears will be --
22 the population in the Beaufort Sea has already gone
23 down by half, the Chukchi population is basically
24 hanging in there right now as far as we know, but
25 eventually if the sea ice continues to decline that
26 population will also decline. So the purpose of
27 putting in those hunting -- those restrictions with the
28 International -- with Russia, the international
29 agreement with Russia to restrict the harvest on both
30 sides was a way of just trying to reduce the harvest in
31 both countries to help that population.

32
33 To answer the second question, anybody
34 can -- concerning fish and wildlife regulations and
35 terrestrial mammals in Alaska, anybody can submit a
36 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board, to the RACs,
37 to us, if they want to have -- recommend any changes to
38 the Federal subsistence regulations. So just to make
39 that clarification that anybody can do it, doesn't have
40 to come from the RAC. Doreen, you could submit a
41 recommendation if you wanted a Federal subsistence
42 regulation changed.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, just to follow-
45 up on that last part. Anyone can submit a proposed
46 change for fish and wildlife, but we have to still
47 debate it with the Regional Advisory Council?

48
49 MR. EVANS: No, anybody can submit a
50

1 proposal on their own without going through the
2 Regional Advisory Council. It would come to our office
3 just like a proposal comes from the RAC to our office
4 and we would consider it just like the way we would
5 consider any other proposal.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's a good point
10 of clarification. It seems to me proposals, whether it
11 comes from anybody or it comes from the RAC, we'd have
12 an opportunity to support that from the RAC and make a
13 recommendation as well.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
16 that's correct. So the cycle right now is for
17 submission of proposals. So this is the Council's
18 opportunity to take action on submitting proposals.
19 When the call for proposals is opened public and tribes
20 have -- there's a couple months to submit proposals.
21 And OSM staff are available to help the public work
22 through, you know, what it is your concerns are, what
23 you're trying to achieve, how -- you know, what the
24 options are within the Federal subsistence regulations.
25 And then those proposals go through an open public
26 comment period so they get published so that all of the
27 public has an opportunity to see what proposals were
28 submitted and you can submit written public comments.
29 And then at the fall meeting that's when the proposals
30 come before the Regional Advisory Council and that's a
31 public process too where tribes and public an also
32 weigh in. So all the proposals do come back to the
33 Council for your review and recommendation. So it's a
34 secondary step in a public meeting to make
35 recommendations on all the proposals that were
36 submitted both by Council and public or tribes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
39 that's what I was trying to get clarity on because
40 there's a point that it comes to us where there has to
41 be a recommendation of some sort. We could make
42 changes to it or something like that and either support
43 it or don't support it, but it still goes to the
44 Federal Subsistence Board. Ultimately the way they
45 look at who's supporting it, who's not supporting it
46 and then they make the decision. And then where you
47 got to lobby I think your members of the Federal
48 Subsistence Board at that point.

49

50

1 MS. LAMPE: So, Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Doreen.

4
5 MS. LAMPE: Thank you. So I didn't get
6 an answer on the bag limit so I guess that's a non
7 point issue, but I am concerned about the habitat and
8 the introduction of muskox. I would hope that this
9 Regional Council would pass a resolution of some sort
10 protecting the caribou habitat from muskox introduction
11 and invasion of their habitat because they're good down
12 south, they -- the plants grow higher and they won't
13 stomp them out, but up here in the Arctic we have
14 tundra and that's their -- that's their dinner table
15 right there, the tundra, the top of the tundra. Once
16 they stench it all up it's difficult for the caribou to
17 find other habitat to continue to eat. So don't just
18 target the hunters, target the real problems that are
19 causing the decline of the caribou, protect their
20 habitat, don't have the muskox and the swans override
21 their territory, they need some people to go hunt the
22 snow geese down the Dalton Highway, something, but I
23 would hope that some serious consideration be given to
24 protecting the habitat of the caribou and not just
25 target and hope that they rebound by restricting
26 hunters. That's been the philosophy of the Federal
27 government ever since I was aware of a five bag limit
28 day or so per family in 1977 when they thought the herd
29 was crashing again. So be broad-minded about your
30 enforcement, don't be selective and just target the
31 hunters.

32
33 Thank you for the opportunity.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Doreen,
36 from ICAS. I did want to confirm with one of her
37 statements about the aircraft because me and my sons
38 watch aircraft dive-bombing a large herd of caribou
39 coming down. I even took photographs of it, coming
40 down, dive-bombing them when they were finally reaching
41 us. And we were very agitated and concerned. And I
42 happened to have a SAT phone and I called the Planning
43 Department and reported that to FAA. Anthere's some
44 cowboy mentality aircraft folks that'll come down
45 either being in awe of hundreds of caribou and coming
46 down and dive-bombing on them and I don't know if
47 they're taking movies or taking pictures, but I don't
48 know if they knew we were watching because we're about
49 75 miles southeast of Barrow, but I witnessed that.

50

1 And that was a sinking feeling because our opportunity
2 to harvest was being seriously interrupted and I think
3 that's something that needs to be tracked and monitored
4 in terms of these types of hunters. And I think they
5 did track the tail number on that thing because it was
6 reported real time, it's happening right now, this is
7 not tomorrow, this is not yesterday, this is going on
8 this very minute, what aircraft could be in the area.
9 And that airplane either was from Fairbanks or
10 Anchorage and those kind of things are real that -- and
11 I watched it myself. When another hunter reports
12 something like that I believe him because it is
13 happening, there's -- these kind of things are
14 something that they might be getting their hunter
15 permits and licenses in Fairbanks and opportunistically
16 fly over the Brooks Range and come over and do these
17 kind of things. It is going on and I've watched it
18 myself.

19

20 Wanda from Atqasuk.

21

22 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

23

24 MS. KIPPI: I also have comments and
25 concerns about aircrafts. During my hunting time over
26 the years I have watched aircrafts from Fish and Game
27 or doing their fish -- fishing -- they're checking the
28 fishes in certain areas in lakes around the villages
29 and they went to our area. And they came to me and
30 asked me if I wanted to help them with a flight plan so
31 they won't bother the hunters. I said well, I would
32 like for you guys to stay away from the river, up and
33 down the river because there's a lot of hunters going
34 up and down the river. And they didn't listen to me.
35 And I watched them, I was at camp, they were flying
36 every hour or every two hours from their destination
37 back to the village. And I finally got ahold of the
38 guy and I said you didn't even listen to me. Oh, I'm
39 sorry, Wanda, I'll have to talk to the pilot. They
40 were still doing it. And this was just last year and
41 the year before I watched aircraft from my camp doing
42 the same thing, they're flying low and I watched one
43 plane fly low right in front of me going over the ridge
44 from my camp. And they went down, couldn't see the
45 plane, then they dove back up. Then a few minutes
46 later a herd of caribou came running up on the ridge
47 right from -- right after they went down. And they
48 turned around again, I watched it and they dove back
49 down and another herd came up and started running.

50

1 Diverting the caribou. And that plane that I saw it
2 was a white one so it had to be a freight plane maybe.
3 It was white with like a big belly and they open in the
4 back when they -- like a cargo plane, they open -- the
5 back opens up and they put out the cargo. It was
6 something like that, a white one, a big, fat belly
7 white one and it just dove down and came back up again
8 and scared the caribou away. I was upset. And then
9 last year I wanted to shoot a plane down because they
10 were scaring the caribou away even though they were
11 flying -- they said they were going to fly a certain
12 height so they wouldn't disrupt the caribou, but they
13 were flying enough, I could hear them, I could watch
14 them, I could see, they scared some caribou.

15
16 But it's getting tiresome listening --
17 watching with your own eyes as a hunter. And we're
18 there to try and feed our families. And we need to put
19 food on the table. I barely caught enough caribou to
20 sustain us for this year. It wasn't only the aircrafts
21 too, it was bears. Bears -- the bears around my area
22 were just scaring everything. And I was hunting out
23 there by myself, this -- my family's in -- the rest of
24 my family didn't follow me, they were working and stuff
25 and my kids were in school so I stayed at camp mostly
26 by myself. So I saw the bear three times during the
27 August through end of October, first part of November I
28 finally go home. Watched the three bear -- the bear
29 came three times and after the third time, end of
30 October, I hear it went towards Wainwright and somebody
31 finally caught that one, the same bear I keep seeing
32 for the three months during the summer and the fall.
33 So I was glad that somebody caught that bear, I didn't
34 want it to come to me, I was at the camp myself.

35
36 And so thank you for my -- listening to
37 my concern.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

40
41 Was that you, Steve, that wanted to
42 address the Council?

43
44 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, that was -- yeah.
45 Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

48
49 MR. OOMITUK: I -- you know, I just
50

1 have a comment, you know. You know, this was -- you
2 know, when we closed unit 23 to nonresident and
3 sporthunters, I mean, this was an emergency order, you
4 know, it was something that needed to be done right
5 away, you know, because the population had dropped by
6 more than half, under 200,000 from 400,000. This was
7 an emergency order and it was something that needed to
8 be done quick. And, you know, the hunters can still
9 hunt on State land, they just can't go in front of the
10 herd. And, you know, we're not just targeting the
11 hunters, you know, residents can go on Federal lands
12 and hunt still, you know. And, you know, now -- you
13 know, but you have to be a resident. You know, we're
14 not just targeting the hunters, you know, you -- you
15 know, muskox, yeah, have been around Point Hope for
16 years. We still have caribou come into our area even
17 though we have muskox. You know, these are animals
18 that, you know, were here in the past, but were killed
19 off by hunters and was introduced back in the '70s.
20 But, you know, this is the -- you know, we're
21 protecting our way of life, you know. ICAS, the
22 Inupiat Community of Arctic Slope, they're supposed to
23 be there to support the Inupiat people, to protect the
24 hunting rights. You know, I mean, you know, we're
25 there, you know, the animals have always been here,
26 they come, they migrate, this was something -- it was
27 an emergency that we wanted to ensure that the
28 population of the caribou come back. And Western
29 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group along with the North
30 Slope, you know, we have only certain rights, we have
31 no marine rights. I was surprised that the Federal
32 Subsistence Advisory Council, you know, what
33 jurisdictions we have and how far we can go. We have
34 no jurisdiction out in the ocean as a Federal
35 Subsistence Advisory Council. You know, the ocean is
36 Federal lands, it's international and we have no
37 rights. And, you know, with the opening of the
38 northwest passage and all the ships and shortcuts that
39 the ships are going to be coming through soon, you
40 know, we have no control over that, I was surprised.
41 They're -- you know, we're limited as the North Slope
42 Borough Subsistence Advisory Council we're limited.
43 The proposals can be brought up, I can still bring
44 proposals, you know. So, you know, you can propose a
45 proposal and bring it to the Council and if we can work
46 something out, yeah, you know, but, you know, and this
47 was an emergency thing, this was something that had to
48 be done right away when your population of caribou had
49 dropped by more than half, you know, and then you seen
50

1 it also in the east. And something had to be done
2 emergency, it had to be done right then. We just
3 didn't target the hunters, it was something that we had
4 to do immediate. And this was it. Yeah, we can look
5 at muskox, we can look at this and the swans have been
6 coming up here for years, you know, I mean, these are
7 natural animals that be coming and feeding and, you
8 know, a living mouth, you know, (indiscernible). I
9 just -- you know, as a executive director of ICAS
10 you're supposed to be in support of leading the
11 community of the Arctic Slope, you know. This is
12 protection of our way of life.

13
14

Thank you.

15
16

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve.
17 It's always good to hear. But I think it's important
18 to -- what we have currently, it (indiscernible) to
19 deal with and we recognize there's other jurisdictions
20 on marine mammals and we can't fix that immediately,
21 but maybe one day it'll be fixed. But there are other
22 bodies that deal with this that affect marine mammals.
23 And I think we just got to know which bodies to address
24 if we want to affect those.

25
26

So and it's a good time as we
27 understand Tom and Josh that we can submit a proposal.
28 And also maybe affect State land. And I think we've --
29 we had maybe submitted one on State land north of
30 Anaktuvuk that we wanted to and supported by this
31 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council submitting a
32 proposal to the State RAC.

33
34

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
35 yes, this Council, the North Slope Subsistence Regional
36 Advisory Council had worked over a couple years to
37 develop a proposal to submit to the State Board of Game
38 addressing the controlled use area on State lands north
39 of Anaktuvuk Pass. That proposal was drafted and then
40 provided to the community of Anaktuvuk Pass, James
41 Nageak at the time was the Council member from
42 Anaktuvuk Pass, so that the community themselves would
43 be able to provide the details that they wanted in
44 there. And I know we were in communications with
45 numerous community members, some who serve on the UKAN
46 (ph) group and they were working on some additional
47 details to that, but ultimately that proposal didn't
48 get submitted to the Board of Game.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Eva, we left it
2 at the hands of the community, is that where it got
3 stuck and it never came back or it -- we didn't take it
4 back up, I thought it was a proposal that originated
5 from the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
6 Council to affect a proposal to the State Board of Game
7 or State Subsistence Board.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Correct. So the North
10 Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council had helped
11 initiate that proposal process. The feedback from the
12 community in part at that time through Council member
13 James Nageak, was that the community wanted to have the
14 final input on that proposal so that it really truly
15 addressed the details and concerns that they had. So
16 they were working on it, there was a group of folks in
17 Anaktuvuk Pass that.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And let me just
20 enlighten you of some of the details of dialogue.....

21
22 MS. PATTON: Sure.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER:that went in
25 there. There was the North Slope Borough Wildlife
26 Department that was advising and saying well, you might
27 not want to reopen what you have in a control use area
28 because you open that they might take it away from you
29 and close the control use area altogether. Kind of
30 like scare tactics. And knowing all the while that
31 control use area in Noatak had much better provisions
32 to protect, much better provisions in the Noatak
33 control use area that we wanted to adopt the same
34 provisions in the Noatak control use area north of
35 Anaktuvuk. And there was quite frankly I think some
36 scare tactics being introduced saying well, you open
37 that control use area the State going to take it away
38 from you if you're going to fiddle around with trying
39 to make it better. And currently the control use area
40 to the north is -- it didn't do anything other than
41 other species -- aircrafts in use for other species in
42 the area continued to interrupt migration and things
43 like that. Granted this year I think was -- last fall
44 was a pretty good season, the caribou finally came
45 around. And that's what we were hearing. But anyway
46 there was a provision that had been worked on and I
47 think it went to the community to consider, maybe it
48 was going to be under UKAN, what do the proposal to
49 affect the change of the control use area north of
50

1 Anaktuvuk on State land.

2
3 And I don't know where it went from
4 there, but it was a deliberation that this body had.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. And so this
7 Council had drafted up a proposal and the primary
8 details that this Council had incorporated into the
9 proposal was inclusion of language in the Noatak
10 control use area that expanded the closure to use of
11 aircraft for not just the hunting of caribou, but the
12 hunting of other animals in the region so as another
13 mechanism to limit disturbance to caribou in that area.
14 So that draft proposal was created by this Council and
15 then provided to Anaktuvuk Pass. And it was members of
16 the city council, the corporation, the tribe, so there
17 was some members of the UKAN group that were working on
18 the details and had wanted to add additional
19 information. There was some discussions about
20 expanding the area.

21
22 So they were working on it, but it did
23 not get submitted, they hadn't finalized the proposal
24 by the submission deadline for this past cycle for the
25 Board of Game for that region.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. It's
28 good to listen to some of the things we were doing and
29 quite frankly I kind of forgot about that because it's
30 been a couple years and I had often wondered where did
31 that proposal go to affect the change in the control
32 use area. But I do recall there were some scare
33 tactics being developed by our own Wildlife Department
34 saying, you know, you try to change the control use
35 they might close it on you. Well, that's -- I don't
36 think that's a viable argument, you know, that's -- if
37 it's a control use area it's going to stay a control
38 use area and not take it away.

39
40 And today.....

41
42 MR. PERSON: Gordon.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and today.....

45
46 MR. PERSON: Gordon.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

49
50

1 MR. PERSON: Gordon, can I.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

4
5 MR. PERSON: Yeah, this is Brian with
6 the Department of Wildlife Management, the person
7 you're accusing of doing scare tactics. Yeah, that's
8 kind of unfair, Gordon. I've been to a number of these
9 Board of Game meetings and it's -- you know, that was
10 pretty accurate advice. So, you know, I wasn't trying
11 to scare anybody, just trying to let people know what
12 may or may not happen.

13
14 So there you have it.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brian.
17 And I like to accuse you guys because you guys are --
18 were the ones that said that, that you open it, they
19 might close it and so don't even talk about it. But I
20 think to me those are alarming when the trend of
21 caribou that frequent Anaktuvuk Pass when you had a
22 Western Arctic herd that was 490,000 animals at his
23 peak and we're now less than half of that down to
24 either 190,000 or 200,000. And I think something, even
25 the State has to acknowledge that. And even make their
26 -- somebody needs to make a proposal on the State side
27 to start tier hunt maybe for the period of time that
28 Anaktuvuk is expecting that migration on State land
29 that it'll be just limited to food security issues and
30 a preponderance of the evidence that the community is
31 highly dependent on the availability of those resources
32 for Anaktuvuk Pass. So and that's part of the land use
33 ordinances on subsistence has language like that that
34 we can use to help. It's the same argument that was
35 used with bowhead whales and how we can stop oil and
36 gas development until harvest bullhead whale quotas are
37 met because there's a preponderance of the evidence
38 that exists that the coastal communities are highly
39 dependent on bowhead whale and being able to affect
40 those kind of other uses.

41
42 So I think it's important more than
43 ever today when you're looking at the decline of
44 caribou in the Central Arctic herd, in the Western
45 Arctic herd, even the Teshekpuk herd is in a drastic
46 decline. And I'm very eager to hear the caribou
47 presentation to see what trends are occurring, whether
48 they're climbing up whether the trend of decline is
49 continuing and those are important things as we start
50

1 to deliberate how best to move forward. And that might
2 mean proposals. That means overcome the fear of the
3 control use area. And when the decline is such that
4 even the State system needs to be impacted.

5

6 So with that any other questions to Tom
7 and Joshua on the process for submitting proposals to
8 affect regulatory changes in fish and wildlife?

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I certainly got
13 some ideas of what I want to do and it has to be
14 supported. And they're kind of in line with Western
15 Arctic Working Group for Caribou is proposing and I
16 think we should follow suit. We can't wait and I don't
17 think we can wait, we can't afford to wait until what
18 Doreen mentioned earlier about the Federal government
19 trying to subsidize our food back in the 70s when
20 caribou was off limits. I can remember my folks saying
21 they had a pound of beef or something like that and
22 here's your replacement for caribou. And that was it.
23 And to go without especially in the communities, boy
24 you're going to -- you're not going to be dealing with
25 one pound of beef, you're going -- if you're going to
26 take the caribou away or mismanage it to a point where
27 we can't hunt it anymore, you're going to do more than
28 one pound of beef. And that was in the '70s when we're
29 -- our population was only what, maybe 3,000. We're
30 about triple the size from the '70s now.

31

32 I think these are important things and
33 important dialogue. I think a proposal because I
34 believe that unit 23 closure, the emergency action that
35 was conducted, the guides and outfitters and the urban
36 hunters are geared to shift that hunting pressure on
37 unit 26. That's coming. And I think there needs to be
38 an emergency proposal to limit the hunt in unit 26 to
39 Federally-qualified users, that you have to be a rural
40 resident to hunt. One of the concerns and
41 justifications is this -- the more than half of the
42 decline of the Western Arctic herd, I think more than
43 half of decline in the Teshekpuk herd and I think more
44 than half in the decline of the Central Arctic herd.
45 You can't continue to manage liberally these herds and
46 then wait until it's an unmanageable situation where
47 everybody's going to have to be cut off. I think that
48 is the last tool in the bag of tools before we go to,
49 you know, maybe one caribou per person with a permit or

50

1 something like how you're managing muskox, how you're
2 managing sheep, we don't want to get there. I think
3 we've already did a lot of homegrown conservation
4 measures. We enacted new laws, working with ADF&G
5 under streamlining regulations, to hold hand under MOU
6 sort of, that our traditional hunting practices made
7 into law. We're saying we don't hunt bulls from
8 October 10 to December 5. Now make that into a law
9 even though the guides didn't like it. We'll say we
10 don't hunt the bulls, they're stinky to eat anyway, we
11 just want to eat them. But we hunt, we want to eat
12 what we hunt, we don't want to hang it up on the wall
13 and brag about it and take pictures around it and
14 things like that. We like to put food on the table.
15 So we have justification, I think we have great
16 justification. The trend in caribou decline has been
17 sustained for at least 10 years the trend has been
18 occurring. Now it's at a threshold level to where
19 conservative management principles need to be applied.
20 Conservative management principles bordering on
21 preservation tactics. I think those are serious
22 things.

23
24 Another concern and justification. I
25 believe there's a preponderance of the evidence that
26 our inland communities, our inland communities depend
27 highly on the availability of these resources to come
28 to their region. Almost their only food source. I
29 mean, you can hear testimony from Solly Hegle, he made
30 a one hour testimony when we were in Anaktuvuk and
31 others that there is a preponderance of the evidence
32 that they are highly dependent upon the availability of
33 these resources for the communities' nutritional needs
34 therefore invoking food security for that village.
35 Those are huge words, those words can go into the arena
36 of the courts to fight when there's a preponderance of
37 the evidence in the same way that we have fought for
38 the bowhead whale and that we can close off seismic
39 operations or drilling during peak migration so the
40 whales can be reasonably available for harvest for
41 coastal communities. And I think these are important.
42 If you're going to make a proposal such as that you got
43 to have every justification under the sun and to be
44 able to defend that proposal. I'm giving you
45 everything under the sun that I can think of to do an
46 emergency closure to Federally-qualified users in unit
47 26. There's a -- and on top of that the hunting
48 pressure from unit 23 has to go somewhere, they have
49 nowhere to go except go north to unit 26 to hunt the
50

1 very same caribou that are in drastic decline. And if
2 we're not good stewards you're going to see a continued
3 decline like that.

4
5 Another justification is ADF&G because
6 the caribou issues. We're hearing wranglings about
7 that I'm going to have to get a hunting license and be
8 issued either a tag or harvest tag to hunt the caribou
9 because they're now ready to regulate the human being.
10 And I think before we go that far we need this tool
11 that's in between and that's limiting access to only
12 the rural residents. You have to live in those
13 communities to be able to subsist. So those are many
14 of the reasons that I think it needs to do that.

15
16 So that's one heck of a proposal, I
17 don't know what else I would need to add. I think I
18 did enough justification, did a lot of justification to
19 it.

20
21 Eva, it looks like you've got some big
22 ideas swirling around.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
25 you are proposing or recommending a proposal to bring
26 that to the Council in the form of a motion of what
27 specifically you are proposing and an opportunity for
28 Council discussion on that as well.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
31 I think if I was to rehash everything I said I'm sure
32 I'm going to miss something. So everything I talked
33 about in support of an emergency action to limit the
34 caribou hunt in unit 26 to rural Federally-qualified
35 users because of the major decline in all caribou
36 populations.

37
38 And that's my motion, if it dies it
39 dies, if it goes forward maybe it'll go forward.

40
41 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, I second that
42 proposal. This is Point Hope.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Point Hope has
45 seconded the motion. Is there any discussion?

46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, I'd
48 just like to clarify as we have new Council members
49 here that this proposal would only be in effect on
50

1 Federal lands within unit 26. And.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva, I think we
4 went through that we're.....
5
6 MS. PATTON: Right. Right.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the regulatory
9 thing that we're doing is on Federal public lands
10 within our jurisdictional boundaries over here and I
11 was almost thinking about making a caveat, to add a
12 caveat that something north of Anaktuvuk Pass to allow
13 the unobstructed migration between July and October 15
14 would be another proposal. And I was thinking about
15 that and then just if there were concerns about the
16 control use area just to leave that be and make a
17 separate proposal without affecting the control use
18 area in the -- because there are some fears about
19 reopening the control use area provisions.
20
21 But we are seconded on a motion, we're
22 up for discussion and we're on a motion to put an
23 emergency closure to Federally-qualified users in unit
24 26 and your hand is.....
25
26 MR. OOMITUK: Call for question.
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hold on. Let me get
29 Tom to say something, he might have something
30 important.
31
32 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.
33
34 MR. EVANS: The one important thing I
35 have to say is this would be a temporary special action
36 because of the time frame which the caribou season
37 occurs.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we're well
40 aware because we just went through the debate of how
41 the proposals are made, emergency actions are for up to
42 one year?
43
44 MR. EVANS: It's the other way around,
45 emergencies up to 60 days, temporaries up to a year.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Sixty -- I
48 wouldn't want to do it for 60 days and maybe we can
49 back up, take your second back and make it into a
50

1 temporary action that would make it into a one full
2 year. If you take your second back I'll modify my
3 motion.

4
5 MR. OOMITUK: I take my second back. I
6 rescind my second. This is Steve.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
9 And I would like to fix the motion. That is a
10 temporary action. Temporary special action to limit
11 unit 26 to Federally qualified users based on all the
12 justification that was talked about. And I think it's
13 recorded and you can write it all down and pick it out
14 from there. And that motion is on the floor as a
15 temporary special action.

16
17 MR. OOMITUK: Second that motion.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
20 Point Hope. Any other discussion?

21
22 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
25 called for. And, Eva, if you can do a roll call vote I
26 think would be most appropriate to hear this.

27
28 Eva.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, a
31 roll call vote for this proposal.

32
33 Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

34
35 MS. HUGO: Yes.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

38
39 MS. KIPPI: Yes.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Gordon Brower, Barrow.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I vote yes.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.

46
47 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Steve Oomituk, Point Hope.

50

1 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.
2
3 MS. PATTON: And I just wanted to check
4 in and see if Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak may have joined us
5 online for this discussion.
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 MS. PATTON: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
10 absent. We have.....
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madam
13 Coordinator, Rosemary was I think going to attend the
14 NPR-A Working Group meeting.
15
16 So what's the verdict, are we passed a
17 temporary action?
18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
20 that was a vote of five yes and we currently have seven
21 members on the Council so a quorum with a unanimous
22 vote yes of the current Council members here, Rosemary
23 and Robert Shears absent. The motion passes.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madam Coordinator, so
26 where does it go from here, does this go to the Federal
27 Subsistence Board to get enacted or deliberated
28 and.....
29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, so
31 because this is a special action request and not part
32 of the regular regulatory cycle this special action
33 request will go -- will be submitted to OSM, it goes
34 through a validation process and then it will undergo
35 -- if validated will undergo an analysis and will
36 require public hearings in the region, in the affected
37 regions. And so it doesn't come back to the Councils
38 unless it's during a regular Council meeting cycle, but
39 it is part of a public process where Council members
40 can participate as the public and all the public and
41 tribes and affected users in the region can
42 participate. So it can be a lengthy process for the
43 whole public hearings to unfold. There will be tribal
44 consultation as well that's conducted as part of the
45 process. All of the feedback from the public gets
46 summarized and included in the analysis and then
47 ultimately there's a recommendation by OSM, preliminary
48 recommendation, and it goes to the Board. The Board
49 does not always meet in a public meeting when they're
50

1 taking up special actions. So it can take several
2 months or more for the process to unfold, but there
3 will be public hearings if it is validated and
4 proceeds.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I thought
7 -- I just wanted to make sure you get that information
8 so that, you know, the expectation of when we might
9 hear and public notice and things like that.

10
11 I just want to thank the Regional
12 Advisory Council to hear what -- how you make proposals
13 and things like that and how they go through the
14 process. I think it's important to learn these things
15 because it gives a little bit of stewardship and a
16 little bit local control over some of the concerns we
17 have. And I'd just like to leave it at that.

18
19 And I know this is a temporary, up to a
20 year, and we have yet to have a public hearing on the
21 item.

22
23 Any other proposals from the Council?

24
25 MS. HUGO: I got a question. Will this
26 be done before the fall migration or the emergency
27 closure.....

28
29 MR. EVANS: So ideally this will.....

30
31 MS. HUGO:is really critical
32 right now?

33
34 MR. EVANS: So this special action,
35 we'll assume that we'll get this within a week or so or
36 a couple weeks, we'll start working on it, the caribou
37 season obviously starts around July 1st or so. So,
38 yes, we -- I anticipate that the special action will be
39 acted on by the Federal Subsistence Board before the
40 caribou season gets underway or at least, you know,
41 might be partly underway, but I guess given the time
42 frame of, you know, it's now March and given that it
43 would be done by the time the fall comes around.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. And
46 that's a temporary action.

47
48 MR. EVANS: Temporary special action.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Temporary special
2 action. The Western Arctic Caribou Working Group has
3 to my knowledge submit a proposal to make this a more
4 permanent for unit 23. And because that action that
5 the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group is not
6 affecting unit 26, but affecting unit 23, I'd like to
7 put a similar proposal to affect unit 26 for a more
8 permanent fix on top of a temporary action. Probably
9 the same language, maybe with some rider on that to
10 affect State land that we put a similar proposal to
11 affect State land north of Anaktuvuk Pass, but not --
12 I'm trying to think of a way to do this where you can
13 establish a tier hunt only on a migration path not
14 affecting all of the other lands that are State lands,
15 just on the migration path of the Western Arctic herd
16 so that they're uninterrupted through State land as
17 they get towards Anaktuvuk. That would have to be some
18 wordsmithing and being able to develop a proposal to
19 State land.

20
21 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
22 here. I -- is this in the form of a motion that you're
23 putting on the floor right now?

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, did you want
26 to put -- did you put that in the form of a motion to
27 make a more permanent fix for unit 26?

28
29 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, I wanted to hear
30 from Eva, I know we don't have jurisdiction on State
31 lands and I don't know if we can put that.....

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

34
35 MR. OOMITUK:thing on State
36 lands, but only on Federal lands I think is what we
37 have jurisdiction over.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva, if you
40 could elaborate a little bit and I think we're able to
41 propose -- to make a proposal for the State RAC from
42 this RAC.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
45 correct. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
46 Council does have the authority to develop as a Council
47 a proposal to the State Board of Game and that goes
48 through the State Board of Game process. It might be
49 helpful because they have a long cycle sort of similar

50

1 to ours, it covers three years, in their regulatory
2 process to submit proposals. And the Arctic region
3 those proposals just recently closed so I think the
4 next regulatory proposal process through the State
5 program was three years out from now. So it's - it'll
6 be some time before that regular regulatory process
7 through the State Board of Game is open again to
8 address proposals to the Arctic region. They do have
9 a.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So essentially you're
12 saying that if we did make a proposal that -- to
13 protect that migratory route that is coveted and not to
14 interrupt that path as it reach Anaktuvuk that would be
15 a process to take up to three years to potentially go
16 through the State system?

17

18 MS. PATTON: Right, because they've
19 just gone through their regulatory process for the
20 Arctic region and so that meeting just concluded in
21 March. So for the Arctic region they just held their
22 March meeting to take action on proposals that were
23 submitted for this regulatory cycle. They have a three
24 year regulatory cycle so the next call for Arctic
25 region Board of Game proposals will be in three years.
26 So if the Council were to submit a proposal it -- the
27 process isn't open right now for it to actually be
28 considered.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a follow-up
31 question. What's -- whose responsibility if there are
32 emergency action or special action just like on the
33 Federal side if the State has those kind of provisions?

34

35 MR. KLIMSTRA: Gordon, if I could just
36 for a second here. I just wanted to let you know that
37 the cycle is every three years, but you do have the
38 option to submit something even out of cycle, it just
39 wouldn't be for the Arctic -- it wouldn't be like at
40 the meeting that deals with all the issues of the
41 Arctic, it would maybe be like for the southeast or
42 excuse me, yeah, the southeast Alaska or something like
43 that. So you could submit something out of cycle and
44 it would go through the process and it would be brought
45 up, you know, it would be taken up by the Board of Game
46 during something like that so that's an option.

47

48 Yeah, I believe that would have to be
49 an agenda change request in order for that to be
50

1 accepted.

2

3

Is that right, Darren?

4

5

MR. BRUNING: Yes.

6

7

MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. So that's an option that you have.

8

9

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's important to just, you know, hear the State process and how this body can affect that. When we're -- you know, when we're being told there's other regulatory processes in the works that's going to start to limit the individual subsistence user and if that's the case we need to be doing something maybe to counter that because we're doing everything we can to be conservative. And maybe we're doing more than the State by restricting the access on Federal public lands to Federally-qualified users in effect saying if you want to hunt caribou on Federal public lands in this region you've got to live in Atkasuk, you got to live in Wainwright, you got to live in Point Lay, you got to live in Barrow, you got to live in Nuiqsut, you got to be a rural residents. And that takes away all of these airplanes that were flying around dive-bombing on them.

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Roy.

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MR. NAGEAK: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the issue that you're discussing which is very important when you look at the statewide issues that are back in the rural areas especially with fish and game management and the ability for the State to manage caribou, manage anything that is under the State of Alaska fish and wildlife management regime. And without the financial resources the State is dealing with it further backup the proposal that is coming from unit 26 because how can they manage hunters that come from all over the country or internationally. It's on TV every week, Jim Shockey, one of his favorite places to go is Alaska to do guided hunting, it's internationally. And how to protect the resources that the State of Alaska is not financially capable of management of the resources that belong to them that we propose a proposal that is being made within unit 26 and supporting unit 23 because it's a good example of what unit 23, all the things that happen in unit 23 allow the caribou to migrate as done

1 before. And that's one of the best examples of good
2 management is the Federal government inadvertently
3 helped the caribou start migrating to Anaktuvuk Pass
4 which it haven't done for the last six or 10 years
5 basically. And I think looking at this I support in
6 essence to make it emergency just like the unit 23,
7 management about caribou on a statewide basis. And
8 when you have the State of Alaska which need to cut a
9 lot of things to be financially viable to manage what's
10 under their covenants for us that are in the rural area
11 that depend on the renewable resources we could have
12 the State close off areas that need to be manage
13 especially access to renewable resources because when
14 you look at the rural area those are the areas that the
15 State often cut first as opposed to urban areas.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Roy. Tom,
20 you look like you want to say something, a little
21 consternation to your expressions.

22

23 MR. EVANS: So if you're developing a
24 proposal similar to the WCH for unit 26 a couple of
25 suggestions that I might have is if you want it limited
26 to local residents only, local being just within the
27 units you're talking about, not within Alaska, because
28 rural residents under the State regulations is all --
29 all the communities in Alaska would be covered from
30 that. That's one thing. The other thing would be
31 maybe to limit it only to 26A and B which is kind of
32 where the Western Arctic caribou herd occurs within
33 unit 26, not so much in 26C which is more
34 Porcupine/Central caribou herd country.

35

36 So that's just something that I might
37 -- you might want to consider when you develop that
38 proposal similar to the WACH for unit 26.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we can
41 differentiate and we need to differentiate. You're
42 saying when we close it or make a proposal to close it
43 we can differentiate which Federally-qualified users
44 that it affects. Like if we had a Federally-qualified
45 user from -- a rural resident in Noatak, he's capable
46 of coming over to unit 26 because he is a rural
47 resident to be able to continue his harvest. Which is --
48 I think Noatak is in Unit 23.

49

50

1 MR. EVANS: Correct. So you'd have --
2 so that is a decision that you would have to make, like
3 who you would like to be able to hunt in unit 26,
4 caribou in 26. And if you want to limit it to a
5 certain subsection of rural residents then you could
6 make that as a -- you could decide which rural
7 communities you would -- would have customary and
8 traditional use for caribou within 26A and B for that
9 proposal or you could keep -- you could say nothing and
10 basically all rural residents would be able to -- that
11 have -- that currently have C&T for that area could
12 hunt in that area.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vince, I think you're
15 needing to say something and Pat and I.....

16
17 MR. MATTHEWS: A couple of things real
18 quick. The current positive C&T, those that can hunt
19 caribou in unit 26 currently is for unit 26A and 26C,
20 is the residents of unit 26 which you already were
21 discussing, Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Hope. So that's A
22 and C. For B, residents of unit 26, Anaktuvuk Pass,
23 Point Hope and residents of unit 24 within the Dalton
24 Highway corridor. So it doesn't deal with anybody over
25 in the Noatak so there's already a defined who
26 qualifies.

27
28 And then it may help you with your
29 discussions to look at a map, if you have the
30 regulation book in front of you, on page 26 where your
31 actions would actually apply. And I don't want you to
32 redirect your actions or anything, I just want you to
33 look at where those Federal lands are and et cetera.
34 And finally.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In which book was
37 that?

38
39 MR. MATTHEWS: This one, the one with
40 the bear and the fish on the front.

41
42 And I, you know, it's just to help you
43 understand because I understand the issue, I understand
44 the conflict.....

45
46 MR. EVANS: 126,

47
48 MR. MATTHEWS: 126 and 127.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: 127.

2

3 MR. MATTHEWS: I understand the
4 conflict and et cetera, but you need to know, you know,
5 the land make is all I'm trying to point out.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. EVANS: And that's what I was
10 getting for 26A and B versus C.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe just a question
13 to Vince and Pat. In the way that we've talked about
14 the proposal for a temporary action plan did that
15 include what the map already says, that it's going to
16 be inclusive of those folks.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
19 the motion -- the motion that you made was for unit 26.
20 And so if it's unit 26 it encompasses 26A, 26B and 26C.
21 And so the point Tom was trying to clarify was that if
22 26C which is predominantly Porcupine caribou herd is
23 not an issue of concern to close to nonrural residents
24 that the proposal could be further refined to have that
25 special -- that temporary special action affect the
26 units that you were concerned about. So it can
27 encompass all of 26 including 26C, I think Tom was
28 just trying to clarify that it can be -- the motion can
29 be per hunt area, per hunt unit.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I know it's so
32 confusing when you got 26A, 26B. I think 26B is
33 predominantly State land and that Federal -- 26C is
34 Fish and Wildlife Service on wildlife Refuge lands
35 primarily.

36

37 Roy, did you have a question?

38

39 MR. NAGEAK: Yes, my comments yesterday
40 here in regards to the species as a whole which knows
41 no boundaries when it's migrating and they don't
42 understand boundaries and units and the way the lands
43 are being divided. And I think the Federal and the
44 State governments got to start realizing that. That
45 they have so many different rules for Parks, wildlife,
46 public lands, whatnot, State lands, but the animals
47 that are there don't recognize those. And for the
48 protection of the species all these units that are
49 being divided in lands that the renewable resource

50

1 animals depend on, it's got to get better. The animals
2 don't know no boundaries and that's always the mix up,
3 how mixed up the Federal and State government is,
4 trying to regulate what is made by god basically. Man-
5 made rules don't work when people are hungry because
6 hunger knows no law. And you've got to recognize that.
7 And the species don't know no boundaries. You just get
8 mixed up on how the Federal rules and regulations and
9 the State rules and regulations that impact the
10 subsistence users. Hunger knows no law. It's the same
11 thing as the muskox, if there's only one and there's a
12 starving family and it walks right up to them they're
13 going to shoot it, doesn't matter. And if you want to
14 make criminals of all the people, of all the indigenous
15 people that depends on these animals, if you want to go
16 back to history, we could go back to history to scare
17 -- use the scare tactics that are being utilized. You
18 want to go back to the history on what the doctrine of
19 discovery is and the manifest destiny and how the
20 indigenous people were being terminated and how the
21 great buffalo herds were being killed just for -- so
22 that the Indians could starve and the lands could be
23 taken away. Don't try to scare us, we (indiscernible)
24 looking right at us on the North Slope especially with
25 the whaling industry that almost decimated the whales.
26 And also the polar bear. It got to the point where my
27 dad and mom had to skim the oil off the polar bears and
28 the only thing we ate was paws of the polar bear when
29 they decimated the polar bear. That's history.

30
31 So these are issues and you want to
32 look at why we sometimes frown on our freedom, on our
33 freedom to hunt as we please. And rules and
34 regulations and hunger knows no law is always the case.
35 So reflect that -- on that a little and try to protect
36 the species as a whole. My brother died and he told me
37 -- my oldest brother died and he told me -- he was
38 dying of cancer, he said you've got to speak for the
39 animals, they don't know how to speak English. And
40 that's why I stated that species and the species that
41 we depend on, they don't know no rules and regulations.
42 We're just trying to rule and regulate ourselves, the
43 human beings. But we need to protect the species.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). I think
48 that really came from deep within his heart, I can feel
49 those kind of testimonies when they're needing to be
50

1 made.

2

3 So you got unit 26C, unit 26B, unit 26.
4 If we just say -- we said unit 26, what does that mean,
5 unit 26, you got A, B and C and does that encompass
6 unit 26 that includes A, B and C. Very good. And I
7 think that's what the intent was.

8

9

10 And in trying to craft a motion and I
11 think Steve wanted to make this into a motion, but I
12 wanted to add a couple things. One of them is that
13 there should be a mechanism when the time comes as part
14 of this dialogue that recognizes the village area of
15 influence in the comprehensive plans for each
16 community. It shows a diagram of their hunting area.
17 These village area of influences are a requirement of
18 the State. They are a requirement and mandated by the
19 code of ordinances of the Borough to develop a village
20 area of influence as part of each comprehensive plan
21 for the community. There needs to be a way to
22 recognize when the time comes that it's time to discuss
23 reopening and how you reopen lands to not develop an
24 argument, not to develop conflicts of the urban hunters
25 and the guides to hunt in the exact same place as where
26 the traditional hunting grounds for each community are
27 because you're dealing with a food security issue of
28 communities. I think there needs to be a mechanism as
29 the threshold levels are met to reestablish opening of
30 these caribou so that there is a quality, traditional
31 hunting experience to hand down to everybody, not an
32 argument.

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33 That's what I would add and I think if
34 we leave it at that and that's what I would add as a
35 potential fix to what the Western Arctic Working Group --
36 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group is attempting to
37 make a long term fix until such time as the caribou has
38 recovered enough for -- to open these lands up again.
39 And but that working group proposal is for unit 23 for
40 a longer term fix or more permanent fix. We need that
41 proposal on the North Slope on the unit 26 as a
42 proposal for the longer term regulatory fix in light of
43 all the caribou declines and all the justifications we
44 brought forth earlier for the communities' needs and
45 food security issues.

46

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Tom.

MR. EVANS: So that would -- so the

1 Western Arctic caribou proposal is primarily for the
2 Western Arctic caribou population. If you do it for
3 all 26 it'll affect the Teshekpuk, the Central and the
4 Porcupine caribou herds as well. I'm just -- if that's
5 what you want that's what you want, but.....

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: To my understanding
10 and you're probably going to get a presentation, the
11 Teshekpuk herd is less than 50 percent of its
12 population as well. We heard and publicized in the
13 news the Central Arctic herd, I thought to be very
14 strong and the oil and gas industry has said they
15 thrived in the oil patch. And they were 60 and 70,000
16 animals which was probably their peak. And recently
17 heard that they're less than 20,000. That's in unit
18 26. In unit 26C in that area, I don't know if ADF&G
19 has concluded the declining trend is continuing on to
20 Porcupine herd and we haven't heard that, but certainly
21 Central Arctic herd, Teshekpuk herd, Western Arctic
22 herd, all of them below 50 percent. And that seems to
23 me it covers the North Slope.

24

25

And we got wildlife Refuge manager over
26 here. I quit forgetting your name.

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MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hollis. ANWR.

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MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I've been sitting
back listening very intently to the discussions and
I've been taking a lot of mental notes from Roy and
Doreen, the tribal representative that was speaking
here earlier. The one thing that I would suggest, I'm
not taking a position one way or the other on your
proposal, I would just have you understand that the
Porcupine caribou herd is on its historical high of
197,000 caribou based on the last photo census a
couple years ago. And our expectation from seeing the
herd is it's probably still growing or certainly at
that level still. That would be considered a healthy
level on that particular population. And to give your
proposal more strength it would be hard to justify the
restrictions just to rural residents on a population
that is historically the highest numbers that it's been
recorded. I would suggest and just not in my capacity

1 as a Refuge manager that to strengthen your proposal
2 through OSM you might want to consider those regions
3 that have populations that are in substantial decline
4 that would not have you try to justify where 26C and
5 Porcupine caribou herd would be worthy of putting that
6 level of restrictions on it just yet. There's a lot of
7 discussions that have been had here by tribal leaders
8 and elders that we need to be conscious of the fact
9 that these populations do move and they do change.

10

11 And so consider that if you want to
12 have this proposal to have standing and justification
13 through the OSM process that keeping your proposals
14 focused on those populations that are clearly in a
15 negative decline mode, you would have much stronger
16 standing.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hollis.
21 And I think those are good words of wisdom. Oh,
22 somebody's playing music. All right. I think those
23 are good words of wisdom. I didn't know the trend in
24 population for Porcupine herd and I don't know if the
25 biologists that are doing the Western Arctic herd
26 presentation will dwell into the Porcupine herd or not.
27 But if -- I think that's great. And so you're probably
28 going to end up receiving the hunting pressure over in
29 that side.

30

31 MR. TWITCHELL: That is exactly what I
32 was thinking when you were describing what's going on
33 in the western region because that hunting pressure
34 will shift and I'm thinking in terms of what does that
35 mean to us, what does it mean to Lee in Kaktovik in
36 terms of their use of that area with more planes and
37 more flying and more competition. So we will feel the
38 pain from this eventually.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hollis,
41 and I think that's real good information.

42

43 And maybe for the longer term fix maybe
44 we should have OSM craft suitable language. I think
45 you've heard the gist of the concerns and I think
46 there's many, many reasons why we should do this. And
47 but we do it in a way that it's strengthened so that
48 the Federal Subsistence Board says, hey, these guys are
49 thinking right. And if we're trying to limit in the

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1 Porcupine area sector where it's at the peak of their
2 production, their peak of their population, might
3 weaken that. But I just see that the hunting pressure
4 is certainly probably going to shift over to that part
5 of the North Slope though.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Counsel, we
8 do have both Ryan Klimstra here and also the regional
9 manager for the area. They were both going to provide
10 just a brief overview so you had a handout on the
11 Western Arctic caribou herd and the Teshekpuk herd, but
12 updates on the Central Arctic herd to help clarify
13 what's going on with that herd and the Porcupine
14 caribou herd. And so that information will likely be
15 really helpful for the Council in your consideration
16 and deliberations on further caribou proposals for the
17 region. And they do have a Power Point too.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good, Eva. I
20 think we could take a look at the presentation and
21 maybe it might help form. But I would like to at least
22 first maybe finish the motion of a more permanent fix,
23 but having it strengthened through OSM to review it.

24
25 And I think Steve was about to make a
26 recommendation or a motion that we.....

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, I -- yeah, this is
29 Steve.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: I wanted more information
34 on this. I didn't make the motion yet, but I wanted to
35 hear more on it. And but.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let's listen
38 to the presentation then and you're they're about ready
39 to give us additional details of Western Arctic herd,
40 Teshekpuk and maybe the -- I think the Central Arctic
41 herd.

42
43 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. And I -- you know,
44 I do have to go here in a little bit, I've got to check
45 out of the hotel and (indiscernible - simultaneous
46 speech).....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are we going to
49 lose you this afternoon or.....

50

1 MR. OOMITUK: No, I'm going to call --
2 are we going to break for lunch here soon and -- I was
3 going to call back at 1:00.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
6
7 MR. OOMITUK: I'm just -- I do have to
8 checkout of the hotel here in a few minutes.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let me ask
11 here, do you guys want to go -- entertain lunch first
12 and do a caribou presentation after lunch so that maybe
13 Steve can be part of that? He said he'll be back for
14 lunch too and I think it would be prudent to have Steve
15 here for the.....
16
17 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER:caribou
20 presentation.
21
22 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Lee.
25
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Are we still on that
27 proposal, did that close already or is that ongoing
28 throughout this presentation?
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.
31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
33 the Council still has opportunity to develop other
34 Federal subsistence regulatory proposals. The
35 information on the caribou herds though may be helpful
36 to you to have an idea of where the herds are at, how
37 things are looking, and that will help inform further
38 proposals.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Eva.....
41
42 MS. PATTON:so it's still open.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER:then I'm --
45 after the caribou presentation then we can take up
46 where we left off, about ready to make a motion for the
47 longer term fix like the Western Caribou Working Group.
48
49 MR. KAYOTUK Okay.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that'll still be
2 open there, Lee.

3
4 MR. KAYOTUK: Oh, okay. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So do we want to
7 entertain lunch or you want -- I think for Steve's
8 purposes I think he should be present for the -- at
9 least hear the narrative of the presentation. He might
10 even have the Power Point in hand. So you guys want to
11 recess for lunch until 1:00 o'clock or 1:15 or.....

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, can I make a motion
14 that we recess for lunch until 1:15. I do need to run
15 and checkout and I got to go check into another hotel
16 because this one is booked and I only had it until
17 today.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Steve,
20 we're going to recess until 1:15 and then take up with
21 the caribou presentation at that time.

22
23 MR. OOMITUK: All right. Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're at
26 recess.

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: I'll call back in an hour
29 or so.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon from
36 Barrow. Anybody online?

37
38 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, this is Hilary
39 Robinson, chief of resources at Western Arctic National
40 Park, I'm based in Kotzebue.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And I'm
43 going to ask, Madam Coordinator, where are we on the
44 agenda. Are we ready for the presentation?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, we
47 are ready for the presentation. And, Ryan, I'll let
48 you know there was some discussion that was related to
49 this packet and then when we get to the Power Point you
50

1 guys are probably going to want to scoot around here so
2 you can see the screen. We have a little different
3 setup than we usually have.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So the first
6 part of the presentation is the Power Point handout we
7 have. And as we rummage through that and you explain
8 the overview we'll morph into the Power Point, is that
9 what I'm understanding?

10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, Mr. Chair, I
12 wasn't planning on going into much detail with the
13 caribou overview the reason being there's no new
14 information from the last time that you guys have had
15 this information. So I think -- I mean, I can go over
16 the highlights of this stuff, but I think our time
17 might be better spent talking about other issues that
18 have been in discussion throughout today. I mean,
19 they're all kind of surrounding caribou, but I don't
20 think we need to get into the details necessarily of
21 the overview because it's, you know, but if you have
22 specific questions I'd be more than happy to answer
23 them. And if it's something that comes up in our
24 discussion we can certainly go to it and reference it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And for
27 the folks that are new, that may not have been privy to
28 the information, it might be good to give a status on
29 the overall health and, you know.....

30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER:mortality rates
34 or if the trend is declining or we're having a bump or
35 something like that and what the population estimates
36 may be. And I think it would be prudent because we
37 have several new members that they may not have had the
38 opportunity of the detailed explanation.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I want to also --
45 I think we're going to get done I hope because I got to
46 catch a plane at 7:00 o'clock tonight.

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: If I'm still talking at
49 7:00 o'clock you have my permission to.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
2
3 MR. KLIMSTRA:hook me off the
4 stage, yeah.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're going to go
7 over the overview and then we'll go through the Power
8 Point and when we go to the Power Point just let us
9 know because we've got to go to the other side to watch
10 the Power Point.
11
12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, no problem. This
13 will be fairly brief, the caribou portion, just like
14 kind of an update or just a -- kind of state what you
15 guys have heard many times. We haven't done a census
16 since you guys have last heard this information, but so
17 we'll just start with the Western Arctic herd.
18
19 The Western Arctic herd.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a quick
22 question.
23
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said you haven't
27 done census since the last time we heard about the
28 census, is that 2000.....
29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's correct. So
31 October.....
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER:2014 or '15?
34
35 MR. KLIMSTRA: No, Oct -- no, we did
36 one this past summer. And you guys heard that
37 presentation this past October.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
40
41 MR. KLIMSTRA:2016.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.
44
45 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. And that's just
46 for the Western Arctic herd.
47
48 So Western Arctic herd if you'll recall
49 is right around 200,000 caribou. And that kind of puts
50

1 us right on the line of the management plan that was
2 developed by the Western Arctic Herd Working Group. So
3 we're right kind of on the line between conservative
4 and preservative, the conservative and preservative
5 levels. So with that 200,000 all the information that
6 we collect it is clear to us that the decline has
7 slowed quite a bit. It's not declining at these high
8 percentage rates anymore compared to previous years.
9 So that's one positive thing. I'm not saying that it's
10 not still declining, it's -- please don't mistake that,
11 but it has slowed tremendously. And the things that
12 indicate that to us are one, this last photo census we
13 did, there wasn't a huge drop in the number of caribou
14 compared to the previous photo census as had happened,
15 you know, several photo censuses before that.

16
17 Some of the information that we collect
18 like short yearling recruitment which means, you know,
19 young animals are born in June that survive and are
20 added to the population the following year. The short
21 yearling recruitment has been pretty good this past
22 year. Calf weights were really good this past fall and
23 they were also good the year before so those are
24 encouraging signs. And bull/cow ratios also were
25 reasonable.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan.

28
29 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to flip
32 through here. Are we using this one here or.....

33
34 MR. KLIMSTRA: I -- like I said,
35 Gordon, I wasn't planning on going slide by slide
36 because you guys.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. KLIMSTRA:have seen this
41 before and.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

44
45 MR. KLIMSTRA:rather than getting
46 bogged down in stuff we've already done I just.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

49
50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Those are the
2 highlights.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we're just
5 specifically talking on Western Arctic caribou?

6
7 MR. KLIMSTRA: And I'll indicate when I
8 start talking about the Teshekpuk.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Very good.

11
12 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to make
15 sure.....

16
17 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure. Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER:everybody's
20 clear.

21
22 MR. KLIMSTRA: And that's really all
23 I've -- you know, I had planned to say about the
24 Western Arctic herd. If you have specific questions
25 about anything that's been going the past year I'd be
26 happy to answer those, but again we're at about 200,000
27 animals, the decline has slowed quite a bit and there's
28 some positive signs out there. So that's what we know
29 about the Western Arctic herd right now and we plan to
30 have another photo census this summer and actually in
31 about a week or two they're going to also look at short
32 yearlings or calves that have made it a full year and
33 so we'll have an idea of, you know, did we add a lot of
34 calves to the population this year. They're going to
35 have that information in a couple weeks.

36
37 So if you don't have any other -- any
38 questions on.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
41 Ryan?

42
43 Wanda.

44
45 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Have you ever
46 noticed the migration herd changes?

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's a really good
49 question, Wanda.

50

1 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.
2
3 MR. KLIMSTRA: It's -- you know, the
4 migration -- I guess you guys would probably know
5 better than I would as far as the fact that caribou
6 don't always follow the same path. You know, there are
7 places where they do like to go regularly, migratory
8 corridors. But things can shift around and we did not
9 notice any huge -- from the collar data we did not
10 notice any huge change in the migration over the past
11 year. Other than a lot of animals did make it over
12 towards Anaktuvuk.
13
14 MS. KIPPI: Okay. That's the main
15 question did you guys notice a difference or the change
16 in the migration.
17
18 Thank you.
19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: We noticed that there
21 was some more collars over toward the vicinity of
22 Anaktuvuk this year. Other than that there's nothing
23 sticking out in my head that was completely different
24 than past years.
25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
27 for Ryan before he moves on?
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we're still on
32 Western Arctic herd.
33
34 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's correct. And
35 I'll go right to Teshekpuk if we're good.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I did have a
38 question.
39
40 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And for about -- when
43 was our last meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass, was that 2015
44 or.....
45
46 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. That was
47 fall of 2015. We were there in -- I think 1st and 2nd
48 of November.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: In 2015 in Anaktuvuk
2 Pass a question about the amount necessary for
3 subsistence and the acronym ANS was talked about. And
4 there -- because of the declining trend had been
5 noticeable for the last 10 years in 2015 a
6 determination was made. And a question was raised
7 because in 2015 or 2014, but noticed in 2015 the
8 Teshekpuk herd and the Western Arctic herd now appear
9 to have a combined ANS. And we wanted to know if that
10 was the case all along or did ADF&G make a
11 determination that combining the ANS was the way to go
12 to allow for nonresident hunts to continue. And that
13 was a startling change that we from the Federal
14 Subsistence Advisory Council had questions about why
15 did ADF&G start to calculate the Teshekpuk herd when
16 Lincoln Parrett, I think it's Lincoln, right?

17
18 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: He does all this
21 modeling of radio collared information and you press a
22 button and you see where Teshekpuk goes, you see where
23 Western Arctic goes, you see where Central Arctic goes,
24 they were all distinct herds. And to start calculating
25 the ANS under ADF&G of Teshekpuk and Western Arctic
26 herd as one population was starting to come out. And
27 that was -- and then I had posed a question to one of
28 the biologists, if the ANS for Western Arctic herd and
29 the Teshekpuk herd were separated based on the current
30 population would it support nonresident hunt. And the
31 answer I got was both herds would not support it. The
32 decline was already too great that the ANS --
33 separating them together -- separating them would not
34 support that. But if you -- somebody made a conscious
35 effort to combine what the State call is -- I don't
36 think the Feds use that, the terms amount necessary for
37 subsistence, it's an extrapolation of the harvestable
38 surplus is my guess. And they call it the amount
39 necessary for subsistence. And where are we with the
40 ANS, I mean.....

41
42 MR. KLIMSTRA: So there was a proposal
43 at the State Board of Game this previous cycle.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
46 that proposal was submitted by -- so the North Slope
47 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council did decide to
48 submit a proposal to Board of Game requesting that that
49 combined ANS be reconsidered. And so that was

50

1 considered by the Board at the recent March meeting.
2 And I don't know if they were planning to provide an
3 update on that, but it was the Council that submitted
4 that proposal.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, and I remember
7 that. It was something that we took action on because
8 we saw a issue developing that quite frankly I thought
9 it was not the proper thing. And maybe if you argued
10 with Lincoln you would think that's -- he's probably
11 pulling his hair out in my view because his work is
12 very, very distinct on where the animals go. The
13 Western Arctic has its own, Teshekpuk has it's own
14 place, Central Arctic has its own place, you press the
15 button and here they go when they migrate, they have
16 their own spots. Leads me to believe that they -- each
17 one of those herds should enjoy its own ANS of that
18 harvestable surplus. And if the ANS on both herds
19 cannot be supported for other hunts what is ADF&G doing
20 about that?

21
22 MR. KLIMSTRA: So the combined ANS for
23 the two, you know, that proposal that you submitted for
24 the Board of Game, the Board of Game did not adopt that
25 proposal to separate those. And I think largely
26 because it's a matter of understanding harvest. And
27 currently we don't understand, you know, where harvest
28 is occurring necessarily and so it's hard to separate
29 out harvest of Western Arctic herd and Teshekpuk herd.
30 Now with that being said I will be the first to admit I
31 am not the expert on this particular question, Gordon.
32 I don't know if Lincoln's on the line, but we can
33 certainly get you a follow-up answer to this particular
34 matter. So I don't want you to go without knowing what
35 happened here. But the Board of Game did not adopt the
36 proposal to separate them. And that was.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and think it's
39 to the detriment of the herd because it's -- even
40 though some folks say that the hunt that are not
41 subsistence is -- other than subsistence is so minute
42 and so little in comparison to subsistence that it was
43 an insignificant take. But when you look at the hunts
44 that take place they go after the bulls and if you look
45 at what one bull does during the rut season that one
46 bull has a harem. He's not going to mate only one
47 female, he's going to mate about 60 females. And I
48 think that's a significant issue. When you look at we
49 don't hunt the bulls during fall because they're in
50

1 rut, they're going crazy for mating, but that's --
2 those are the types of issues I see. When you -- when
3 the nonresident hunt or the others are taking only the
4 bulls and it's what that bull contributes to the
5 overall health and population growth, it could mean up
6 to 50 calves.

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, and I -- you know,
9 I will just offer this up too, just something to think
10 about when considering this is, you know, as far as
11 harvest from nonlocals in 26A specifically, that makes
12 up .5 percent, you know, it's a half a percent of the
13 total harvest that's occurring. And so that works out
14 to be about -- it works out to be 15 animals that
15 nonlocal people are taking from unit 26A. Now with the
16 closure in 23 I know there's a lot of concern about
17 things getting shifted over in 26A and I'm just telling
18 you what we're seeing, I'm not trying to take a
19 position, I'm just telling -- giving you data here. So
20 23 we had the closure there, the number of guides and
21 things like that and this -- and we don't have all the
22 information back yet because the count -- the -- you
23 know, the reporting period is not over and so we don't
24 quite have all the data, but the trend is saying about
25 50 percent -- there's a 50 percent reduction in 23 of
26 guide hunters. Okay. And in 26 -- what that meant for
27 26A is we saw an increase in harvest, we did, but that
28 increase was, you know, 40 percent more than what was
29 already happening. So there was 15 animals so you had
30 40 percent of 15, you know, and you're like at 20 some
31 animals is what we have seen so far from the
32 information, the resources that we have.

33
34 So just the -- you know, something to
35 consider there.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
38 Ryan. I think that's important to know. And I really
39 think that there's still information gaps. Do you know
40 the amount of motorhome hunters on the Haul Road with
41 the types of things that some of the inspectors see on
42 the road with caribou walking around with arrows stuck
43 in them and.....

44
45 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, I.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I think that's a
48 -- informational gaps exist and then those that
49 suddenly are urban hunters that have personal take

50

1 which the State recognizes on anywhere State land
2 exists. Anaktuvuk and Fairbanks and Anchorage you
3 don't differentiate any of those residents. And
4 the.....

5
6 MR. KLIMSTRA: Right.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:amount of urban
9 hunters, I think there's an information gap as well.

10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, that's -- yeah,
12 and just to clarify too I'm talking solely about 26A at
13 this point, I'm not referring to 26B where the Haul
14 Road is and I think Darren at one point will have some
15 information on that as well, but, you know, the
16 nonlocal -- the people that do not live in 26A
17 harvested very few caribou, it accounted for a half a
18 percent of the harvest that occurred in 26A.

19
20 So that's all I was trying to say
21 there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible) I'm
24 going to allow you to -- and I'm not going to try to
25 dominate anymore too, but I like to make sure that the
26 information gaps are highlighted when we're talking
27 about caribou that have been declining so much,
28 that.....

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Absolutely. I think
31 that's important too.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER:regulatory
34 process has got to be invoked to protect them.

35
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Yeah, I agree,
37 Gordon, we have to make sure those information gaps are
38 filled as best we can.

39
40 So if there's nothing else for the
41 Western Arctic I'll just give a brief highlight of the
42 Teshekpuk and we'll move into the presentation that has
43 kind of a little bit more pertinent topics that you
44 guys want to talk about.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: So for the Teshekpuk
49 herd we did not complete a photo census 2016 and that

50

1 was due to weather. And the herd -- as you guys recall
2 in 2016 part of the summer was pretty cool, the caribou
3 didn't plaster up against the coast for a very long
4 amount of time so that kind of prevented us from being
5 able to get a photo census. However the previous photo
6 census indicated that the Teshekpuk herd has somewhat
7 stabilized. We're not looking at an increase, we're
8 not looking at a decrease right now, you know, it looks
9 like things have kind of maybe leveled out and that's
10 at around 40,000 animals. So it's more than half of
11 what the historic high was, around 70,000 was the peak
12 of that herd. So we're at more than half there.

13
14 And again just like the Western Arctic
15 herd there's a lot of encouraging signs. And I'm not
16 saying one way or the other what the herd is doing, I'm
17 just saying what we're seeing and that is that short
18 yearling recruitment is looking good so we're adding
19 animals to the population, that's a good thing.
20 Bull/cow ratio is a little low this past fall, but it's
21 not at a level that's of concern right now. Calf
22 weights again look -- I think this past summer they
23 were the second highest they'd ever been or some --
24 they were in the top five anyway, top five highest
25 calves weights. So those are encouraging things that
26 we're seeing anyway that we wanted to share with you.

27
28 And we will attempt a photo census
29 again this summer and we hope to be able to provide,
30 you know, further information on the trajectory of this
31 herd, but at this time for us we believe that we're
32 kind of just hanging in there at 40,000.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
35 Ryan on Teshekpuk herd?

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got one. Teshekpuk
40 herd at 40,000, what would you call that, is it a -- do
41 we need -- is it -- when it was 70,000 I would think
42 you were at a liberal management regime to manage that
43 herd. At 30, 40,000 is that managing at a conservative
44 to preservation mode or are you in preservation mode?

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, we don't have a
47 working group that has made up a plan so to speak like
48 the Western Arctic Herd Working Group for the Teshekpuk
49 herd, but to answer your questions there, Gordon, so

50

1 the annual harvest as we understand it is, you know,
2 we've got a range of 2,300 to 2,900 animals and, you
3 know, the harvestable surplus of this herd is
4 approximately 2,500 animals. So we're not like getting
5 nervous so to speak, you know, I mean, we're certainly
6 monitoring this and it's something that we're keeping
7 an eye on, but there's no real indication at this
8 moment that we need to have some sort of drastic, you
9 know, change for the Teshekpuk herd. The intensive
10 management objectives for this herd are when population
11 is around 15,000 to 28,000 so there's still quite a
12 ways to go there, we have -- you know, we clearly don't
13 want to go there, you know and that's at a 6 percent
14 harvest rate too, what I was talking about, that 2,500
15 that's available for harvest.

16
17 So, you know, with kind of those things
18 there, you know, if the herd were to decline below
19 35,000, you know, then it might be time to think about
20 a transition from 6 percent harvest to maybe 4 or 5
21 percent and that would accommodate that reduction in
22 the herd. But we -- but there -- again I want to be
23 clear here, we don't have anything that's indicating
24 that we're going that direction, but at the same time
25 the other hand, you know, the other side of the coin
26 there is we don't have anything all of a sudden we're
27 going to rebound significantly. We just know that from
28 everything that we're collecting and everything that
29 we're seeing out there that things appear pretty stable
30 right now including the harvest that we have of that
31 herd, you know, both local 26A residents and the
32 nonlocal harvest that occurs. And again talking only
33 for 26A.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ryan. Any
36 questions to Ryan on Teshekpuk herd, the North Slope's
37 resident herd. People like to call it that, but I've
38 seen them collars go over to -- over the Brooks Range
39 from time to time.

40
41 Wanda.

42
43 MS. KIPPI: What are you presenting
44 right here, these animals, what are they?

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: The picture on.....

47
48 MS. KIPPI: Yeah.

49
50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA:the front here?
2 Honestly, I -- this is a presentation that Lincoln
3 Parrett had prepared for the Board of Game.
4
5 MS. KIPPI: What are you presenting?
6
7 MR. KLIMSTRA: Caribou.
8
9 MS. KIPPI: These are reindeer.
10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: Those were -- that
12 picture was provided by Lincoln Parrett and you'd have
13 to take that up with him. They look like caribou to
14 me, but, you know, that's.....
15
16 MS. KIPPI: These are reindeer. I know
17 the difference between a caribou and a reindeer.
18
19 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.
20
21 MS. KIPPI: So you people need to know
22 the difference between what are you counting.
23
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.
25
26 MS. KIPPI: You need to know the
27 difference between a caribou and a reindeer.
28
29 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's -- thank you.
30
31 MS. KIPPI: All right. Thank you.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good point there,
34 Wanda.
35
36 MS. KIPPI: That's why I'm here.
37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I know reindeer,
39 we see those quite a bit.
40
41 MS. KIPPI: Yes, I have.
42
43 MR. KLIMSTRA: I mean, if it helps any
44 I'm pretty sure this picture was taken like in -- well,
45 clearly in the falltime, but I think with a large
46 aggregation of the Western Arctic herd. So, you know,
47 maybe there's some reindeer mixed in there in your
48 opinion, you know.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, there are
2 always a -- the reindeer is a follower, it'll follow
3 the (in Native), you know.

4
5 MS. KIPPI: And the other way around.
6 I've watched.....

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: May I ask just for
9 clarification like who owns the reindeer, like who
10 maintains.....

11
12 MS. KIPPI: They're -- it's a wild
13 herd.

14
15 MR. KLIMSTRA: They're a wild herd.

16
17 MS. KIPPI: A wild herd.

18
19 MR. KLIMSTRA: How many are there?

20
21 MS. KIPPI: There's lots.

22
23 MR. KLIMSTRA: Lots. Yeah. Okay.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Ever since 2008, 2007 I've
26 been seeing them.....

27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.

29
30 MS. KIPPI:and it's growing. And
31 they're mixing.....

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: Just right around
34 Atqasuk?

35
36 MS. KIPPI:and they're mixing
37 with the caribou. So you're -- I'm catching caradeers
38 or whatever you want to call it, a reinbou. I've been --
39 I caught -- I've caught the mixed ones quite a bit.
40 And I catch a rein -- I catch a lot of reindeer. I
41 caught only one caribou this year or last year.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and that's
46 consistent with some of the hunters on Ikpikpuk too
47 because they're -- they've reported catching reindeer.
48 And I think that maybe the reindeer herders on the
49 other side of the Brooks Range had lost some several

50

1 years ago and they've just followed the migrations up
2 here of caribou and some of them have been staying
3 around.

4
5 Go ahead, Wanda.

6
7 MS. KIPPI: And during your photo
8 census do you know if you're just counting nothing but
9 caribou because they could be mixed with reindeer or
10 mixed reindeer and caribou?

11
12 MR. KLIMSTRA: When we conduct the
13 photo census we're counting the large aggregations of
14 caribou. So if there are reindeer on the landscape and
15 they're in those groups then those I suppose are
16 counted. I can say that from the genetic analysis that
17 we have done from animals at the -- at Onion Portage
18 that are captured, taken blood, things like that, that --
19 or was it the Teshekpuk, anyway we've taken blood
20 samples from quite a few caribou and from my
21 understanding, you know, those genes show up, but at a
22 very low percentage. So, I mean, that's just the
23 information I have. You know, I'm not going to tell
24 you that you're not seeing reindeer, but we're -- the
25 animals we're counting are in large aggregations as
26 they do to, you know, for insect relief during the
27 summertime, that's when they get in those giant groups
28 that you've probably seen. And that's when we count
29 them.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any more
32 questions on Teshekpuk herd for Ryan?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, we'll go on
37 there, Ryan.

38
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. Thank you. So if
40 you guys -- this will be the time if you want to move
41 to take a look at the screen here.

42
43 MS. PATTON: If you guys want to gather
44 here we'll just pull the mics around so you can see the
45 Power Point and still ask questions if you would like.

46
47 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. So what I have
48 here, not that caribou aren't one of the most important
49 topics we have, but I do have an update just on some
50

1 other general things that are important to the hunters
2 and residents of this unit that I wanted to share along
3 with the Board of Game update, kind of go into more
4 detail of what happened at this year's Board of Game
5 cycle.

6
7 First thing kind of need to give an
8 administrative update here. So as lot of you probably
9 were aware my wife and I did move to Fairbanks. We
10 moved there for various personal reason, career reasons
11 for her, a few other things, you know. So that was --
12 that was a tough decision. But I want to make sure
13 that the residents of the community here of the North
14 Slope that this RAC understands that we're -- we have
15 -- we're not moving my position, we did not move the
16 Barrow AB. We understand the necessity and the urgency
17 to have a biologist in this community. And in fact we
18 are currently -- the job is posted. My current job,
19 it's kind of weird, is posted right now so we can get
20 somebody here in Barrow. I apologize for any
21 inconvenience this has caused has folks, I understand
22 that this is -- you know, the caribou issues that are
23 going on right now, this is bad timing on our part.
24 You know, the position will be located in Barrow and
25 it's currently advertised at the wildlife biologist III
26 levels which is all our ABs for the -- the area
27 biologists for the State of Alaska are. And that
28 particular level does require a college degree. That's
29 just the process that the State has to start with. And
30 so if you know anybody that's interested, you know,
31 certainly send them my way. Until this biologist is
32 hired here in Barrow I want to be available as possible
33 and make sure that folks here have the resources that
34 they need. So please don't hesitate to contact me with
35 any issues.

36
37 You know, currently we haven't had
38 vendors, licensed vendors in the villages for quite
39 some time, but that's something that I'm kind of taking
40 on personally to try and make things available for
41 folks even in the villages. So I am actively searching
42 for licensed vendors and that will include quite a bit
43 of village travel to make that happen.

44
45 Again until someone is hired I plan to
46 travel here to Barrow for at least one week each month
47 until we get somebody. I know that's probably not
48 enough, but that's what I can do right now and again I
49 urge you to contact me with any questions or concerns
50

1 in the meantime. So I just wanted to get that out of
2 the way.

3
4 I know you guys remember Geoff Carroll
5 giving all kinds of presentations and everything and I --
6 you know, in the spirit of kind of continuing some of
7 his tradition I want to give you a heads up of our
8 spring survey schedule or of the -- my spring survey
9 schedule, what will be happening in 26A.

10
11 This year we will have a moose
12 population survey which does occur every single year.
13 This year's a little bit different because we're going
14 to do an entire minimum population count for moose.
15 And that minimum population count only happens every
16 three years. We -- we're kind of excited to do this.
17 The moose are starting to show some conservative sign
18 or some positive signs and I'll get into more detail in
19 a minute. The other piece of fieldwork we'll have
20 going on here in April is the Teshekpuk caribou herd
21 recruitment survey. And I just kind of talked about a
22 little bit of that. And so both of those surveys will
23 be based out of Umiat on the Colville River there. And
24 again the recruitment survey is something that we do
25 conduct every single year and this is our way to find
26 out how well the caribou did over the winter.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan, I got a
29 question.

30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On your moose survey
34 would that include Ikpikpuk at the Valley of the
35 Willows area?

36
37 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's a good question,
38 Gordon, and I guess the short answer is no as far as
39 that's not in our core survey area and it's also not
40 necessarily in our census area so to speak. But that
41 doesn't mean that we don't understand that there are --
42 that you guys are seeing moose there and that -- and
43 there's a season for there, right, it's part of the
44 Colville season. And I encourage you anytime you do
45 see moose, gosh, I'd love to know about it, in that
46 area just to add them to the tally. One of the main
47 reasons, and you might disagree with me on this, but
48 one of the reasons it hasn't historically been surveyed
49 regularly in that area is just because there hasn't

50

1 been a lot of habitat to support moose in that area,
2 but things might be changing and maybe it might be time
3 to add that area to our survey. So, you know, that's
4 something we'd be open to. But that area does -- I
5 should clarify, we do cover that area when we're doing
6 some of the caribou recruitment work and if we see
7 moose we record them and add them into the population.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, just out of
10 curiosity and if I was -- because me and my son are
11 planning to go catch a moose and we're thinking we're
12 going to go to Valley of the Willows. And that's --
13 and we're not going to get in any trouble are we
14 for.....

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: No.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER:getting a moose
19 up there? They got this law 156 west.....

20
21 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's to the west. And
22 that's for antlerless moose. And I'll talk about that
23 in a minute, but.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. It would be
26 great to know.

27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA:so to east of 156
29 it does have to be a bull.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA:but it's any bull,
34 there's no restriction on antlers or anything like
35 that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

38
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. So to give you an
40 idea of where we're surveying and this kind of goes
41 back to your question here, Gordon, this -- the big
42 black outline there, that is the entire survey area,
43 the part that we only do once every three years. And
44 so we'll be -- we'll be surveying that area for both
45 moose and wolves this year. And the pink outlines
46 right on those rivers, the Colville, Chandalar and
47 Anaktuvuk, that's our core survey area that gets
48 surveyed every single year. So this year as you can
49 see it's going to be quite a bit bigger, but as I said

50

1 I'm super excited about this, the moose population
2 seems like it might be starting to do a little bit
3 better.
4
5 Just to give you a little background
6 about the moose, the population was 294 moose in 2014,
7 that was the last total minimum population count that
8 we did. Recently we have seen some positive signs for
9 this population. There's the short yearling percentage
10 is as high as it's been in six plus years. Wolf
11 harvest has been relatively high in 2015 which is as we
12 all know helps moose. And also the weather has been
13 somewhat cooperative, some of those same weather events
14 that, you know, really devastated caribou years ago
15 also certainly affected moose and that includes
16 freezing rain events in the fall, it includes, you
17 know, cold summers or late springs, those things and
18 it's been relatively decent for the past couple years
19 for the moose over there.

20
21 The reported harvest has remained low
22 and -- of moose, so about three moose a year are what
23 is getting reported to the State. And this is why, you
24 know, when populations are low like this, this is why
25 harvest data is so important to us, you know, to know
26 is it three or is it 15, you know, because that's a big
27 difference in such a small population. But the reason
28 why we think it's so low typically is if you go look
29 for moose out there you spend a lot of time looking
30 because it's few moose and quite a large area.
31 Unreported harvest is likely less than five. I do get
32 wind every year of unreported harvest and again as I've
33 said in past things, I care about harvest, I don't care
34 about writing people tickets, I'm not in the business
35 of that. So as far as I know, you know, I get that
36 information that there was some unreported harvest, I
37 add that into presentations like this just so I can
38 keep, you know, an idea of like what's going on in the
39 population.

40
41 So this is what the population has --
42 looks like over time. 26A is a really unique
43 population in that we have probably the longest -- one
44 of the longest term data sets in the entire State of
45 this moose population. As you can see we -- man, we're
46 just increasing right along up until the early '90s and
47 then big crash and that's when a lot of nonresident
48 hunting was restricted. And then the population
49 increased to 1,100 and then we've crashed again and
50

1 we're at 294. I'm hoping that signs that I'm seeing
2 out there and the fact that harvest is low and wolves
3 are being harvested pretty regularly I'm hoping that
4 we're going to see an increase. I really hope so.

5
6 This is an interesting graph here. So
7 this has got the moose population versus the short
8 yearlings. I'm sorry, that title up there, moose
9 population harvest is not accurate for this slide. But
10 so this is the spring trend count area and as you can
11 see recruitment or the number of calf moose that we're
12 able to add into the population after just under a
13 year, that tracks the population pretty well. And you
14 can see when that blue line which is those new moose
15 that we're adding to the population, when that's above
16 the pink line we're generally increasing which is a
17 good sign. And so I just want to bring your attention
18 all the way to 2016 there, we've got some positive
19 things here, you know, so that blue line has shot up,
20 it's still way too early to say that we're recovered or
21 things are going to be great, but I'm encouraged and
22 we'll know more after this April.

23
24 Okay. So there's been some talk about
25 brown bears, I know Atqasuk has had quite a bit of
26 problems with bears around. I just want to give you an
27 update about brown bears in 26A. We have not had a
28 population estimate in quite some time, but that
29 population said that it's approximately a thousand.
30 From everything that we all know and things that we
31 hear, I'd suspect that that population is over a
32 thousand and, you know, that it might be increasing
33 especially when you look at the, you know, average
34 reported annual harvest of 25. 31 percent of that
35 comes from residents of the North Slope, 68 percent of
36 that is from residents not on the North Slope, you
37 know. So that's kind of interesting, I think we could
38 stand to take a few more brown bears. The predation of
39 moose calves and caribou calves, we hear this
40 throughout the State, that brown bears are a pretty big
41 predator of moose calves and caribou calves for a short
42 amount of time until they can outrun them. And just to
43 highlight, you know, your opportunity for brown bear,
44 the season's liberal, it's not closed during the year
45 and you can take one bear every regulatory year. So
46 don't be shy.

47
48 So our furbearer populations up here.
49 Our wolf population, we measure that as a density.
50

1 This should be taken with a grain of sale, 2.93 per
2 thousand square kilometers. That's particularly for
3 that survey area that I showed, we believe this is
4 stable. The average annual harvest is around 21
5 wolves. It could be more wolves than that and
6 hopefully we'll shed some light on that this spring.

7
8 The wolverine population, we don't
9 really know how big the population is, but there is no
10 reason to think based on the amount that folks are
11 harvesting year after year that the wolverine
12 population is declining or low or anything like that.
13 We think it's stable and the average reported annual
14 harvest is around 25.

15
16 I threw in lynx just because we do get
17 a few lynx from time to time. Folks from Anaktuvuk and
18 even up here on the coastal plains sometimes, you know,
19 they come close to Barrow and somebody gets one. We
20 don't know the population of that either, there's --
21 you know, and the average reported annual harvest is
22 four. So very few lynx are harvested, but they're
23 around.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Ryan, on
26 wolverine and there's been an outfit that recently put
27 in permits to do some wolverine studies and I'm
28 wondering if you're aware of that?

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: I -- are you referring
31 to the Wildlife Conservation Society?

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that's
34 the outfit.....

35
36 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the Wildlife
39 Conservation Society, has a big area that they're going
40 to focus on either population trends or something.....

41
42 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER:like that.

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: You know, I'm aware of
47 that and I actually -- when I worked for the North
48 Slope Borough I helped get that project off the ground.
49 So I do know a little bit about it. I have been over
50

1 the past -- since I started working with the State I
2 have been out of touch with that project a little bit
3 so I'm not going to pretend to provide an update on
4 their behalf. But I will say that they -- for the
5 first several years they were looking at occupancy of
6 wolverines on the North Slope and as you can imagine
7 their results indicated that wolverines are occupy --
8 have a high probability of occupying river corridors
9 and places where you would find wolverines, you know.
10 So so far that's kind of what they're -- what they've
11 done and I think they're going to do some home range
12 work, try to look at the home range of male wolverines
13 and then ultimately maybe be able to provide some sort
14 of a number, you know, population estimate maybe down
15 the road. And I'm not 100 percent sure, but I think
16 they may be pretty focused on the National Petroleum
17 Reserve.

18
19 Okay. So let's talk about Board of
20 Game summary here. So there are six proposals that
21 affect -- that I thought that we should talk about that
22 affect GMU 26A.

23
24 We'll start with proposal 33 and that
25 was the antlerless moose that we were just talking
26 about, Gordon. So there was -- we -- the State put
27 forth the proposal that reauthorizes the antlerless
28 moose hunt west of longitude 156. And the reason why
29 we do this every year is because we understand that
30 moose sometimes wander away from the core population
31 and, you know, they're likely not going to make it if
32 they're wandering out somewhere towards Wainwright or
33 Point Lay or something like that, but why would we not
34 allow somebody not to harvest that moose especially if
35 it's going to die. So we put this in because we're
36 hoping to provide a little bit of opportunity for
37 somebody and -- yeah. Anyway so that was adopted by
38 the Board of Game so that's going to continue this next
39 year.

40
41 Then we had proposal 34. A proposer
42 had submitted this and wanted to change the hunting
43 seasons and bag limits for wolverine. The State's
44 recommendation was neutral on this. The -- but, you
45 know, the North Slope Borough opposed this, you know,
46 and that was kind of my gut feeling as well. The Board
47 of Game did reject this. This would have opened up the
48 wolverine season before the furs were prime. I thought
49 the Board of Game did a good job.

50

1 Proposal 35 is the exact same thing,
2 but for wolves. And again the Board of Game recognized
3 that, you know, the furs aren't prime, it's kind of a
4 waste of a resource there. So they rejected that as
5 well.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan, before you move
8 off on 156 west the moose is antlerless. And that 156
9 is right about (in Native). I mean, that's about
10 another 40 miles upriver from where I'm at. And so if
11 it's 156 west and he's on the west side of that.....

12
13 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER:he has to be
16 antlerless for me to get him?

17
18 MR. KLIMSTRA: No. No, no. No. I
19 apologize about that, Gordon. Good question. To
20 clarify that this allows -- if you're west of 156 it
21 allows you to take one antlerless moose. You can --
22 you could -- instead of that antlerless moose you could
23 shoot an antlered one, that would be just fine. But
24 this -- but east of 156 you're not allowed to shoot an
25 antlerless moose because our population's low, that's
26 close to a core area, we think, you know, those moose
27 are going to contribute to the population. And the
28 antlerless part is in there also just because based on
29 the season, you know, if it's a young bull or
30 something, it might just be tricky.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Let's just say
33 a moose came down to my fish camp, 40 miles down to
34 where 156 west starts. It's a big bull moose and I can
35 take him down?

36
37 MR. KLIMSTRA: West or east of 156 you
38 can take that moose down as long as you're within the
39 season.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: See we need to
42 understand these rules clear because our moose always
43 escape because I think we're going to go to jail if we
44 try to get it, you know.

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: So does that clarify it
47 for you then?

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think so.

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: 156 is like due south of
2 here, right, it's just -- if you were to draw a line
3 straight down from Barrow.

4
5 Okay. So continuing on. Proposal 11
6 was about the harvest tickets and reports for dall
7 sheep. This was submitted by an outside group and it
8 was adopted by the Board of Game. As a result harvest
9 tickets are needed for harvesting dall sheep within
10 Gates of the Arctic National Park. Harvest tickets are
11 already required on State and private lands including
12 private lands within Gates of the Arctic National Park.

13
14
15 Proposal 18 is the brown bear tag fee
16 exemptions. So this also was adopted by the Board of
17 Game. So this again goes back that brown bear season
18 being really liberal. This exempts residents from
19 paying a tag fee for brown bear. So there's no tag fee
20 associated with harvesting a brown bear for residents.

21
22 Proposal 2, now I'll save this one for
23 last because I imagine there's going to be some
24 discussion. This was the proposal for -- about tickets
25 and reports, hunting seasons and bag limits for
26 caribou. This proposal was adopted, it went before the
27 Board of Game, they did adopt it. As a result a
28 harvest reporting system that is the registration
29 permit we've been talking about will be in effect
30 starting July 1st, 2017. This particular proposal
31 applies to residents who harvest caribou in units 21,
32 23 and 26. I know we're going to have discussion about
33 this, I've got more on it if we can just wait.

34
35 So some things we know about this
36 registration permit right now. We understand this is a
37 new system to everyone involved up here. We haven't
38 had anything like this. We do know that these permits
39 will be available June 15th. In the meantime and
40 specifically after June 15th there's going to be and
41 there has been a large outreach in education effort on
42 what this means. And maybe I can ask -- answer
43 questions as they arise. The availability of the
44 permit in my eyes, the State's eyes, is going to be a
45 huge factor. These things need to be available to the
46 people. Now I think one of the biggest take home
47 messages that I have to share is that the State
48 understands that this is not something that happens
49 overnight. This is not a bag limit change or anything

50

1 like that. This is a multi-year process with the goal
2 just as we were talking about before how important it
3 is to understand harvest with the goal being harvest
4 data. That is the sole goal, it's not to restrict
5 anyone's harvest or where they can harvest or how many
6 they can harvest, just understanding how many. And
7 that's the intent of this proposal. And I have an
8 example of kind of what this could look like and then
9 I'd be happy to answer any questions or have discussion
10 about this registration permit.

11
12 So unit 22 went to this permit in 2015
13 and that was because they're within the range of the
14 Western Arctic herd, they were ahead of the game, they
15 decided they're going to do it and they've had fairly
16 good success with it. They haven't had 100 percent
17 success nor did they expect to nor do we expect to, but
18 they're starting to get really good information about
19 harvest from the residents that live in that unit. And
20 this is kind of an example of what they're permit looks
21 like. So you fill out the top which is your name, you
22 know, some other information about where you live and
23 then simply record your harvest. Now I'm not trying to
24 say simply as this is a simplified matter because I
25 understand it's not, but this is an example of what it
26 could look like.

27
28 The one that goes into effect July 1st
29 of this year will probably look very similar to this,
30 but the other part of this registration permit is it's
31 an adaptive process. If we get feedback about how you
32 user friendly this was or other different things, you
33 know, we can work to change things, you know, for the
34 hunters and for the residents and, you know, we're
35 probably even open to other ideas. And that's what the
36 back of it looks like there. I'm sorry that you can't
37 read any of the print there, but again I just want to
38 reiterate there is no intent to write tickets or to
39 take any kind of legal course of action here. This is
40 not the intent of this, it's solely harvest data. I
41 can't say that enough and of course I'm saying that
42 from my side which is not law enforcement, I'm just a
43 biologist who counts things and likes to understand how
44 things, you know, fit together. I'm saying that from
45 my side of things, but law enforcement as well
46 understands that this is a long process ahead of us.
47 And it's not something that's going to happen overnight
48 and it's not something we want to, you know, just be an
49 awful, terrible thing for people.

50

1 And so with that I guess I'll open it
2 up for questions or anything like that. That's all I
3 have for you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's the extent
6 of the Power Point?

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes, Gordon.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Then I
11 think we can get our folks back to their mics and.....
12

13 MS. PATTON: We do have the -- Central
14 Arctic has a Power Point too.
15

16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, yeah, if you want
17 to go ahead -- would you like to address this one, is
18 that an option, or should we -- if you'd like to
19 address this we can do that or we can move right into
20 the Central Arctic and Porcupine herd, that's up to
21 you. While we're all sitting out here maybe that makes
22 sense.
23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You guys want to
25 finish up the remaining other caribou herds, Council
26 members.
27

28 MS. KIPPI: Yes.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. They said
31 okay.
32

33 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, Gordon.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. Is
36 that Steve?
37

38 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I'm having trouble
39 hearing on some parts. These were some proposals that
40 are going to be coming before us right now, is that
41 the.....
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, they're doing
44 Power Point presentation and they were talking about
45 Western Arctic and other, Teshekpuk caribou.....
46

47 MR. OOMITUK: Uh-huh.
48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and then some of
50

1 the current existing Board of Game requirements that
2 were enacted by the Board of Game. So we're going to
3 go into.....

4
5 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. (Indiscernible -
6 simultaneous speech).....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:another caribou
9 herd now.

10
11 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. All right. I --
12 give me a (indiscernible - distortion) just wanted to
13 verify.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. He'll be
18 describing what else he's -- it's a different biologist
19 now.

20
21 MR. OOMITUK: All right. Thank you.

22
23 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
24 and Council members. Again my name is Darren Bruning
25 and I'm from the Division of Wildlife Conservation for
26 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I'm a regional
27 supervisor from what we call region three. And one of
28 the main purposes of my visit and I do appreciate being
29 here very much is to maintain a connection between the
30 area that I work in with the North Slope and this
31 Council. And so it was important for me to come here
32 to help maintain that connection. I'm relatively new
33 to my position so I wanted to come visit and be able to
34 meet you and so you could see who I was as well.

35
36 So I'm going to do a couple -- try to
37 achieve a couple things today. Number 1 is I think
38 we're about to find out how many pictures of reindeer I
39 have in my presentation, that might happen and then
40 another things I just was -- wanted to give you a brief
41 overview of what we call region three which is the
42 interior and the eastern North Slope. And to really
43 emphasize that geographic location because it can get
44 confusing when we're sitting here discussing things.
45 Some of the items I'm going to bring up are actually
46 primarily take place to the east of us in different
47 parts of the State, but it's all across the North Slope
48 so it's -- we're all connected.

49
50

1 So again region three is the interior
2 and the eastern North Slope. And that's what we call
3 region three from the Beaufort Sea down to the central
4 Kuskokwim, the upper -- yeah, the lower central
5 Kuskokwim River drainage. And this is a depiction of
6 many of the communities that fall within region three,
7 the interior and eastern Arctic.

8
9 Just a few topics that are important in
10 region three right now is being able to accurately
11 enumerate caribou so we do have numbers that are good
12 to work with, to make decisions. And one of the main
13 ways we count caribou is through a methodology called
14 photo census. And we just recently or actually we are
15 in the process right now of upgrading our technology
16 that we use for photo census. We had been using
17 essentially World War II technology from the camera
18 equipment we were using and we are now in the process
19 of incorporating new digital technology that should
20 improve our ability to count caribou from the air.
21 That's actually -- if you have more interest in that
22 that's another presentation we could bring back to you
23 at another time and go through detail about the
24 methodology, but I just wanted to touch upon that that
25 is something that we're doing, transitioning into some
26 new technology.

27
28 Also a high topic of interest is
29 Central Arctic caribou. We're trying to define or to
30 understand a potential decline. We do know that we are
31 dealing with numbers that are less on our last survey
32 than from previous surveys and so from that we're
33 trying to move forward from there to be able to better
34 explain what may be happening and what happened and to
35 understand how to move forward. I'm going to come back
36 to this again a little bit later, but we are going --
37 I'll have some -- a list of potential methodologies and
38 actions we'll be taking to get a better understanding
39 of Central Arctic herd numbers.

40
41 Of course the Fortymile caribou herd is
42 almost big in that interior region and we do a
43 considerable amount of work on that herd.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got a question on
46 your Fortymile caribou. What's their current
47 population if you know that and I remember back in the
48 late 1990s Fortymile caribou was a big topic and we had
49 trans -- there was a request from the Interior Council
50

1 to transplant or get rid a whole bunch of wolves and
2 relocate them to the Arctic to help the predation
3 problem on the Fortymile caribou. And we gladly
4 accepted those transplanted wolves and getting them out
5 of the Fortymile area.

6
7 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
8 Yes, so I can give you a rough estimate of the numbers.
9 The rough estimate of Fortymile caribou is probably
10 above 53,000. That's rough, I'm -- I don't know the
11 exact number in my head right now, but it's over 50,000
12 and I believe it's over 53,000 according to our last
13 estimate. And you are correct that there was an effort
14 to do some nonlethal removal of wolves, wolves were
15 captured and sterilized and moved to other parts of the
16 State. That occurred for a handful of years and then
17 that moved into another aspect of intensive management
18 when we began lethal removal of wolves. And there is
19 some of that still continuing for this herd now.
20 That's another long topic of many details that go into
21 that, but those -- that ties into the questions you
22 asked that, yes, that did occur. This caribou herd has
23 been slowly increasing. So it hasn't been a rapid rate
24 of increase, but it's been slowly increasing.

25
26 Another big action in the interior is
27 the restoration of wood bison and that's been ongoing
28 and now we're in our second year of the bison being in
29 the wild. And of course it was 20 years before that of
30 the work being done to get to the place where the bison
31 could be released into the wild. And we're just
32 monitoring this project, working with western Alaska
33 communities. There is high interest in the bison and
34 well, we're just taking input from the communities to
35 get their feelings and what their interests are moving
36 forward into the future. And the bison are successful,
37 there's been successful breeding in the wild. The calf
38 in the right photo, the photo on the right-hand side,
39 it's the fourth animal back from the bottom, that was
40 the first wild born calf from this herd. There were
41 other calves born the previous season, but they had
42 been bred in -- while they were still being held in
43 quarantine. This calf on the right is the first wild
44 bred, wild born wood bison calf.

45
46 Of course wolves are a topic of high
47 interest and also tied into the Chairman's question
48 about the Fortymile, but we continue to work on wolves
49 and to address the diverse values that the public have
50

1 for wolves.

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The topic of climate change is certainly of interest to everyone and it's such a large and complex subject, but we're seeing some signs in different ways that are impacting the landscape and our natural resources. One is just the northward movement of different organisms and potentially pathogens and parasites. One organism, one animal in the interior that we see infrequently and it is uncommon, but mule deer are documented with irregular frequency in the interior. And with the northward movement of organisms there can be come with them pathogens and parasites. It's just something that we need to be cognizant of and certainly maintain vigilance and monitoring to make sure that we know how these movements north can impact our wild populations of moose and caribou and sheep and even predators as well.

Another potential impact of climate change is the difficulty we've experienced in recent years with completing our moose surveys in the interior. And what we've mostly been facing is just different snow conditions and different timing of those snow conditions. And those have been confounding to us to complete moose surveys. And because moose are a very high priority throughout much of the interior it's important for us to possibly investigate new ways to survey moose and that's something that we'll be beginning work on soon.

Grizzly bears, high interest in the interior region to just have a good understanding of numbers of grizzlies. People understand that, you know, they are a predator on a lot of the game species that we hunt and rely on for food, but there is interest from some of those same people that want to make sure that we're harvesting grizzlies at a sustainable rate. And so it does not cause harm to grizzly populations. And so we're investigating new methodologies for understanding how many grizzlies are on the landscape and this is a very long range goal and it's just something we've just started and it will -- it'll take years before we can find a very reliable way to know number of grizzlies across a large landscape.

And these are just a few scenes from the interior. That's down around Delta. Here's a few more wood bison photos. And that calf on the bottom

1 left is the first wild bred, wild born. A few other
2 scenes, interior. And then I'm ready to move into
3 Central Arctic.

4
5 So this is a map depicting the range of
6 the large caribou herds in the Arctic and also just for
7 some perspective of where the Fortymile caribou are,
8 but to the left in yellow is the Western Arctic herd
9 and the Teshekpuk in the light blue and the Central
10 Arctic in the darker blue and the Porcupine all the way
11 to the east in the red.

12
13 Central Arctic herd population
14 objective is 28 to 32,000 caribou. So you can see
15 since the last '70s there was quite a growth in this
16 population and in fact between the mid '90s and, you
17 know, 2010, '11, '12 in there, we were seeing a growth
18 rate of 10 to 13 percent. And from our enumeration of
19 these caribou in our estimates we had an estimate as
20 upper -- approximately 68,000 animals as a high and as
21 you can see we also do not have an estimate for each
22 year so when conditions are right and when funding is
23 right we're able to get estimates. And we had an
24 estimate in 2013 of 50,000 animals. And then we were
25 able to complete a estimate last year, we saw a
26 significant decline in the animals that we enumerated,
27 so down to just above 20,000 so a little over 22,000
28 animals.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.
31 Considering the fiscal gap for the State of Alaska and
32 the need to be able to monitor our herd and take
33 counts, is there going to be problems moving forward
34 with adequately monitoring these takes, population
35 counts and doing these things and if you could talk a
36 little bit about that.

37
38 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 So the question was do we foresee any challenges or
40 problems moving forward in being able to count caribou
41 and the short answer is no, we do not. Counting
42 caribou, a very important food source for so many
43 people, is a very high priority to us. We invest
44 considerable resources into accomplishing that. I
45 think I did mention funding in what I said, but
46 primarily funding is not an issue in us being able to
47 accomplish this work, it's primarily conditions of
48 which we conduct that photo census methodology. A lot
49 of different variables need to line up so that we have
50

1 good conditions to get a good count that's worth us
2 using as information to make decisions. But as far as
3 us having resources to do this work, it's one of our
4 highest priorities and we will not have any issues with
5 being able to count caribou moving into the future at
6 all.

7
8 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, I have a
9 question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Point
12 Hope, Steve.

13
14 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, I -- you know,
15 you're talking about populations of certain animals.
16 What about the muskox, you know, what's the population
17 within the Borough and the affects that they have on
18 the lichen, what the caribou feed. You know, we heard
19 some concerns from the executive director of ICAS on
20 the muskox. What is the current population of the
21 muskox and what's the affects that muskox have on the
22 lichen that the caribou feed on, do you know any of
23 that?

24
25 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you for the
26 question, Council member. Towards the end of my
27 presentation I do have some muskox information. So if
28 it would be okay with you and the Chairman maybe I'll
29 just wait until I get to that portion of my
30 presentation and I'll tell you what I know about
31 muskox.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Thank you. I just
34 -- yeah, I can wait until then.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
37 All right. Proceed.

38
39 MR. BRUNING: Okay. So causes of the
40 declines in numbers from the 50,000 to the 22,000.
41 I'll tell you what we do know. There's a lot that we
42 don't know, in fact, we mostly don't know because we
43 just discovered this. And so we're going to be
44 increasing our efforts and our focus into trying to
45 understand this and define it, but here's what we do
46 know. We have documented high mortality in adult
47 females that were radio collared. So that's the subset
48 of our analysis that we have radio collared and there
49 has been a high mortality in those females.

50

1 The other big issue that we are
2 investigating could be, you know, herd switching. So
3 caribou picking up and moving over and joining another
4 herd. And that could be significant in this decline.
5 We don't know as of today, but I think it is a point
6 that is important for us to consider that some of the
7 decline could be explained by caribou for instance
8 moving in and being considered Porcupine caribou. And
9 that is a possibility.

10

11 Like I said it's mostly unknown about
12 the causes of mortality, but it does seem that there is
13 a larger proportion of older females that have died and
14 some of that we attributed to a late spring that
15 occurred in 2013. We really have no reason to believe
16 that predation is playing a major role. We have
17 nothing that we know of that suggests that or points to
18 it as of now. But it is something that we'll keep our
19 eye on. And we don't know of any significant icing or
20 starvation events. You know, the late spring in 2013
21 could have influenced just nutrition, right, and their
22 condition coming out of the winter and their ability to
23 even give birth to a healthy calf. And if it was a
24 nutritional decline it could have contributed to the
25 mortality of those adult females.

26

27 So here's what we know about herd
28 switching that can possibly be available, like I said
29 that needs to be considered. We don't have this as
30 definitive knowledge at this time, but it is something
31 that we are investigating. But we do know that seven
32 collared Central Arctic caribou were with the Porcupine
33 herd in 2016 and three were with the Teshekpuk. And so
34 -- and then there was even one that was with the
35 Western Arctic herd for two years. So there's a
36 potential for a fairly large number of caribou that
37 move from what we considered being Central Arctic
38 caribou into being mixed in with other herds. That's a
39 potential.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and, you know,
42 talking to elders about caribou and especially when the
43 pipeline and the road was not there. And there was an
44 explanation one time that the extent of the migration
45 of the Teshekpuk herd or the Western Arctic herd was
46 the Sag River and happened to be where the road is and
47 the pipeline is. And that was the extent of their
48 movement anyway and they didn't go further than that.
49 And one of the questions being -- that was being

50

1 debunked or asked was does the pipeline and the road
2 carry an impact for the free movement of caribou that
3 some of the elders described as big herds colliding
4 together. And then when they get back to their
5 respective area a percentage would go either direction.
6 And that was traditional knowledge. And some of those
7 elders that watch exactly what you're describing here
8 don't discount traditional knowledge. That was
9 traditionally known to happen, these herds would mix.
10 But if one is not really advancing in number and one is
11 -- and they're both declining then there's a question
12 to be asked, where did they go. And that's the other
13 mystery.

14
15 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, Mr. Chairman,
16 that's definitely knowledge that serves us well. So I
17 thank you for that.

18
19 MR. KAYOTUK: Is there a -- I mean,
20 just the lines there, just the (indiscernible - away
21 from microphone).....

22
23 MR. BRUNING: Okay. The.....

24
25 MR. KAYOTUK: (Indiscernible - away
26 from microphone).....

27
28 MR. BRUNING: Oh, those are game
29 management unit -- or let's see, hold on. No, that's
30 roads, that's actually -- that's roads. The black line
31 is roads.

32
33 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.

34
35 MR. BRUNING: Is that your question,
36 the black line? Yes. So the Dempster over in Canada
37 and the Alaska Highway and Haul Road and, yeah. It
38 kind of shows some of the vulnerabilities to harvest,
39 you know, that caribou encounter.

40
41 This graph predicts pregnancy rates of
42 cows that are at least four years old and, you know,
43 you can see there that there's really nothing that
44 jumps out to suggest that there was a traumatic,
45 dramatic and significantly detrimental event, it
46 fluctuates, but you can see that it's actually -- you
47 know, I have a couple years moving upward on the
48 pregnancy rate and the blue dashed line we put there
49 just to show that anything that was above that line
50

1 during those years is during the time when the herd was
2 actually growing. So even though there's a couple
3 years it dipped down lower than it had been in like
4 the, you know, 2010 through 2012, it appears to be
5 moving up again at least based on a couple years. But
6 we always have to remind each other, all of us
7 together, that we can't hang our hats or make real
8 definitive conclusions about a short period of time, we
9 need to always take into account longer periods of time
10 when trying to make an analysis of these natural
11 events.

12
13 Another -- this might be a good time
14 for me to also state that when we go back to causes of
15 decline is one thing that we all know is that caribou
16 populations fluctuate and they don't remain stable over
17 long, long periods of time. We do know that there's
18 times when there's more caribou and there's times when
19 there's less caribou. And so that's also just another
20 variable for us to keep in mind and remind each other
21 at times.

22
23 This shows how many bulls per 100 cows
24 and it certainly is lower. Moving from 2014 on -- you
25 know, there was a reason why we had that outlined in
26 red and now I'm not remembering why. I think it was
27 questionable -- oh, I -- it was questionable because I
28 believe we had a very low sample size and so we weren't
29 really sure how accurate that was. But the 2016 is a
30 composition survey we have high confidence in and as
31 you can see it's still a little bit lower than that --
32 than 40 bulls per 100 cows. And it's certainly lower
33 over time, you know, compared to earlier in the 2000s.

34
35 So as I mentioned earlier I wanted to
36 point out some things that we would be doing. So we've
37 identified a problem and I don't want to just leave you
38 with oh, we have a problem and not give you some hope
39 that we have some thoughts about what we'll be doing to
40 better define it or to address it. But we have high
41 hopes for a very complete photo census in 2017. And
42 we're gearing up for that, we have all the resources in
43 place, we hope to employ our new technology and that's
44 one of our highest priorities, in fact it may be -- at
45 least in region three it is our highest priority
46 caribou herd and so we'll be focusing on looking for
47 the right conditions to do a photo census for the
48 Central Arctic herd.

49
50

1 We have an ongoing calf survival and it
2 says eight study, but that's weight. I see I'm missing
3 a W, my apologies. We'll be continuing that. Follow
4 radio collared cows and check on the status of their
5 calves and collect weights for them, some birth weights
6 and also just survival of the calves from radio
7 collared cows.

8
9 We're going to be making a move to
10 transition to all satellite type collars that we can
11 get some longer range data and also save us, you know,
12 from needing to be out amongst the caribou so often
13 that we can still collect the data from their
14 movements. And just the fact to determine, you know,
15 live animals and animals that have succumbed. It's
16 ongoing analysis of data from our population
17 information, work on some continued refined modeling
18 for the population and try to improve our analysis of
19 the information we have and including what we talked
20 about earlier, the herd switching and emigration and
21 different movements, nutritional status of their ranges
22 and insect harassment.

23
24 So in the here and now while we're
25 figuring this out we need to know well, how many
26 Central Arctic caribou should we harvest. And prior to
27 last year we were harvesting at no more than 5 percent
28 of the population. But after 2016 for this particular
29 year we applied a 3 percent rate because we were below
30 the population objective. And that 3 percent based on
31 the population estimate we have was 680 caribou. So
32 moving forward from where we were, you know, then how
33 many caribou do we need to reduce that were being
34 harvested so that we're within that 3 percent harvest
35 rate. The three year average harvest prior to 2016 was
36 930 caribou. That was at the 5 percent rate. And if
37 we figure we can harvest at the 3 percent of 680
38 caribou that means we need to reduce that average
39 harvest by 250 caribou. And this is what we approached
40 the Board of Game with is what method, what tools do we
41 have to reduce the harvest. And there's a couple of
42 them that were identified or shortening the seasons or
43 reducing bag limits.

44
45 So this is a depiction of unit 26B just
46 for reference. And after the decisions from the Board
47 of Game -- so in the northwest part of unit 26B
48 depicted by the red polygon there were no changes in
49 the seasons and bag limits for the coming season,
50

1 current season for residents and that remains at five
2 caribou per day, no closed season for bulls and cows
3 can be harvested between July 1st and May 15th. So
4 there's no changes in that northwest part of the unit.

5
6 MR. NAGEAK: (Indiscernible - away from
7 microphone).....

8
9 MR. BRUNING: I would have to -- I do
10 not know it off the top of my head and I'd have to -- I
11 can figure that out, but I don't know the answer right
12 now.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it was
15 changed in 2015. 2015 regulation changes and changes
16 in aligning with State harvest to try to align Federal
17 regs with State. I distinctly remember we were working
18 on this area and that changed. I think a 10 per day
19 harvest to reduce it to a five caribou per day harvest.

20
21 But the question I have too and I hope
22 that answered your question there, Roy.

23
24 MR. NAGEAK: Yes, it was just a matter
25 of how many people registered their kills along the
26 (indiscernible - away from microphone) or just take off
27 without notifying anybody (indiscernible - away from
28 microphone).....

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if you could go
31 back one slide real quick and I want you to describe
32 the Dalton corridor and what the -- what it means.....

33
34 MR. BRUNING: Okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:in that shaded
37 area of the Dalton corridor?

38
39 MR. BRUNING: Yes, thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman. So in the depiction of 26B here there's a
41 polygon running through the middle, yellowed colored,
42 identified as the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
43 Area. And I just wanted to identify that that is an
44 area that has regulations for hunting caribou that are
45 different than the rest of 26B. And so it just mostly
46 is a point of reference is what I wanted that to be
47 just so that people kind of know where they are on the
48 landscape. And moving from this map then moving into
49 the very upper left-hand corner up in the northwest is
50

1 the next portion I'm going to talk about.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Maybe
4 you're not exactly catching what I'm saying. I think
5 there's no discharge of firearms within that corridor
6 and you're using bow and arrow all the time.

7

8 MR. BRUNING: Oh, yes, sir, that's
9 correct. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's an area that is
10 closed to the use of firearms. That's correct.

11

12 Did I answer.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's what I
15 want you -- and you -- if you go back to the second --
16 the slide after where W -- northwest 26B residents,
17 who's the residents, who are you talking about when
18 you're saying the residents, is it the State or is it
19 villages who have C&T or is it just because it's State
20 land. This is a very broad statement of resident.

21

22 MR. BRUNING: I'm going to consult the
23 regulation really quick. Yeah, so it would be for any
24 resident that is licensed to hunt in that area. So it
25 doesn't exclude any particular resident on lands --
26 State lands anyway.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that
29 was just important and, you know, we have to be able to
30 -- because we're Federal Subsistence Advisory Council
31 members and it's important to note, you know, the
32 differences in approach. And I think as major declines
33 in caribou occur that I think you're obligated to do
34 something different now. And you need -- not just be --
35 not just aligning regulations with the Federal side,
36 but your caribou herd is probably just by looking at
37 the trend one of the more declined caribou. And in a
38 very, very short period of time. They're missing
39 somewhat of about 30,000 animals from your 2013 to
40 2016. And to me that's alarming to where what are you
41 going to do, are you going to keep a -- focus that all
42 the residents of the State of Alaska should go out of
43 their way to continue to harvest in this area or are
44 you going to do something different that maybe those
45 that have C&T, I think there's a process of C&T in your
46 tier levels of management that require you to do
47 something. And if your thresholds are met why aren't
48 you discussing those.

49

50

1 MR. BRUNING: Okay. Thank you very
2 much, Mr. Chairman. So Ryan just informed me that the
3 bag limit changed in regulatory year 2010. That's when
4 it went from 10 to five.

5
6 And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your
7 comments and your thoughts about this. I do know this
8 particular -- so to recap or to restate where we are,
9 where we're viewing the current 26B caribou hunting
10 regulations and reviewing some of the changes that were
11 made at the recent Board of Game meeting this month,
12 March, 2017, for the Interior and Eastern Arctic. And
13 so this was step one. Step one is this northwest
14 corner. When this particular hunt structure was
15 designed it's with more of an emphasis on giving local
16 people in communities the opportunity to have
17 flexibility and an ample harvest. And so knowing that
18 that is going to be the preponderance of the harvest in
19 this area it was designed to let there to be some cow
20 harvest and to make it as least -- you know, as
21 unrestricted as possible that still seemed to result in
22 based on the information we have about harvest, when we
23 add that in with the rest of the unit as I go through
24 it, still results in the take of the harvestable
25 surplus that is available. So this is designed to be a
26 contributing factor to that overall harvest throughout
27 the unit, but allow the people that live in this area
28 to have as much opportunity as they possibly can to
29 harvest caribou in the least restrictive manner.
30 That's the focus.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you. And
33 maybe we're not getting across clear of what we're
34 asking maybe or what I'm asking. What's your threshold
35 level to start tier hunts, when do you start talking
36 about that? And what is tier one, what is tier two,
37 what are those and how do you implement those
38 processes?

39
40 MR. BRUNING: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Why don't you try
43 that one.....

44
45 MR. BRUNING: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:maybe.

48
49 MR. BRUNING: Yes, thanks, Mr.

50

1 Chairman, I'll answer those questions. So for the
2 threshold part of your question, let me find my -- if
3 we were to drop below a harvest of 250 caribou for this
4 herd, for the Central Arctic herd that's when we would
5 want to take action to move it into the tiered hunts as
6 you're describing. And there's tier one and tier two.
7 If we drop below 250 that would put it in a status that
8 it could go into tier two. Tier two then would enact a
9 process where it would have to be determined literally
10 person by person who had the most right or the most
11 historical documentation of being able to have first
12 chance to harvest these caribou. So it -- everyone
13 would then need to apply according to that process to
14 demonstrate why they should be ones that would be
15 allowed to try to harvest some of these caribou if we
16 drop below a harvest of 250. For tier one, one general
17 way to put the tier one is that that would be where we
18 would go to a system that would track a quota where if
19 we felt that if we were above a certain harvest level
20 that it would be detrimental to the population so a
21 process would be put in place to track a quota and once
22 that quota was achieved then hunting would be closed
23 after that quota was hit. As opposed to how it is now,
24 there's definite seasons that people can take caribou
25 throughout, anything that's the season as long as they
26 don't exceed the bag limit.

27
28 So we can go through that again, it's a
29 little bit complicated. But those are the tier
30 processes. Tier two which is the most restrictive
31 would be if we drop below 250 animals harvested for the
32 Central Arctic herd. And then it would be a process
33 where people -- it would need to be determined who had
34 the most priority, who had the highest priority to be
35 able to harvest the animals that were available. And
36 then the other less restrictive is go to a quota, once
37 the quota's achieved then closing down the season.

38
39 So I think as we move through here I'll
40 move forward through the rest of the season you'll see
41 that there's measures that were taken by the Board to
42 restrict harvest on this herd, it's just that we didn't
43 -- when I say we, the Board's decision, but also the
44 Department's recommendation that we tried not to
45 restrict this particular area of 26B to maintain
46 opportunity for the people that live there.

47
48 So now we're talking about residents
49 for the remainder of the unit except for the upper
50

1 left-hand corner that we just discussed and the Dalton
2 Highway corridor and the closed area which has --
3 either it's closed in the closed area or it's different
4 hunting regulations in the corridor. So for the
5 remainder of 26B for residents, residents now can take
6 two bulls per year to -- from August 1st through April
7 30th. And that's a change from it was five caribou
8 total from July 1st to 30th of April. And so that's
9 been scaled back to two bulls per year for residents.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I got a
12 question. We just aligned some regulation, unit 26,
13 and I thought it was consistent across with unit 26B.
14 In enacting traditional practices and making that into
15 law, we don't hunt bulls in -- as the rut begins. And
16 it says two bulls a year unit 26B, August 1 to April
17 30. Am I missing something here, seems to me there --
18 we aligned regulations with the State and Feds and took
19 away that privilege of those bulls during August all
20 the way to December. Can you explain the difference in
21 your approach in this area?

22

23 MR. BRUNING: That I may have to go
24 back and reinvestigate to -- and report back to you. I
25 may have to look into that and report back because I'm
26 not certain sitting here about the answer to that.
27 Other than this was just the final that was adopted by
28 the Board of Game. So I will -- I'll investigate what
29 you said and I'll report back to you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Because
32 it leads to some underlying concerns that if we're
33 going to align our regulations with the State and be
34 more consistent between borders, between Federal land
35 and State land and then the State go around and do
36 something different, it seems to me you're just
37 limiting the Native hunters that have traditional
38 practices to put yourself in a position to be a little
39 bit more liberal in another area. But those -- it
40 brings those kind of questions. I'm not -- we just had
41 a long workshop and developing proposals to limit our
42 bag limits and reduce harvest of cows that are pregnant
43 from March through July or end of June so that the
44 calves can be born and limit or discontinue the harvest
45 of bulls all together from October 10 to December 1 or
46 December 5 or 9. And then this area you're describing
47 something different now.

48

49 MR. BRUNING: Yes, Mr. Chairman.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.
2
3 MR. BRUNING: Oh, go ahead.
4
5 MR. EVANS: So, Gordon, I think you're
6 mixing up 26A and 26B. So the regulations that we came
7 up with last year for 26B remainder was five caribou
8 per day and we had bulls maybe harvested from July 1 to
9 June 30th. So we allowed a year round take of bulls in
10 26B remainder. Cows we had was July 1st to May 15. So
11 we allowed a year round harvest. And I think that's
12 because we mostly thought that.....
13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Tom, I think
15 you're double talking. I don't recall us saying you're
16 going to -- we wanted to align the regulations.
17
18 MR. EVANS: We did. But this was --
19 remember this is the Central caribou herd.....
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.
22
23 MR. EVANS:that we thought was
24 doing well at the time. So we left it a year round
25 harvest at that time. And we changed it for 26A which
26 was mostly Western or Teshekpuk caribou herds. So
27 that's what in the regs right now.
28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's how it's
30 written now, but that was not the dialogue I remember.
31
32 MR. EVANS: I think the difference is
33 the herds we're talking about. We figured out this was
34 the Central and that's what we came up with. We though
35 the Central was doing good so we left a year round
36 harvest so that subsistence users could have that
37 opportunity to harvest year round for that herd.
38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Guess what, the
40 subsistence users don't harvest bulls during rut. We
41 don't eat them.
42
43 MR. EVANS: Well, that's true. You
44 have your -- a year round to choose when you want to
45 harvest the bulls.
46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and.....
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, anyways I think
50

1 that's some discrepancies there and I think when I --
2 when we were talking about aligning our regulatory so
3 that we have the minimal differentiation, if you go to
4 Federal land and you go to State land the regs are
5 supposed to align such that you're not breaking the law
6 and that was the intent.

7
8 MR. EVANS: And I think another thing
9 it's mostly State land on 26B so that's part of the
10 issue as well.

11
12 Thanks.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You could say that,
15 but the intent was to align Federal and State regs
16 between the borders so that the regs didn't differ.
17 And you're just saying oh, because it's State land. I
18 mean, I'm not going to accept those kind of little
19 shenanigans from regulatory guys that may write
20 something up different. And that's to me the
21 difference.

22
23 MR. EVANS: Well, so, Gordon, they were
24 more or less the same and now the State's changed the
25 caribou ones because of the decline in the caribou
26 population. We haven't changed anything on our side
27 yet. Now we could, this could be a regulation or a
28 proposal that you might want to do for the Central
29 caribou herd. So the State is changing, but they go on
30 a year basis, our regulations are on a two year cycle.

31
32 Sorry for the confusion.

33
34 MR. BRUNING: Mr. Chairman, those are
35 good thoughts and that's something that your statement
36 of working towards alignment of State and Federal
37 regulations and that's something that we can continue
38 to work towards and investigate to always try to make
39 that happen as much as we possibly can. And so that's
40 something in the Interior region and the Eastern Arctic
41 we have interest in doing. So that's always something
42 that moving forward that we can investigate.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

45
46 MR. NAGEAK: I have a question,
47 Mr.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Nageak.
50

1 MR. NAGEAK: According to the State of
2 Alaska laws a resident is a resident of the State of
3 Alaska by staying in Alaska for 30 days. So when they
4 say resident it's anybody within the State that stays
5 in the State 30 days. That's the legal term for
6 resident.

7
8 And Central Arctic herd just won't stay
9 within the boundaries, again I'd like to point that
10 out. So he could be like a Porcupine herd and
11 Teshekpuk herd, any caribou herd that transfers within
12 those boundaries are available, it's not only the
13 Central Arctic herd. And that's one of the reasons why
14 when we look at the whole North Slope and the western
15 and southern North Slope, are being controlled by State
16 law when it comes to the caribou. And there is some
17 concern on why a lot of adult females are found to be
18 dead because we see that on the report. And ADEC is
19 the State entity that oversees what happens within the
20 Prudhoe Bay area for air quality control. And
21 sometimes it's hard to get readings from Prudhoe Bay
22 because Nuiqsut is always screaming and hollering about
23 the air quality, the control, because they're seeing
24 the impact of the pollutants that are prevalent in the
25 Prudhoe Bay area. And anytime -- this time of year you
26 go down in Prudhoe and it's still -- it's a dingy
27 yellow. You see it, it's always there.

28
29 And getting the information from the
30 State in the air quality that impacts Nuiqsut and now
31 we're seeing it's going to -- it's impacting the
32 Central Arctic herd in the great amount of adult
33 females that are dying. And if the idea is it's
34 associated with what's coming out of the Prudhoe Bay
35 area with the air quality concerns that the Nuiqsut
36 people have for their residents it might be already
37 impacting the Central Arctic herd. And that's where
38 the State needs to be open with how they report the air
39 quality information that they're supposed to monitor in
40 the Prudhoe Bay area because that's always a concern
41 coming from Nuiqsut. And if it's impacting the caribou
42 herd it's going to impact the residents of Nuiqsut.
43 And I think that's when the air -- where we need that
44 information from the State, its air quality concerns in
45 Prudhoe because they're the ones that monitor whether
46 it's outside of Prudhoe or within the NPR-A too, ADEC's
47 the one that's supposed to monitor air quality. And if
48 there's a caribou herd that is mysteriously adult
49 females are dying like it's noted on the report there
50

1 should be some concern about that. I just want to
2 point that out and I think getting the air quality
3 things from Prudhoe Bay through ADEC, I think that
4 needs to be strengthened if it's going to start
5 impacting the wildlife, we need the true air quality
6 assessments that ADEC does within the Prudhoe Bay area
7 because it's impacting Nuiqsut too.

8

9 MR. BRUNING: Those are good words.
10 Thank you and I completely agree all variables and
11 different potential impacts should be considered and
12 evaluated. That's -- those are good words.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 Okay. So getting back to the changes.
17 So just to reiterate or revisit this is a restriction
18 from where it was five caribous to just two bulls, no
19 cows, and change in the dates, slightly more
20 restrictive on the dates to address the decline. And
21 then finally the nonresidents for the remainder of 26B.
22 And that was five caribou total July 1st through the
23 30th of April. And that has been changed to one bull
24 August 1st to September 15th.

25

26 So that's a summary of the changes that
27 we'll be seeing for hunting moving forward for the
28 Central Arctic Herd in 26B. And there's a lot of hard
29 working guys poring over photos trying to count
30 caribou.

31

32 Moving into the Porcupine here's a map
33 depicting the range of the Porcupine from northeast
34 Alaska into Canada. And the red is the outline of game
35 management units, yellow is -- depicts roads, the
36 yellow line depicts roads. Porcupine caribou are at a
37 high for basically what we have recorded and
38 documented. I don't know if they're at a high for
39 forever, but at least for what we have documented
40 they're just a little -- slightly below 200,000 animals
41 as of our last photo census. Here are some locations
42 of radio collared caribou cows in what we consider the
43 Porcupine, we think they're Porcupine caribou. I don't
44 know if they think they're Porcupine caribou, they just
45 think they're caribou. But anyway here's some
46 locations of radio collared cows and showing either
47 calving took place in 2016. So we had pregnant cows
48 that were giving birth to the blue dots and then places
49 where you documented a calf with the green and then

50

1 cows that did not give birth in red. So basically
2 mostly on the coastal plain moving slightly up into the
3 slopes. And then after calving during June, late June,
4 here are some locations of radio collared cows with
5 calves. So kind of a little bit of a shift to the
6 west. I'll go back so you can compare. And that's
7 just a little -- some information I thought you would
8 find interesting just to see locations where calves
9 were and when they were giving birth.

10

11 Here's a map depicting wintering areas
12 for different years and you can see it's been some
13 shift, but these are the major wintering areas. This
14 does not mean this is where every single caribou has
15 wintered, but these are the major congregations in
16 different years.

17

18 This bar graph depicts harvest by
19 nonlocal residents and nonresidents in the Porcupine
20 herd. And we'll focus on 26C to the extreme right, the
21 last bar, that's, you know, for North Slope residents.
22 You can see there's around 20 nonlocal residents
23 harvested caribou and tenish or less, probably less,
24 nonresidents. So only looks like a little less than 30
25 or right around 30 caribou were harvested by either
26 nonlocal residents or by nonresidents in 26C. And the
27 total number throughout even in some of the other units
28 to the south, that total number is really pretty low
29 all together.

30

31 There's an estimated harvest of
32 residents.....

33

34 MR. OOMITUK: I have a question, Mr.
35 Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that you, Steve?

38

39 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. OOMITUK: You know, now when you --
44 you know, people that got the licenses now, you know,
45 the North Slope is a pretty wide area, 88,000 square
46 miles. I mean, do you monitor the whole eastern side,
47 how many wildlife people do you have that monitor
48 people coming in the Haul Road and harvesting caribou
49 you check for their licenses, you know, people that got

50

1 them or, you know, the meat that they're coming out
2 with. And do they -- is Fish and Game monitoring all
3 that, you said 29 people registered licenses to hunt
4 for caribou on the Porcupine (indiscernible -
5 distortion).....

6
7 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you for the
8 question. So we rely on reported harvest, that's one --
9 what we rely on. And there are Department of Public
10 Safety troopers, right, the Alaska wildlife troopers,
11 they do monitoring to ensure people are in compliance
12 with their proper, you know, licensing and permitting.
13 But when it comes down to us reporting to you about the
14 number of people that took caribou, we rely on the
15 reporting. And so I actually missed a word whenever I
16 explain this graph, I should have used the word
17 reported harvest. So this is the reported harvest that
18 we know of, that we have documented. And that's from
19 people reporting back to us that they did hunt and that
20 they did take caribou. I don't have the numbers of --
21 we also would have the numbers of people who reported
22 hunting who maybe didn't take caribou, I do not have
23 those numbers today with me. I just -- I have this
24 number of reported harvest. So.....

25
26 MR. OOMITUK: Does.....

27
28 MR. BRUNING: Go ahead.

29
30 MR. OOMITUK:that include the
31 sporthunters that hire guides to take them into the
32 Porcupine area and, you know, harvest from sporthunters
33 that come out of Fairbanks or Anchorage or.....

34
35 MR. BRUNING: Yes, sir, this would be
36 primarily those particular hunters. And those hunters
37 would report on their permit and then we have that
38 information. So if someone fails to report we don't --
39 then we have inaccurate information, we don't have a
40 complete picture. But this is -- this is primarily
41 from those particular hunters you just described that
42 reported to us.

43
44 That's a good question. Thank you.

45
46 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you.

47
48 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. Chair.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Roy.
2
3 MR. NAGEAK: The question is how many
4 enforcement people do you have within unit 23 and unit
5 26, the North Slope and NANA region? I think that was
6 the question that I heard Steve Oomituk state. And I
7 think I've heard a number before, I just want to get --
8 hear it from you.
9
10 MR. BRUNING: Yeah. Through the
11 Chairman.
12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.
14
15 MR. BRUNING: I do not.....
16
17 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you, Roy.
18
19 MR. BRUNING: Good. I'm glad that he
20 cleared it up. Thank you. Through the Chairman. I do
21 not have that number right now, maybe Ryan can help
22 with that.
23
24 Thank you, Ryan.
25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, thanks. So that's
27 a good question, Roy. That's one of the things the
28 State has struggled with. The law enforcement has seen
29 quite a few budget cuts. As far as 23 and 26, there is
30 a trooper that is station -- or in Kotzebue, a State
31 enforcement, there's also one in Cold Foot. And those
32 two guys end up covering a lot of 23 and 26 issues.
33 Now it's a good point, you're probably getting at well,
34 what about when all these road hunters and people like
35 that are going up the Haul Road, they do -- it's my
36 understanding they do kind of pool other resources
37 during that time to patrol up and down the highway. I
38 can't speak further on their behalf, but that's what I
39 do know. Two year round, one in Kotzebue, one in Cold
40 Foot. During the season where there's a lot of folks
41 on the Haul Road, little bit more patrol, little more
42 resources there.
43
44 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Ryan.
45
46 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Lee.
49
50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: In your population of the
2 Porcupine herd is that different from the population
3 that's being hunted in Canada too before it enters into
4 U.S.?
5

6 MR. BRUNING: Thank you. No, it's the
7 same -- it's the same population. So when they go into
8 Canada the people of Canada harvest those caribou as
9 well. And I have a slide somewhere, here we go. So we
10 get information from the Yukon Territory and the
11 Porcupine Management Board and their most recent
12 approximate harvest of Porcupine caribou was two to
13 4,000. They harvest far more than we do. And then
14 residents of those units above, you know, the 25A, B
15 and D, which is, you know, to the south of unit 26 and
16 then 26C way to the northeast, you know, it's somewhere
17 between four and 700 caribou from people that live
18 there. So Canada does harvest significant numbers.
19

20 MR. KAYOTUK: Is that like you get the
21 harvest study from the -- like a harvest report from
22 like -- what about the Wildlife Department or, you
23 know, the population of harvest is that -- is that the
24 same as in your Department?
25

26 MR. BRUNING: So if I understand your
27 question you're asking about residents of Alaska,
28 people who live in communities in 25A, B, D and 26C; is
29 that correct? So a combination of either people
30 reporting on a harvest report or a community household
31 surveys from our Subsistence Division. And a
32 combination of those if how we determine that harvest
33 from people who live there.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like it's due
36 for a count, seems like you're ready to do a flyover
37 because your count is like five years already?
38

39 MR. BRUNING: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we'll
40 be striving to photo census the Porcupine herd. That
41 was our last survey, you know, numbers that we put
42 together an estimate from. In the meantime we also
43 just, you know, anecdotally with information that we
44 have on the caribou and also combining that with people
45 in the Yukon is just anecdotally we feel that the
46 numbers are -- you know, have not changed
47 significantly. But we'll verify that with photo census
48 and that's another priority for us. Central Arctic
49 herd will be the highest priority, but the Porcupine if
50

1 the conditions are right it's exciting to get a big
2 count of that large of a caribou herd. So we'll be
3 striving for that as well.

4
5 That's a very good point. Thank you.

6
7 And so these are the current
8 regulations for hunting the Porcupine herd in 26C and
9 you can read them yourself.

10
11 MR. OOMITUK: I have a question, Mr.
12 Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

15
16 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, you know, how
17 closely does Fish and Game or the troopers work with
18 the Canadian government on monitoring sporthunters who
19 come in to try to -- is it Canadians that are watching
20 the sporthunters, regulating them when the Porcupine
21 herd goes into Canada, do you know who does that?

22
23 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you for the
24 question. I'm not able to speak to that with great
25 detail. I do not know the extent of the collaboration
26 between our law enforcement, our Department of Public
27 Safety troopers and Yukon law enforcement. And but I
28 in generally each country, you know, Alaska law
29 enforcement monitors Alaska and the Yukon would mostly
30 largely be focused on Yukon Territory. But I do not
31 know the extent of collaboration beyond that.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Thank you.

34
35 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you. Some
36 day we'll get a trooper here and have them answer some
37 of these questions.

38
39 And so here's the regulations for 26C
40 Porcupine. If you have any questions you can ask me.
41 There's Jason Caikoski up on the table counting
42 Porcupine caribou. Then just quickly here a few other
43 changes that occurred with the Board of Game that are
44 either North Slope changes or close to the North Slope.
45 But there was a change in opening the season date for
46 brown bears in 26C, open a little earlier. It did
47 start on August 10th and it was approved and adopted to
48 open it on July 25th. Wolverine hunting in 26B and C
49 open it roughly 10 days earlier starting on August 20th

50

1 as opposed to September 1st. And then change the sheep
2 bag limit on private lands within the Gates of the
3 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or I'm sorry it's
4 Arctic Preserve, in 24B and it was a three sheep bag
5 limit and that was changed to three sheep, but only one
6 may be a ewe.

7
8 MR. KAYOTUK: I had a question on the
9 brown bear. You said one bear for like Village of
10 Kaktovik, is that in the handbook.....

11
12 MR. BRUNING: Here.

13
14 MR. KAYOTUK:on page 16?

15
16 MR. BRUNING: Okay. Ask me your
17 question again, please.

18
19 MR. KAYOTUK: Checking on that brown
20 bear, what was the -- I know there was an open season
21 there and did you say one bear per season on that?

22
23 MR. BRUNING: It's one bear every
24 regulatory year.

25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Every single person can
27 take a bear every single year.

28
29 MR. KAYOTUK: Oh, every single. Okay.

30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, not the whole
32 village.

33
34 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay.

35
36 MR. BRUNING: Does that answer your
37 question?

38
39 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, that answered my
40 question.

41
42 MR. BRUNING: Okay.

43
44 MR. KAYOTUK: I thought they were just
45 like one bear, what if somebody goes out and shoot
46 another bear. But he answered that for me.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you. Now
2 just quickly -- there was a question about muskox so
3 I'll just quickly go through some moose. I don't know
4 how interested you are in 25A, but just moose are in
5 low densities in unit 25A and, but there are high bull
6 to cow ratios, harvest is low, 43. 25B, still low
7 densities and similar harvest, 30 bulls. 25D, is even
8 farther south. Actually harvest -- very similar
9 harvest in all three of those units, but there could be
10 slight -- very similar densities as well. And then
11 going up I come to the Slope just to show you that just
12 counts -- these are minimum counts when we're doing
13 other work of -- so 26B we've seen, you know, in spring
14 of 2016 138 moose and 26C 42 moose. So very, very low
15 numbers in those units and no season.

16
17 And muskox which I had a question about
18 earlier. This is the highest count we've had in a
19 while of 228. And, you know, as everyone knows all
20 hunts were closed by 2006. The population objective is
21 a minimum of 300 animals so we're finally creeping up
22 to a little higher number than what we've had. You can
23 see at the bottom there 2007 to 2015 we were only
24 between, you know, 190 to just below 200 animals. And
25 so 2016 finally saw an increase in numbers, we'll see
26 how that continues.

27
28 As far as the other question with that
29 was, you know, overlap of forage use by muskox and
30 caribou and I don't have anything specific about that
31 to offer. You know, we know in general that caribou
32 and muskox share a landscape, you know, across the
33 entire globe and have for a long, long, long time. So
34 based on that their overlap can't be complete and
35 certainly shouldn't be the detriment of either species,
36 but I don't have any specifics about that. That's
37 something that I could come back with a specialist or,
38 you know, another biologist that we could maybe report
39 on some more specifics about that. But just in general
40 that's what I can share with you.

41
42 And there's a black bear in the top of
43 a very tall spruce tree and that's the end of my
44 presentation.

45
46 MR. KAYOTUK: I had a question on your
47 moose. Like say Anchorage area is that fitted into
48 your population of the whole unit -- I mean, different
49 units like, you know, you got a lot of moose and does
50

1 that fit into your population of moose in areas of the
2 beginning of the Slope or.....
3
4 MR. BRUNING: I'm not sure, did you
5 mention Anchorage and your question was if we were.....
6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Affected by.....
8
9 MR. BRUNING:telling you how many
10 moose were.....
11
12 MR. KAYOTUK: Affected by population of
13 like, you know, how much moose is in that area.....
14
15 MR. BRUNING: Uh-huh.
16
17 MR. KAYOTUK:I mean, it's.....
18
19 MR. BRUNING: Okay.
20
21 MR. KAYOTUK:it might be high,
22 but does that affect the population that migrate north
23 or something like that?
24
25 MR. BRUNING: Okay. I'm going to start
26 by answering part of what I think you're answering
27 [sic] and it may not be everything so tell where I miss
28 something and I'll -- but if we were to try to
29 determine how many moose were in the area of Anchorage
30 and would we use what's like in Anchorage to determine
31 that, that would only be if when we designed our survey
32 if it actually overlapped with Anchorage and we tried
33 to survey Anchorage, but we wouldn't by the methodology
34 that we use to survey moose, we wouldn't fly airplanes
35 low level over Anchorage. So in theory it's a block
36 that could be survey to determine moose numbers, but we
37 don't because it would be just not a good decision to
38 survey moose in Anchorage. That's maybe part of your
39 question, but the second part is maybe do those moose
40 move and be counted for other areas, is that -- like if
41 they're displaced from population centers?
42
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.
44
45 MR. BRUNING: It's very possible that
46 that could happen in some areas that moose, you know,
47 move to different areas. And the way that we would
48 account for them is if they were part of a survey that
49 we were doing. We wouldn't really know that they moved
50

1 from one area to another unless we were specifically
2 following those moose. But if they do move we're
3 picking them up where they move to when we do a survey.
4 So they could be if they were to move to different
5 areas.

6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

8
9 MR. BRUNING: Does that answer.....

10
11 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

12
13 MR. BRUNING: Okay. Thank you very
14 much.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Since the
17 presentation is done maybe we could have the Council go
18 back to their post and if there's any other questions
19 they want to ask and I think there's one from Roy.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: I've got a question.
22 Thank you for the presentation, it's always good to see
23 the caribou presentation. And the many years that they
24 have banded caribou is more like 20, 25 years now.
25 What's your.....

26
27 MR. BRUNING: Maybe Ryan can help out
28 with this one.

29
30 MR. NAGEAK:amount of years that
31 they have banded caribou?

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: Roy, which particular
34 herd are you referring to, just any of them or.....

35
36 MR. NAGEAK: Just any of them like
37 mostly the Northwest Arctic caribou herd or the Western
38 herd. The one that travels a lot, that's the one.....

39
40 MR. KLIMSTRA: Right.

41
42 MR. NAGEAK:that really travels
43 the NANA region, almost all the way to Nome to the
44 North Slope for calving.

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's a good question,
47 Roy, and I don't have a specific answer for you, but I
48 can give you a ball park. And I think the last
49 '70s.....

50

1 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA:was kind of when
4 they started collaring caribou and the tech -- but the
5 technology has kind of changed along the way. You
6 know, first off it was pretty rudimentary stuff, there
7 was -- you know, it was a VHF collar and now we're all
8 the way to the point where we have these much smaller,
9 you know.....

10

11 MR. NAGEAK: Right.

12

13 MR. KLIMSTRA:things on the
14 caribou that we don't have to necessarily be there to
15 know where the caribou is, it beams up a.....

16

17 MR. NAGEAK: I know and.....

18

19 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, okay.

20

21 MR. NAGEAK:that's a concern
22 because I think the game guides or people that hunt
23 with planes have gotten to the point where they know
24 where the caribou herd is. I mean, I read something
25 where the herd, the big herds, the State or whomever
26 have those bands on cannot tell people where the
27 caribou herds are, but almost anybody with a computer
28 could find them.

29

30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, I -- can I comment
31 on that?

32

33 MR. NAGEAK: Okay.

34

35 MR. KLIMSTRA: Roy, I can assure
36 you.....

37

38 MR. NAGEAK: We need some more
39 assurances.

40

41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. No, I can assure
42 you that is public or, excuse me, that is private
43 information that is not shared with the public. The
44 frequencies of the collars as well as the locations,
45 like it's by law we are not allowed to share that
46 information like specific location information of the
47 caribou. Now something like in a presentation we're
48 kind of allowed to like what we've provided for you
49 guys, to share these broad.....

50

1 MR. NAGEAK: Right.
2
3 MR. KLIMSTRA:things, but there
4 is absolutely no way.....
5
6 MR. NAGEAK: But when you stated that
7 it comes from a satellite.....
8
9 MR. KLIMSTRA: Uh-huh.
10
11 MR. NAGEAK:anybody could receive
12 anything. And.....
13
14 MR. KLIMSTRA: It's more complicated
15 than that though.
16
17 MR. NAGEAK: Okay.
18
19 MR. KLIMSTRA: It really is. It's like
20 a -- I mean, I consider myself fairly computer savvy,
21 but I have no -- I wouldn't even know where to begin to
22 try to hack into a satellite and get -- and intercept
23 data and things like that because it's all very coded.
24 And I guess I'll just give you a quick little how it
25 works so -- there's specific satellites, you know, that
26 when they flyover a particular region these collars
27 have what are called duty cycles, right, and so they
28 try to upload the information that they've collected to
29 that satellite at a certain time every day and that's
30 roughly when the satellite's going to be overhead. And
31 then from there once that information has been uploaded
32 to that satellite that satellite will then send that
33 information.....
34
35 MR. NAGEAK: Okay.
36
37 MR. KLIMSTRA:to a program like
38 that's heavily guarded and, you know, I mean, it's not --
39 not anybody -- I guess other than saying nobody can
40 get to it and.....
41
42 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.
43
44 MR. KLIMSTRA:I mean, Darren, you
45 got anything to add to that?
46
47 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you for that
48 assurance, but what's happened in unit 23 this fall or
49 this last year where they closed it off for people that
50

1 go and land in planes, it's what they've been doing
2 this for the last almost 50 years now with transporting
3 hunters into those regions. They do have the
4 traditional knowledge in a way and how they closed it
5 off and where the caribou has been going back and forth
6 to the North Slope. In a sense they've been stopped
7 from doing what they do all the time to go into areas
8 where they need to calve and go into areas where their
9 food is that haven't been touched for many years and
10 when they are not allowed to move. And I think last
11 year prove that when the Federal government closed off
12 unit 23 for outside interference with the local
13 residents hunting it just open up for the species, the
14 caribou, and that's how we should look at it. And to
15 avoid conflict from the North Slope or avoid conflicts
16 in regards to the caribou and to work out a situation
17 to allow caribou to move through those corridors which
18 are tight when you look at the mountains and the
19 movement of the caribou and local knowledge where if
20 they do allow planes, but not at the time when the
21 caribou are migrating. We're to work out something and
22 to ask those people that allow sporthunting to stop
23 especially when the caribou start migrating. Work
24 something out where there's no conflict. Because we
25 could -- like I stated before we need to look at the
26 caribou as a species that's got to have the freedom to
27 move between the North Slope, the calving area and
28 their other feeding area which is (indiscernible). And
29 Gordon brings out a good point where usually the
30 Colville River is like a stopping point, that's their
31 range from NANA region all the way almost to Nome and
32 to the North Slope and how that could be better managed
33 through working with the local people and to allow them
34 to do what they need to do and at the same time allow
35 the caribou because we heard about die offs in that
36 region when the caribou is not allowed to migrate when
37 sporthunters were in airplanes, especially airplanes to
38 impact them at such a rate or such a -- that they
39 stopped migrating.

40
41 I just want to point that out, there's
42 got to be a better way to manage that, but at the same
43 time allow people that are local residents in the State
44 of Alaska that own planes go out and hunt especially in
45 NPR-A too, it's public lands for the local residents.
46 But it's also a big money industry for sporthunters,
47 especially outside, international hunters like to go to
48 Alaska and have international clients and that's
49 something that really needs to be looked at so more of
50

1 our local people, residents of Alaska have access to
2 some of the best meat in the world.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Roy.

7

8 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thanks, Roy.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
11 to Ryan what was your name again?

12

13 MR. BRUNING: Darren.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, Darren.

16 All right.

17

18 Esther.

19

20 MS. HUGO: Okay. I'm looking at this
21 map here. And it's got Porcupine, Teshekpuk and Arctic
22 Central herd. So why aren't our caribou migrating like
23 when we were -- when I was small. These Porcupine and
24 the Central no longer come and migrate to the Pass. I
25 mean, that's a lot of caribou I've seen when I was
26 young. Every fall. And where are they now, what's
27 going on and something's wrong in this picture.

28

29 MR. KLIMSTRA: So, you know, that's
30 something I feel like something we certainly hear and
31 especially from Anaktuvuk and it's clearly, you know,
32 an important matter, you know, why aren't caribou
33 coming through Anaktuvuk Pass. And to be honest with
34 you, Esther, I don't think any of us have, you know, a
35 definitive answer. I'm sure there's different
36 variables that we could all point to that contribute.
37 You know, I feel like at the end of the day especially
38 with the Teshekpuk caribou herd in particular and I'm
39 speaking to that one because that's the one I know the
40 best and I apologize. But that one, you know, it does
41 some weird things. Its migratory path changes from
42 year to year. And, you know, we're pretty certain that
43 doesn't have anything to do with sporthunters because
44 the amount of harvest that comes out of 26A is
45 certainly not much, like I said before, you know, 14
46 animals a year. I know I say that's not much, but it
47 is something and that's -- I shouldn't -- I'm not
48 trying to belittle what's going on in Anaktuvuk, please
49 understand that, but I don't have a good answer for you

50

1 other than we don't know like why caribou sometimes
2 decide to go a different route for the next 50 years.
3 What did they do before like our oral -- you know, the
4 oral history, you know, what were they doing before
5 that, you know. I don't know, they could have been
6 different even then.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ryan, I got a -- and
9 maybe this might help too. I've seen Lincoln do --
10 take samples and put a lot of radio collars for
11 Teshekpuk herd and for Western Arctic herd, Central
12 herd and then model them in a computer program (in
13 Native) when they started to move (in Native) we can
14 see them when the migration start. And there's
15 distinct locations (in Native) you know where Teshekpuk
16 will go in May, you know where Western Arctic herd's
17 going to go in May, you know where Central is going to
18 go in May and you know where Porcupine is going to go
19 in May because it's calving time. (In Native) you can
20 see them, (in Native) computer modeling. And here's
21 one thing from about maybe 2000 (in Native) the herd is
22 (in Native). You can see the gradual decline in
23 population for about 10 years. And when there were
24 490,000 (in Native), 490,000. Imagine what it takes
25 for 490,000 (in Native) when they're going to migrate
26 and now you're less than half of that, about 200,000,
27 missing about 150 to 190,000 Western Arctic (in
28 Native). But that herd (in Native) when it's 490,000
29 (in Native) go through several passes (in Native). If
30 you're less than half the size (in Native), their
31 extent is a little bit smaller. And when it started to
32 (in Native) and move that extent is not as much.

33
34 MR. KLIMSTRA: Gordon, that's a --
35 thank you. That is -- I don't know if I could have
36 said it better myself. One, I don't speak that
37 language as part of it, but that's exactly right. You
38 know, you see -- there's fewer on the landscape you see
39 fewer I think is what -- ultimately what you're getting
40 at there. You know, they don't -- is that -- have I
41 got that?

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm just
44 saying.....

45
46 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER:if you've got
49 less than half the size.....

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the extent
4 undoubtedly.....
5
6 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:by pure logic,
9 if you're going to think about it.....
10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: Absolutely, yeah.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER:is smaller.....
14
15 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the extent, the
18 periphery of the herd has gotten smaller.....
19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I mean, you're
23 more than half the size. When it's 490,000 it'll
24 probably pass Anaktuvuk all the way around, engulf,
25 Anaktuvuk would be in the thick of it and that extent
26 is what you're dealing with.
27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA: Absolutely. That's an
29 excellent point, yeah.
30
31 MS. HUGO: That I can understand, but
32 you should listen to the people. (In Native) we wait
33 for them. And the sporthunters, hey, they're catching
34 them up while they're coming our way, we believe that.
35 (In Native). We're trying to tell you, all these
36 years, 40 years since the TAP pipeline, that's when
37 they stop migrating because they open the Haul Road for
38 sporthunters. And you see last fall the ASRC parked
39 that sporthunters.....
40
41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, the cabin just
42 north there.
43
44 MS. HUGO: And you know what, by god
45 they came. We know what we're saying. This is so
46 sensitive to me because we need that caribou. Do some
47 studies. I'm just about to give up, I mean, I don't
48 want to do that. It hurts, my old people are dying and
49 we're getting sick. That's our only main diet. And
50

1 it's the damn sporthunters. Come on, I'm tired of
2 saying that, I'm tired of -- I'm supposed to be strong
3 and be a leader or -- to my people and here I come to
4 meetings and these old tears just want to come. We're
5 really hurting at home. If you just listen to us it's
6 the sporthunters (in Native) we wait patiently, we
7 don't go to them, maybe we should start going up north,
8 learn to boat or go to Chandalar River and go boat
9 north. Go meet the Teshekpuk herd or the caribou. And
10 we don't know how to boat, we don't live in that kind
11 of environment. There's got to be a solution, there's
12 got to be something and it's the sporthunters. I mean,
13 I don't see it on this, I mean, it's a user conflict
14 that must be the sporthunters.

15
16 And I know that's a very wide country
17 where we're at because we're so far inland. My
18 grandpa, my papa used to wait for them to come. And of
19 course they know their migrating route. It's
20 frustrating. It's -- and now we find out that the
21 sporthunters are going to Cold Foot or Bettles. Last
22 fall there were a lot of sporthunters in Bettles and
23 our residents they said all they bragged about was the
24 biggest rack they caught. Where's the meat?

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

29
30 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Esther.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think it's
33 heartfelt testimony like that that -- I know it's hard
34 to understand some of the work that goes on, but at the
35 same time we have to recognize there's a population
36 decline. And it's even to the -- I think some of the
37 hardest to work with is the State because of their
38 inability to recognize a rural subsistence priority.
39 They cannot recognize a rural subsistence priority,
40 that was an impasse in 1994 and where the split of
41 Federal and State wildlife management occurred. And I
42 hope one day that the State could have a change in
43 their -- I think it affects the constitution of the
44 State to be able to recognize a rural subsistence
45 priority. But they have a system that they do not
46 indulge too much in. And quite frankly from the
47 explanation practically your herd has to crash so hard
48 that there's only 200 left to harvest then they will
49 act. And that I think.....

50

1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Just a point of
2 clarification on that. That wasn't when the herd gets
3 to 200 animals.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, your
6 harvestable surplus, when it gets to there that.....

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: Correct.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:you're going to
11 act. And to me that would make the herd size about
12 only 8,000 in my view. I mean, that's -- because you
13 have a harvestable surplus of 600 from 22,000 and then
14 you said you will go into a tier hunt only when it
15 reach 200. To me I think that's dangerous. That's a
16 dangerous low number. You should manage for sustain
17 yield. I don't think that's a sustain yield principle,
18 that's a -- anyway I think the concerns that Esther
19 Hugo brings from Anaktuvuk, there should be some
20 proposal from the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council
21 that affect the State Board of Game north of Anaktuvuk
22 to where I think from July until about October 15 it
23 should be a tier two hunt north of Anaktuvuk on those
24 State lands bordering Federal lands for those two
25 months to allow for the unobstructed movement of those
26 caribou that are expected to migrate as a food security
27 issue. Regardless of the population, if it were
28 490,000 that corridor because it's a food security
29 issue and a -- to have a reasonable traditional
30 experience and not hand down a conflict or a argument,
31 that land north of Anaktuvuk bordering Federal land for
32 those -- from July to October 15 just those couple of
33 months would fix that. And.....

34
35 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, Gordon, I -- what
36 I would urge if that's something you guys are
37 interested in doing, you know, that's something you can
38 certainly put a proposal before the Board of Game. I
39 don't know that we have any comments on that because
40 that's essentially a user conflict issue and that's
41 what the Board of Game deals with, you know. If we've
42 got questions on the biology of animals or, you know,
43 you want to know numbers and things.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But it's still a
46 proposal.

47
48 MR. KLIMSTRA: Sure. Sure. But
49 it.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's a closure.
2
3 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, and that's
4 something you guys could.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under tier two.
7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA:and that's
9 something you guys could certainly put forth to the
10 Board of Game. That's completely, that's -- and
11 that's, you know, part of my responsibility and my job
12 is to help you navigate that system. So, you know,
13 like if we get to that point where the RAC wants to do
14 something like that, you know, I will be the guy you
15 will be working with to make sure things go
16 smoothly.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA:to get that in.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Even if it's a
23 liberal management scheme that particular area for the
24 migration itself that should be protected. And there's
25 some great examples of migratory movements in that area
26 that were recently deflected. We don't know who
27 deflected them, but you could see they're coming and
28 now they're backwards, something happened and that was
29 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....
30
31 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, man, where'd you see
32 that, I haven't seen that yet, is that.....
33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That was in our last
35 meeting.
36
37 MR. KLIMSTRA: The -- this last
38 meeting?
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think it was in
41 Anaktuvuk.
42
43 MR. KLIMSTRA: Oh, Anaktuvuk.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
46
47 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. Yeah, I'd be
48 interested to see that one. Then something else I was
49 going to say too or just ask. Now are you -- well,
50

1 actually it doesn't -- I was going to say is this
2 something you're talking about with the CUA in
3 particular just so I.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pardon.
6

7 MR. KLIMSTRA: Are you talking about
8 something with the controlled use area in particular or
9 are you talking about just a new area?

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't want to even
12 talk about the control use area because there's
13 fearmongering going on saying, hey, if you open that up
14 they're going to take it away anyway.

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, I -- that's.....

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I think it should
19 be an alternate -- an alternate measure.....

20
21 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, Gordon, it.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER:other than the
24 control use area.

25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Mr. Chair, I -- just to
27 clarify something there. Nobody was -- there's no
28 intention for fearmongering there. That is something
29 that's real, you know, that if that were to get opened
30 up, the Board of Game -- that section of code gets
31 opened they could potentially say, you know, no,
32 because of -- you know, in their eyes controlled use
33 areas aren't necessarily something they like, you know.
34 So that's -- that was advice, you know, and I apologize
35 that you're interpreting it as somebody's using scare
36 tactics or fearmongering, but that was advice from both
37 the North Slope Borough and the State.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We understand that.

40
41 MR. KLIMSTRA:just to -- so we
42 know so you guys know that if something's coming up
43 that, hey, that's something that could happen, they
44 could do. That wasn't to deter you from doing it, you
45 know, I think the proposal just didn't get submitted,
46 but, I mean, it was ready to go, you know, to do that,
47 but it was just providing information for you guys,
48 that was in no way a scare tactic or fearmongering.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got scared and the
2 village got scared about talking about the control use
3 area.

4
5 MR. NAGEAK: Mr. President.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Roy.

8
9 MR. NAGEAK: I thought I was being hard
10 -- real hard on you guys earlier when I started talking
11 about some of the past experiences our people have
12 where they really did die and starve. Especially
13 starting with the bowhead whale at the turn of the
14 century where it supplied energy, the bowhead whale
15 supplied energy on land, lanterns, lamps, because the
16 whale oil was so special and using it as light to light
17 up the streetlights and everything else. And they
18 almost exterminated the bowhead whale in the early
19 1900s when it crash. And then discovered that oil,
20 black oil, could do the same thing. That's what the
21 bowhead whales were, but by that time the bowhead
22 whales were so timidish that our ability to hunt them
23 was real minimal. And that's when our people started
24 dying in numbers, in the hundreds. And at that same
25 time there was a disease that was brought by the yankee
26 whalers that started killing a lot of people off. This
27 is real, real -- real history that I'm talking about.
28 Villages were decimated all the way from Nome all the
29 way up north, hundreds and hundreds of people died. I
30 was fortunate that my family was by Kaktovik and ANWR
31 and my grandfather who was a chief, (in Native), took
32 the whole tribe into ANWR. When he heard people were
33 dying he took the whole tribe to ANWR and they said
34 why. And then when they heard they stopped dying they
35 went back into the coast. And then they started
36 spreading east -- west. And then they start surviving
37 after that. And one of the ones that helped them the
38 most was the Presbyterian Church. There's a sign there
39 right outside of a church that I belong to, it says
40 1899, that's when the church started helping our
41 people. It wasn't the government, it wasn't the
42 Federal government because we were a territory, it was
43 the Presbyterian Church that sent doctors up to start
44 helping our people.

45
46 And then we started surviving, getting
47 more. And then they in the 1950s the polar bear, they
48 started hunting the polar bear almost to extinction.
49 And I told you the only way that we could eat polar
50

1 bear was from the paws of the people that hunted it
2 that went far and nearly killed off the polar bear
3 population. And then from then and now we're back,
4 first it was whale oil and now it's black oil, we're
5 just being bless because we're -- they fought against
6 us becoming a borough, the State did, 1959. And they
7 just went in and took a lot of land that was ours. And
8 that's why I said the doctrine of discovery which the
9 first immigrant started to make America, they used that
10 because we weren't good Christians. Because they were
11 good Christians they used the church to take lands and
12 to kill off a lot of people that owned the land.
13 Something special happened this year, the Presbyterian
14 Church went up to Barrow to say their apologies for
15 what has happened to them against us. They said we are
16 so sorry that we were part of something to try to
17 change us from being Inupiat to the greater society to
18 be assimilated into your society. And something
19 happened and now we need to start healing and part of
20 that healing is to start ourself to be self government
21 and we're doing that through the North Slope Borough,
22 to govern our own animals, to regulate our own animals
23 because that's where we are right now, fighting, that's
24 what our freedom have always been. Our freedom to hunt
25 in peace with the animals like I stated that was
26 created for us.

27
28 Because of the oil that is there and
29 the need for people that are in power and usually it's
30 the most richest and the biggest companies that
31 regulate or be part of the government. That's where
32 the conflict is and we don't want conflict, avoidance
33 of conflict. If you look at our Inupiat values and
34 what has allowed us to live for hundreds and thousands
35 of years these are Inupiat values. If you work with us
36 using our Inupiat values of how we could allow
37 development in our region, but at the same time give us
38 the freedom to live off the land and off the animals
39 that we love to eat. It shouldn't be very hard to do.
40 And that's all we ask in a sense because the State of
41 Alaska, you know that 90 percent of the resource come
42 from our land that was stolen basically. Who works our
43 rights as good Christians when they use -- when they
44 broke the law of the doctrine of discovery because we
45 were already good Christians, 1899 and the land
46 exchange was in 1970, '60s and '70s. It's dated
47 because the people that were inhabiting the land are
48 not Christians and savages, we could take their land
49 and do whatever we want to do with it. But on the
50

1 North Slope we were good Christians since 1899. Why
2 did they take our land away. You want to start
3 questioning what laws are being broken and now you're
4 trying to put rules and regulations in the way of life,
5 our Inupiat way of life that we have practiced for
6 hundreds and thousands of years.

7
8 Something's out of whack. And I like
9 what Trump is saying and we're still the republicans
10 here, there's too many government laws, but I hate what
11 he's doing.

12
13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's my boss.

14
15 MR. NAGEAK: (Indiscernible).....

16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I just want to
18 point that out.

19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Roy, for your
21 comments.

22
23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We could work
24 together.

25
26 MR. KLIMSTRA: Well, Roy, the one thing
27 that rang true there that gosh, What I hope we can
28 always carry forward is working together. I do
29 appreciate that, Roy.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Ryan.
32 Well, we heard a lot of -- from Roy there, you know,
33 you could stay here all day if we -- if we wanted to
34 discuss all of this stuff to its end. I think that's
35 just the tip of the iceberg.

36
37 But I think we did have a good
38 presentation, some good concerns out of Anaktuvuk Pass
39 about why the caribou is not coming. There's many
40 different variables why -- you know, why that could be
41 the case. And before this we had -- we're in a
42 proposal period and that we would wait to hear the
43 caribou presentations to see if there was new
44 information. I didn't see new information, it seems
45 like it's somewhat even maybe a little bleak for
46 Central Arctic herd in a little sense that maybe we're
47 leveling off, but we're already in a conservative
48 bordering on preservation because of the amount of
49 subsistence that needs to occur from these herds. I

50

1 don't -- I can't recall the exact number of
2 communities, it's something like 38 or 34 different
3 communities on the other side of the Brooks Range and
4 on the north side of the Brooks Range, all the
5 communities that are dependent on the Western Arctic
6 herd to come by their areas, to provide food for
7 communities.

8
9 So I think there's two things here.
10 One is just north of Anaktuvuk that this body should
11 make a proposal to the Board of Game that for a period
12 of time, probably July 1 through October 15, north of
13 Anaktuvuk bordering Federal land, that because of the
14 preponderance of the evidence that the dependence on
15 the resource, the Western Arctic herd and other caribou
16 herds that are in major decline are expected and to
17 come in reach of Anaktuvuk Pass. That should be a
18 proposal to the Board of Game.

19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, as I'd mentioned
21 before if that's something you guys want to do that is
22 certainly, you know, something you guys can put
23 together and submit to the Board of Game and if there's
24 any questions about.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm not talking
27 about the control use area.....

28
29 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's fine.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I know what that
32 control use area is.

33
34 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's fine. Yeah, like
35 I said I'd be happy to answer any questions on how to
36 make that happen or things like that and, yeah, you're
37 welcome to submit something to the Board of Game.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I don't know if
40 we'll get it passed or anything, but I think the
41 caribou herds are in such a predicament that some of
42 these things the State has to start addressing and
43 limit the harvest to those that really need it. And
44 even if it was a high -- if it was 490,000 animals,
45 because it's easy to deter the migration north of
46 Anaktuvuk Pass and you put a row of sporthunters,
47 guides, urban hunters, they're residents, but your --
48 they're -- urban hunters are going to be the same, that
49 you have to differentiate a community resident than
50

1 your urban resident to preserve the ability of that
2 migration to get through. Even in high number that
3 should be protected in that area, there shouldn't be a
4 wall of urban hunters and guides in front of that even
5 in high numbers. But there's I think very great
6 justification to do some of this stuff.

7
8 The other is that unit 26 I think A and
9 B with some help from OSM about the best way to
10 strengthen that for the longer term.....

11
12 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER:protection of
15 the Western Arctic herd, Teshekpuk herd and the Central
16 Arctic herd that it be limited to unit 26A and B
17 because I think the Porcupine herd if you look at that
18 seems to be relatively high or at peak, peak population
19 size. And I think that would help strengthen that
20 position. And about addressing user conflicts when
21 it's time to think about reestablishing all residents
22 to that hunt.

23
24 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's -- yeah, I like
25 the last part there, Gordon. I guess one
26 recommendation I would have is in anything you're
27 formulating to have that worked into it, you know, when
28 -- at what point do we reestablish things, you know, to
29 the way they are. That would have that recommendation
30 to try to build that into the proposal.

31
32 As far as other comments go, I just
33 have general, you know, facts. I'm not taking a
34 position by any means, but just keep in mind when
35 you're thinking about this, you know, how many caribou
36 are harvested in unit 26A in particular and for that
37 matter 26B that are -- you know, there's very few
38 caribou harvested, you know, so if the intent of the
39 RAC is to conserve the caribou herd or to help it
40 rebound, the State does not have a conservation concern
41 with the number of caribou that are being harvested
42 from nonlocal residents. As I showed earlier --
43 mentioned earlier, you know, 15 caribou, we're not
44 worried about those 15 caribou in 26A. So if that's
45 your intent is to, you know, boost these numbers, we'll
46 have to be looking at other places besides just getting
47 rid of the nonlocal residents. And so maybe that's
48 something for discussion too like for the proposal or
49 something, is that something we're going to change
50

1 regulations, you know, or that you guys want to change
2 regulations. That's just something I want you to, you
3 know, just to consider, you know.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I want you to
6 consider something. You're talking about the combined
7 ANS of Western Arctic herd and the Teshekpuk herd in
8 your formula. When your biologists, you and others, if
9 you were to separate them you're going to come to a
10 conclusion that the Teshekpuk herd with its own ANS
11 would not support a nonresident hunt. The Western
12 Arctic herd with its own independent ANS would not
13 support a nonresident hunt. And I've already heard
14 that from biologists. In the Federal side of things
15 they don't recognize the ANS, it's only the State that
16 recognizes the ANS.

17
18 MR. KLIMSTRA: I guess all I would have
19 to say about that is, you know, harvest reporting, you
20 know, is a big thing there, right, to separate those
21 ANSes we need to know, we need to know how many
22 residents are taking, you know, that's a big deal there
23 to be able to separate that ANS. And right now we
24 don't have that, you know, and that was part of the --
25 part of the reason why this registration permit was
26 adopted by the Board of Game.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Vince, did you
29 have something to add or were you just needing to walk
30 around or something?

31
32 MR. MATTHEWS: I just need
33 clarification on your last statement that you'd like
34 OSM to strengthen wildlife proposal on caribou for 26A
35 and B, I understand that. Does that relate to your
36 temporary special action which was all of 26. And we --
37 I'm sure Eva could walk you through if you wanted to
38 look at modifying your earlier action, if not that's
39 fine.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it
42 might be warranted to do that, but this is in
43 particular for the longer term permanent regulation
44 that would have to be enacted in 2018 to my
45 understanding. That would go into effect in 2018, not
46 the temporary special action, but I think the temporary
47 special action might need to be modified and
48 strengthened so that we're not affecting the Porcupine
49 herd which is at its peak.

50

1 So with that the only other caveat that
2 I would put in there is that when the time arises that
3 the State and the Federal agencies determine that a
4 harvestable surplus is such that it's time to revisit
5 that they address user conflicts in a way that doesn't
6 provide for an argument and a reasonable traditional
7 subsistence experience, not an argument.

8
9 So I think we've heard quite a bit and,
10 Steve, I think earlier you were about to make a motion
11 to.....

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, I was going to put
14 that in a motion, what you said, I wanted to -- the
15 motion was to -- you were suggesting that type of
16 motion from this Board (indiscernible - simultaneous
17 speech).....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was suggesting that
20 you were listening and that you would just turn
21 around.....

22
23 MR. OOMITUK: (Indiscernible -
24 simultaneous speech).....

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and make it into
27 a motion.

28
29 MR. OOMITUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
32 the floor from Point Hope to -- maybe Eva can you -- a
33 regulation change that's not temporary, that's not
34 emergency, but a longer term fix, can you -- I think
35 you've been listening very intently and I think you're
36 able to articulate that for us.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
39 yes. So the Council had first made a motion to submit
40 a temporary special action to close unit 26. And there
41 was discussion from the Council that you may like to go
42 back to that to refine it having gotten more
43 information about the Porcupine caribou herd doing
44 quite well, to amend that motion to be a closure to
45 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users just in unit
46 26A and 26B.

47
48 And then the Council was also working
49 to develop a follow-up regulatory proposal during the
50

1 regular cycle which would be submitted now that would
2 go into affect if adopted by the Board in 2016 [sic]
3 and become permanent in regulations until the
4 regulation was changed.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 2018. You said
7 2016.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:it's 2017 now.

12
13 MS. PATTON: It would go into effect in
14 2018, but that proposal for the regular regulatory
15 cycle would need to be submitted at this time now. And
16 so the Council can do that if -- the motion you had
17 started to develop was.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. There's a
20 motion on the floor.....

21
22 MS. PATTON: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I just want you
25 to articulate our motion.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Okay. And the motion was
28 to close unit 26A and 26B to non-Federally-qualified
29 subsistence users.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With a caveat that
32 until such time the harvestable surplus is such that
33 first addressing user conflicts and user groups to
34 address those.

35
36 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, can you restate
39 your caveat?

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With the caveat we
42 close them, unit 26A and B to Federally-qualified users
43 with a caveat that until such time the harvestable
44 surplus meets and is adequate to open it again and to
45 address user conflicts to provide for a reasonable
46 traditional subsistence experience, not an argument.

47
48 MR. OOMITUK: And I so move that
49 motion. And can we just get a second on that.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a proposal on
2 the floor by Steve Oomituk that was articulated by both
3 Madam Coordinator and the Chair. There's a motion on
4 the floor.

5
6 MS. HUGO: I second it.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
9 Esther from Anaktuvuk Pass. Any discussion?

10
11 MR. NAGEAK: Can I make.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's allow Roy to
14 make a comment under discussion for fear that he might
15 take an hour though, but.....

16
17 MR. NAGEAK: No, no. I'm not
18 ministering now. I just want to point out that through
19 the experiences that the Inupiat people had with the
20 crash of the bowhead whale and to different areas of
21 our lives within the North Slope where we had to fight
22 for our rights to live as Inupiat people. And I think
23 this is consistent with a way of life that has been
24 lived for hundreds and thousands of years and hopefully
25 the Federal government really recognizes and is working
26 with us with the development -- economic development
27 that is happening and helping the State of Alaska
28 through revenue and taxable resources that are coming
29 from our land or from the North Slope Borough. We
30 recognize that we need to work together and part of it
31 is to ensure that we don't go to the point where
32 animals are being depleted and to be conservative with
33 the help of the State. If they want to get what's from
34 our region for economic development then somehow we
35 need to have a way of life which would be a way of life
36 that we always live before development or any part of
37 the greater society came to try to regulate and change
38 us from who we are as caretakers of the sea and the
39 land that we take care of so that we could live a life
40 that we could eat what we love to eat that god has
41 created for us. I just want to point that.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Roy,
46 that was under discussion. Any other discussion from
47 the Council?

48
49 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
2
3 MR. OOMITUK: Question's called for.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
6 called for. All those -- let's do a roll call vote on
7 this particular proposal. I think it's important --
8 it's important enough. I think on important things
9 there should be individual recognized vote.
10
11 So, Eva, if you can do -- commence a
12 roll call vote.
13
14 MS. PATTON: And we'll start with Steve
15 Oomituk, Point Hope.
16
17 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.
18
19 MS. PATTON: Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk
20 Pass.
21
22 MS. HUGO: Yes.
23
24 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.
25
26 MS. KIPPI: Yes.
27
28 MS. PATTON: Gordon Brower, Barrow.
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My vote is yes.
31
32 MS. PATTON: Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.
33
34 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.
35
36 MS. PATTON: And I believe we still
37 don't have Rosemary online. We have Rosemary absent
38 and Robert Shears absent. So the vote is five yes, two
39 absent and motion carries. Motion passes.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And
42 that'll go through the regular gambit of regulatory
43 process.
44
45 Steve.
46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, thank you all. I'm
48 going to have to ask to be excused. Is there any other
49 action items that we're going to go through. I'm --
50

1 because I do need to be excused right now.
2
3 MS. PATTON: Okay.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, there were just
8 a couple other action items that we had. One was the
9 review of the annual report and that's on your meeting
10 books on page 31.
11
12 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.
13
14 MS. PATTON: And just an opportunity
15 for the Council to re-review that and see if there were
16 any edits or additions. There was also a.....
17
18 MR. OOMITUK: I do need to.....
19
20 MS. PATTON: Do you need to go right
21 now?
22
23 MR. OOMITUK:(indiscernible -
24 distortion) action item if I was to leave was able to
25 go on, you know, what -- if I was able to leave now was
26 there a quorum to, you know, action item.....
27
28 MS. PATTON: You.....
29
30 MR. OOMITUK:there's four left
31 out of seven?
32
33 MS. PATTON: Yeah, so we do need five
34 Council members to meet quorum with.....
35
36 MR. OOMITUK: What do you have, five
37 right now?
38
39 MS. PATTON: We have five with yourself
40 included.
41
42 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. Because I do need
43 to be somewhere before 5:00 and it's.....
44
45 MS. PATTON: Okay.
46
47 MR. OOMITUK:4:20.
48
49 MS. PATTON: The -- do you have a few
50

1 minutes, the annual report is a fairly brief review and
2 then there is a special action request in the unit 23
3 regarding moose and that is coming before the Council.
4 Point Hope has C&T for unit 23 and that's why that
5 special action request is coming before the Council.
6 So that would be something that you might wish to hear
7 about.

8
9 MR. OOMITUK: I'm -- what I can do is
10 I'm going to call you on my cell phone because I got to
11 -- my ride is out there right now (indiscernible -
12 distortion). I will call in on my cell.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Okay. Sure. And what we
15 could do is take up that special action request so that
16 you're able to hear what that's about and again that's
17 for unit 23 moose, it was submitted by the Northwest
18 Arctic Regional Advisory Council. But it comes before
19 this Council because Point Hope in particular has C&T
20 for that unit. So they make sure that this Council is
21 also informed and has an opportunity to respond.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madam
24 Coordinator, also I think there is a need to do a
25 proposal to the Board of Game. I don't want to forget
26 about that and I think north of Anaktuvuk border
27 Federal lands to -- I don't know if they call it a
28 closure, but I think it might be tier two because they
29 have a different type of a system that I don't quite
30 understand, but to request the communities' needs so
31 that the migration path is unobstructed north of
32 Anaktuvuk bordering Federal lands. And I think that is
33 something we should try to address. I don't know what
34 the Board of Game would do about it.....

35
36 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER:or if OSM would
39 support it, but seems to me they should be supporting
40 us anyway because there's variable situations. Even if
41 in high numbers this particular corridor should be
42 protected for the reasonable opportunity to subsist to
43 where these animals are normally moving. And that's --
44 that -- I think there's a lot to be said there.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
47 This Council can absolutely develop a motion on the
48 record now to submit a proposal to Board of Game
49 addressing this issue. And what the Council can do is
50

1 you've outlined a basis idea of your motion, what your
2 intention is and your interest in supporting the
3 community of Anaktuvuk Pass. And we can build into
4 that motion that we will work with Anaktuvuk Pass to
5 further flesh out that proposal so that they're
6 involved in getting the details that they would like to
7 see. And it's part of our support through the Regional
8 Advisory Council for the communities and the OSM
9 program to help support the development of those
10 proposals. So you could make a motion for what your
11 intent is and the intent to work with Anaktuvuk Pass
12 and then we can flesh out the details for that proposal
13 in conjunction with the community and submit it with
14 their approval.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean,
17 you.....

18
19 MR. OOMITUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that you, Steve?

22
23 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. So moved.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
26 there's a motion on the floor to provide a proposal
27 from the North Slope Regional Advisory Council to the
28 Board of Game to affect State lands north of Anaktuvuk
29 Pass bordering Federal lands in limiting to a --
30 protecting the migration route from July 1 to October
31 15 or a period of time identified by the community of
32 Anaktuvuk Pass.

33
34 What was your name again?

35
36 MR. BRUNING: Darren.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Darren.
39 Go ahead.

40
41 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
42 and Council members. A suggestion and something for
43 the Council to consider is you have brought up the idea
44 of tier two hunt structure and expressed interest in
45 that. Just a suggestion would be we, the Department of
46 Fish and Game, could come back at the earliest time
47 that you -- it would be advantageous to you, and
48 thoroughly explain that process, you know, both what it
49 would take step by step to propose that to be a
50

1 structure and then also thoroughly explain why it would
2 mean if it were enacted. And I'm just bringing that up
3 as a suggestion, if you felt that that would be useful
4 to the Council in helping you make a decision that's
5 something that we could schedule to do, you know, as
6 soon as it was useful for you to do that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that's a
9 great idea because I don't really understand State
10 processes because you guys really don't -- you will do
11 caribou population estimates, surveys, other things
12 like that, biological work, but when it comes time to
13 try to understand State processes, it's -- you know, I
14 kind of understand what we're doing with Federal
15 process, but the State process has always been a little
16 bit mysterious. And I think it would be important to
17 do that at your earliest convenience to what tier one
18 does, tier two, there's another mechanism of -- I think
19 you kind of see what the intent is, north of Anaktuvuk
20 on State lands bordering Federal lands to preserve the
21 migration route of the Western Arctic herd for food
22 security issues, the preponderance of the evidence that
23 the community of Anaktuvuk Pass is highly dependent on
24 the availability of these subsistence resources to
25 reach that community. And I think those -- I think
26 those are strong enough. And I think that's a motion
27 we should work on with the community to see what the
28 community wants. This is different than trying to
29 adjust a control use area and just putting that aside
30 for a little bit and just do something alternate.

31
32 MR. BRUNING: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
33 Chairman. So if you just want to tell us when you
34 would like us to return with that or what venue or date
35 or how you would like that, I'll arrange to make that
36 happen.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And I'm
39 going to refer that to our Madam Coordinator and it
40 might be a period of time that -- it might be six
41 months from now actually.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, one
44 opportunity might be is if the Council has this motion
45 on the floor to begin work on developing this we can
46 begin working with Anaktuvuk Pass to see where the
47 interest and concerns are. There's no rush for this
48 Board of Game proposal because it's out of cycle and so
49 there's no deadline to try to meet, it would go before
50

1 them as an agenda change request essentially. So we
2 could initiate the discussions with Anaktuvuk Pass and
3 bring that forward at the fall North Slope RAC meeting
4 and get some more input from the State to better
5 clarify how those tier two hunts may work and how that
6 process works.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you want to add
9 something, Ryan?

10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: I just wanted to make
12 sure -- you've said exactly what I was sitting down
13 for, the agenda change request would be the format of
14 that going forward because it is out of cycle.

15
16 But, you know, thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, there's a
19 motion on the floor and I think we articulated the
20 intent and the need including a training program from
21 State of Alaska on the tier system and it's not
22 something that's going to happen immediately, but to
23 develop that proposal is on the floor.

24
25 So Steve Oomituk made the motion and
26 what's the wish of the Council?

27
28 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Wanda
31 from Atqasuk.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: (Indiscernible -
34 simultaneous speech) seconded by Esther Hugo.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're under
37 discussion. It's been seconded.

38
39 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
42 called for. Maybe we'll do a roll call vote.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Okay. Steve Oomituk, Point
45 Hope.

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk
50

1 Pass.
2
3 MS. HUGO: Yes.
4
5 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.
6
7 MS. KIPPI: Yes.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Gordon Brower, Barrow.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
12
13 MS. PATTON: And Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.
14
15 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.
16
17 MS. PATTON: We have five yes, two
18 absent, motion passes.
19
20 Thank you.
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Madam
23 Coordinator, what's the next order of business?
24
25 MS. PATTON: And actually there is one
26 more action item the Council had discussed earlier on.
27 Northwest Arctic Council formed a Council working group
28 to address caribou so that they would be able to meet
29 and discuss the Federal subsistence proposals and
30 caribou issues. If this Council would be interested in
31 forming a caribou working group as well and essentially
32 what that does is it authorizes the Council to meet and
33 discuss outside of the regulatory process, to keep
34 those communications going, get information and be
35 informed when you come back to the full meeting. And
36 it's also an opportunity then to talk both with, you
37 know, biologists and anthropologists and other regions.
38 I know you were interested in communicating with the
39 Northwest Arctic region and NANA region and what their
40 input was. So if the Council wanted to form a working
41 group this would be the opportunity and that would
42 require a motion on the record as well.
43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was your name?
45
46 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
47 Ream.
48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, Joshua.
50

1 I'm sorry, I'm -- you know, I can't -- unless we were
2 talking for days that I don't remember everybody's
3 faces.

4
5 Go ahead, Joshua.

6
7 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
8 members of the Council. I just wanted to clarify that
9 the Northwest Arctic Council named this group a
10 wildlife working group and they wanted to be able to
11 discuss issues beyond just caribou with other Councils
12 in the area.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Another
17 question and then -- Eva, you kind of articulated that
18 they're asking us if we should be a member of that
19 group or make our own group?

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
22 yes, it would be your own group. They were expressing
23 an interest to be able to interact more broadly and so
24 were interested to know if other Councils wanted to
25 form a working group. But this would be forming your
26 own working group so that we could convene for the
27 Council most likely by teleconference to have
28 communications about -- it could be caribou or we could
29 make it a wildlife working group, to continue to
30 discuss some of the issues and the proposals that will
31 be coming before the Council at the Board meeting. So
32 it would be this Council's working group if you wish to
33 form one.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that working
36 group would be members of the North Slope Regional
37 Advisory Council, it would be one or two or three
38 or.....

39
40 MS. PATTON: It's at the wish of the
41 Council. For example this Council formed a working
42 group to continue to have discussions on the Fisheries
43 Resource Monitoring Program and feedback on concerns
44 about subsistence fisheries and research priorities.
45 And nearly all the Council members were interested to
46 participate in that working group. And so it's at the
47 interest of the Council who would like to participate.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
50

1 the Council, do you guys want to develop a working
2 group that deals with caribou and sounds like Joshua
3 wants it to include maybe fish and furbearing animals
4 and other things.

5
6 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, the.....

7
8 MR. OOMITUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

9
10 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, the Northwest
11 Arctic Council only discussed a wildlife working group
12 so they would not be discussing fish at that meeting.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's the intent
17 here is the wildlife working group then?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
20 this Council has already formed a working group to
21 address fisheries and so this would cover if wildlife
22 if you so wished.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. A wildlife
25 working group's on the floor. A motion by Steve
26 Oomituk, Point Hope, do we get a second?

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't have a
31 second yet I don't think, I haven't heard a second.

32
33 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, seconded.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Kaktovik,
36 Lee. Any discussion?

37
38 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
41 called for. All those in favor of developing a
42 wildlife working group signify by saying aye?

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
47 no.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none we have
2 a working developed.

3
4 MS. PATTON: And just feedback from
5 individual Council members if you were interested to
6 participate in that working group maybe just indicate
7 so we know?

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would be
10 interested, but I am so overtasked with the work I do
11 in planning. It's almost incredibly -- I had to cancel
12 a lot of meetings to be here, but I thought it was that
13 important to be here. And.....

14
15 MR. OOMITUK: This is Steve Oomituk. I
16 would be interested. I'm also on the Western Arctic
17 Caribou Working Group, but I would be interested in it.
18 It would just be a one -- meeting once a year or.....

19
20 MS. PATTON: At the wish of the Council
21 so there might be, you know, maybe a couple of
22 teleconferences prior to our next Council meeting. And
23 then it depends on your availability too. So
24 essentially I'd be working with you to help set up a
25 teleconference and the issues of interest and concern
26 for the Council to discuss and we may have invitation
27 from other regions too that they would be interested to
28 talk So (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We got Steve,
31 he's one. Anybody else?

32
33 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, since Steve's
34 on there since I live way east I'll put in for that.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik
39 on caribou working or wildlife working group. Anybody --
40 any other volunteers?

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'll volunteer
45 too and make it three guys, three amigos.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.
48 Chair.

49
50

1 And, Steve, do you have a moment yet,
2 this special action doesn't have to be an action by --
3 well, if you don't want to take action we would be
4 interested to know that. So do you have time to hear a
5 little bit about this special action in unit 23, Steve?
6

7 MR. OOMITUK: I'm -- yes, I'm in a
8 vehicle right now, but I.....
9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you so much. We'll
11 move on to that because this may be of interest to you
12 in particular.
13

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom and
16 Joshua.
17

18 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
19 members of the Council. For the record this is Joshua
20 Ream, anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence
21 Management. My Tlingit name is Xixchi Toowoo. I'm
22 originally from Pennsylvania and I've been here in
23 Alaska for over 10 years. And today I'll be presenting
24 wildlife special action request 17-02 for your
25 consideration.
26

27 The biological analysis for this
28 request is still going through internal review within
29 the Office of Subsistence Management and no preliminary
30 conclusion is currently available. Only background and
31 biological harvest information will be presented at
32 this time. Since this is an action item we are looking
33 for your Council to make a recommendation on this
34 request.
35

36 Special action request 17-02 was
37 submitted by the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
38 Advisory Council and it requests a moose hunting
39 closure on Federal public lands in unit 23 to non-
40 Federally-qualified subsistence users for the 2017/2018
41 regulatory year. Due to a decline in the moose
42 population within unit 23 the proponent requests this
43 closure to ensure the continued viability of the
44 region's moose population and also to ensure the
45 continued subsistence use of this important wildlife
46 resource to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
47

48 The proponent stated that conservation
49
50

1 measures are needed now to sustain moose as an
2 important subsistence resource for Federally-qualified
3 subsistence users in the region. Reference was made to
4 a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 documenting a moose population decline in the area.
6 The proponent claims that continued harvest of moose in
7 unit 23 by non-Federally-qualified subsistence users on
8 Federal public lands will lead to further declines in
9 the population before proposals can be submitted to the
10 Federal Subsistence Board. The proponent also states
11 that the proposed closure will help to minimize user
12 conflicts in the unit.

13
14 The regulatory history. In 2003 the
15 Alaska Board of Game approved four registration hunts
16 in the unit with permits only available in person at
17 licensed vendors in unit 23 villages from June 1st
18 through July 15th. This early availability of permits
19 occurs before most of the seasons open. If a nonlocal
20 hunter wants to hunt in one of the registration permit
21 hunts the individual has to make a special trip to one
22 of the 23 villages to receive a permit and then return
23 later when the season opens.

24
25 There have been modifications to
26 Federal moose regulations in unit 23 since the mid
27 2000s. In 2006 wildlife proposal 06-54 was submitted
28 by the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council and
29 it requested the harvest of moose calves be prohibited
30 and that two week seasonal closure in Noatak River
31 drainage be removed. The Board adopted WP 06-54 as a
32 consensus agenda item.

33
34 In 2010 the Board adopted wildlife
35 proposal 10-85. This modification adjusted the time
36 period during which aircraft were restricted in the
37 Noatak controlled use area to August 15th through
38 September 30th. And this aligned with recent actions
39 taken by the Alaska Board of Game.

40
41 Recently in January of this year
42 amended proposal 36 was passed by the Alaska Board of
43 Game to change the antlerless moose season in unit 23
44 to one antlered bull due to conservation concerns
45 related to a decline in the moose population. Proposal
46 44 which shifted the area of the Noatak controlled use
47 area to extend from the Agi River to the Nimiuktuk
48 River was also passed at the January, 2017 Alaska Board
49 of Game meeting.

50

1 The biological background. Moose
2 expanded into unit 23 from the east relatively recently
3 with the first moose appearing in the unit during the
4 1920s. The unit 23 moose population grew through the
5 late 1980s and this rise in population was followed by
6 severe winters and extensive flooding from 1988 through
7 1991 which reduced the population and the overall moose
8 density. According to the most recent population
9 census survey data the current estimated moose
10 population for unit 23 was approximately 7,500 animals.
11 This is below the overall population goal of 8,100 to
12 10,000 moose for unit 23. Between 2000 and 2011 spring
13 moose census surveys showed adult moose densities in
14 unit 23 ranging from .03 to .59 moose per square mile.
15 The most recent data shows adult moose densities in the
16 unit ranging from .03 to .44 moose per square mile.

17
18 State management goals for moose in
19 unit 23 including maintaining a minimum November
20 bull/cow ratio of 40 to 100. The most recent
21 composition surveys were conducted in the lower Noatak
22 in 2013, the Seward Peninsula in 2014, Selawik in 2015
23 and the lower Kobuk in 2016. And the ratios from those
24 range from 34 to 53 bulls to 100 cows. From 2001 to
25 2016 spring adult calf ratios throughout unit 23 range
26 from seven to 15 calves per 100 adults.

27
28 The harvest data. The current
29 harvestable surplus is estimated at 450 moose for unit
30 23. Annual reported harvest in unit 23 from 2005
31 through 2015 averaged 153 moose. Local residents
32 defined as those residing within unit 23 accounted for
33 50.4 percent of the total reported harvest on average
34 from 2005 through 2015 and 51.5 percent in 2015 alone.
35 In 2015 165 moose including 144 males and 21 females
36 were reported harvested with 35.1 percent hunter
37 success throughout the unit.

38
39 Community household surveys show that
40 harvest reporting is generally low in unit 23. In 2017
41 seven moose were reported as harvested by Selawik
42 locals, comparatively the community household survey in
43 the Selawik drainage showed that approximately 40 moose
44 were harvested by unit 23 residents that year. Taking
45 this disparity into account the Alaska Department of
46 Fish and Game estimated that approximately 70 moose are
47 taken from the Selawik drainage annually. This
48 translates to a 7 percent harvest which is high for the
49 area.

50

1 Current events involving this request
2 include a unit 23 user working group that was formed in
3 early 2008 and has met annually since its creation.
4 The purpose of the working group is to find solutions
5 to hunting conflicts that will preserve the Inupiat
6 values for the region and to provide advisory
7 recommendations to regulatory agencies. The working
8 group has worked toward implementing orientation
9 sessions for pilots flying within unit 23 for the
10 purpose of transporting game, to emphasize measures
11 that can be taken by pilots to reduce or avoid
12 conflicts with local hunters and the group also works
13 with land managers to provide information to guides
14 pertaining to ways to avoid conflict with local hunters
15 and areas that should be avoided.

16
17 To obtain public comments related to
18 this request a public meeting was held on January 24th,
19 2017 in Kotzebue. Public comments in support of the
20 request expressed that with caribou declining in the
21 area more local residents will rely on moose for
22 subsistence. As subsistence food resources decline the
23 local residents are concerned that the culture
24 surrounding subsistence lifestyles will die out and
25 locals will lose the nutrient rich foods on which they
26 have always relied. The concern is that this will lead
27 to greater health problems for local residents and that
28 food security concerns will intensify.

29
30 The special action request is seen by
31 supporters as a necessary step to ensure health moose
32 populations in the unit. Supporters of this request do
33 not think that ADF&G has done enough to protect Native
34 and rural communities and to sustain food security in
35 the area. Gratitude was conveyed to nonlocal hunters
36 who donate meat to elders in the villages every year,
37 but it was expressed that everyone will need to reduce
38 harvest to conserve this resource. It was expressed
39 that ANILCA protects the rights of subsistence users in
40 unit 23.

41
42 While public comments opposed to the
43 request expressed that there was concern about the
44 thoroughness of the data pertaining to moose in unit
45 23. It was expressed that Federal lands should be open
46 to everyone since it is public land and that closures
47 should only be used if there is a clear biological
48 concern. It was mentioned that ADF&G already took
49 actions to limit nonlocal harvest in the unit and since
50

1 there has not been an increase in nonlocal harvest
2 there is no need for additional restrictions on
3 nonlocal users. It was stated that if there's a
4 biological concern or a user conflict concern then
5 resident hunters should be restricted prior to any
6 restrictions on Alaska residents and that nonlocal
7 hunters also take bears and wolves which in turn
8 benefit the moose populations. It was conveyed that
9 meat is typically donated to the elders in the villages
10 by nonlocal users, but with closures in place this may
11 limit the donated meat that is brought to villages. It
12 was expressed that this may hurt some of the
13 communities in unit 23. Hunters that are opposed to
14 this request stated that they take part in the unit 23
15 moose hunt more for the experience and the landscapes
16 than for the meat. There was also concern that if this
17 request is approved then more hunters will be pushed
18 into unit 24. The individuals who opposed this request
19 expressed concern about the precedent that this request
20 sets for future actions.

21
22 And then once again the Northwest
23 Arctic Council did vote in support of their own special
24 action request.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua.
29 And is -- Eva, do we need to go through the gambit of
30 these things or.....

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
33 this is a special action request so it hasn't gone
34 through this whole process like a regular proposal. So
35 it's coming before the Council, if you wish to make a
36 recommendation in support or oppose or defer to the
37 Northwest Arctic region, but you don't have to go
38 through these steps here.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, since Point
41 Hope and possibly Anaktuvuk Pass may touch into unit
42 23, I would see if there's support from Anaktuvuk and
43 Point Hope for us to vote on this. I certainly feel
44 that from the explanation given that North Slope
45 Regional Advisory Council should go on record as
46 supporting this. And based on the population trend,
47 the concerns raised about user conflicts and I think
48 it's something that -- to preserve the ability of the
49 Federally-qualified user to be affected by State
50

1 regulation should the resource crash. And I think this
2 is an important measure and recognize the Federally-
3 qualified user in these lands and to act as such.

4
5 Steve, what do you think?
6

7 MR. OOMITUK: I -- yeah, this is Steve.
8 I would support this. Is there a motion made?
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, you're making
11 it now. Well, there's.....

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. (Indiscernible -
14 distortion).....

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER:a motion on the
17 floor from Point Hope, that is part of unit 23 in that
18 area, to support, what was the number?
19

20 MR. REAM: Wildlife special action 17-
21 02.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wildlife special
24 action 17-02. There's a motion on the floor to support
25 that.

26
27 MS. HUGO: I second it.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Anaktuvuk
30 Pass. Any discussion?
31

32 MS. KIPPI: The question's called.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
35 called for. All those in favor of supporting special
36 action for 17-02, signify by saying aye.
37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
41 no.

42
43 (No opposing votes)
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, our
46 support passes.
47

48 MS. PATTON: Thank you for hanging on
49 there, Steve. And thank you for joining us today.
50

1 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Thank you. Can I
2 be excused. I'm in the middle of a bunch of people
3 right now (indiscernible - distortion). Is that all
4 the action items that need to be taken care of?

5
6 MS. PATTON: That's it except for the
7 annual report, but what I can do is we'll discuss that
8 annual report with the Council members here and I can
9 fax you a copy of it. It's in your meeting book and
10 discuss -- because there was one point that was
11 particularly provided by you and we'll review that with
12 you when you get back home and make sure that that
13 conveys your words adequately.

14
15 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

18
19 MR. OOMITUK: Sorry about that, but can
20 I be -- ask to be excused?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Safe travels.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, (in
25 Native).....

26
27 MS. PATTON: Safe travels. Thank you
28 for joining us.

29
30 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you. Bye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Boy, now we got
33 quiet.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madam
38 Coordinator, that was item D, special action 17-02. It
39 looks like we had put item E, Alaska Native relations
40 with Hollis somebody.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Correct. We actually
43 skipped over the annual report which was action C so we
44 could get to the special action for Steve.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.

47
48 MS. PATTON: And this is very brief.
49 On page 31 you will find the draft annual report that
50

1 the Council developed at the fall meeting. And there
2 were two primary issues that the Council was bringing
3 forward to the Federal Subsistence Board. So this is
4 your report to the Federal Subsistence Board.

5
6 And the first was food security and
7 preventing the deflection of caribou and user
8 conflicts. And the Council was readdressing this
9 issue. You had written extensively to the Board in
10 your previous annual report and felt that the Board's
11 reply was not adequate or perhaps didn't fully
12 understand the details and the gravity of the
13 situation. So the Council is reiterating its concerns
14 in regards to food security and user conflicts. In
15 particular the issues that Anaktuvuk Pass is facing and
16 to understand the importance of caribou for the whole
17 region, but for Anaktuvuk Pass that is their primary
18 subsistence food being in the location that they are
19 and that the Board recognize that as they're
20 considering all these Federal proposals that are coming
21 before them.

22
23 And I'll give you a chance to read
24 through it.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madam Coordinator,
27 once we're done reading it is this an action item to
28 adopt the Chair's report or.....

29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council,
31 yes. So this is an opportunity for the Council as a
32 whole to review, this is your draft report to the
33 Board, to review it and see if it meets your interests
34 and concerns and conveys the issues adequately or if
35 there's any edits you'd like to add or additional
36 points. And also it's an opportunity for the Council
37 to add other things to the annual report and the
38 Council did note at the beginning of the meeting that
39 the issue that the Council's faced with with the
40 vacancies on the seats and how important it is for this
41 Council to be able to meet in other communities in the
42 region outside of Barrow to establish those
43 relationships and engage with the other communities
44 outside of Barrow in order to have their representation
45 on the Council. And so we can add that to this annual
46 report, it was addressed by the Council at the fall
47 meeting, but not specifically in the annual report, but
48 you had requested that that be elevated to the Board so
49 we can add that to this report.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Madam
2 Coordinator, is that a budget issue that we currently
3 kind of tackle to be able to meet in one of the
4 communities and, yeah, I'm starting to recall some of
5 the dialogue, that we wanted to be meeting in all of
6 the communities eventually and get firsthand concerns
7 from villages. And I think the first village that we
8 started (indiscernible - background noise) Anaktuvuk
9 Pass.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Correct, Mr. Chair. This
12 Council -- the way the Regional Advisory Councils are
13 set up there are regional hub communities that are
14 established. And other regions, some of them have
15 multiple hub communities, the North Slope region has
16 only one and it is a matter of budgets in that it's
17 less expensive to meet in the hub community of Barrow
18 and tends to be more expensive to meet in the other
19 communities in this region. However this Council has
20 only met outside the region -- outside of Barrow twice
21 in the history of this Council. And we did a little
22 research into that because of the concerns of the
23 Council of having representation from Barrow and less
24 so from other communities. So we did get approval with
25 a cost analysis to meet in Nuiqsut and so the Council
26 did hold a meeting in Nuiqsut in the fall of 2013. And
27 again due to the pressing subsistence concerns for that
28 community Anaktuvuk Pass had been asking for the
29 Council to meet there and address their pressing
30 subsistence concerns. And we did cost analysis and got
31 approval for that budget to meet in Anaktuvuk Pass in
32 fall of 2015. Council did have a request -- ongoing
33 request to meet in Kaktovik and at the fall meeting
34 this year requested to meet in Wainwright because we
35 are missing representation from Wainwright and that
36 that would be addressing fall caribou. And the
37 community would be very interested to participate in
38 that process. But that means submitting a budget
39 analysis and it's subject to approval. But the
40 Council's interest and concerns are considered very
41 important by both the Board and the program.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
44 What's the wish of the Council. We have this report to
45 the Chair, Federal Subsistence Board Chair from the
46 Council. And we can -- it's based on our last meeting
47 in the fall I think and we did have a supplement to
48 that I think in November or something like that, a
49 follow-up meeting or something. And it seems to have
50

1 the same kind of dialogue that we were engaged in at
2 that time. And the -- I don't have any potential
3 additions at this time unless I was going to add
4 something from this current meeting.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if you would
7 like to add that concern or the interest of the Council
8 to meet in other communities outside of Barrow then we
9 can add that to this annual report to bring that before
10 the Board.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, being that it's
13 been an interest of many Council members to try to get
14 to as many villages as possible to engage the community
15 better, I think we should add that in there because it
16 seems like constrained by budget. And the more we ask
17 for it maybe somebody will eventually budget for it
18 actually.

19
20 Any other concerns from the Board and I
21 think we're going to need to make a motion to adopt it
22 with some -- I think now with a little revision to
23 include more village meetings.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I so move to
26 adopt the report with the addition of the meeting in
27 the other villages.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
30 the floor from Atqasuk, Wanda, to adopt the Council's
31 report to the Chair with the addition of concerns to
32 meet more in our village communities. Is there a
33 second?

34
35 MS. HUGO: Second.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Anaktuvuk
38 Pass. Any discussion?

39
40 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
43 called for. All those in favor of adopting the
44 Council's report to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair
45 signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
50

1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
6 report passes with modifications.

7

8 Eva.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, and
11 we did lose Steve on that, but I will follow-up with
12 him so that if he has additions or input in particular,
13 he had commented on the increased shipping traffic in
14 the Chukchi Sea and we'll let the Board know that
15 feedback from the Council.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And, Eva,
20 I want to remind you that I'm going to need to go check
21 in here and I have another meeting to attend in
22 Anchorage and I have an evening flight to catch. But I
23 probably could hang out for another 15 minutes or so,
24 that's about it.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and
27 Council, we have a couple other agency reports. We
28 also have one more Power Point presentation. The
29 Council was very interested to hear reports back on the
30 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects in the
31 region. And what we could do is we have Hollis
32 Twitchell who is going to address tribal consultation.
33 And then if we were able to get Brendan since we have
34 the screen up now and while we have Esther and Lee in
35 particular, you'd probably love to see the FRMP project
36 too.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madam
39 Coordinator, you know, me leaving and we've already
40 lost a quorum, but I don't think it should affect the
41 rest of the agenda because they're not agenda --
42 they're not action items and informational that.....

43

44 MS. PATTON: Correct. It's
45 informational items.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I'd just be
48 excused and you can go on with the report.....

49

50

1 MS. PATTON: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the rest of the
4 agenda.
5
6 MS. PATTON: Okay.
7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if that's okay.
9 I would need to be excused and maybe hand the Chair
10 over to one of -- one of you three. And maybe hand it
11 over to Lee since the girls are pointing at Lee.
12
13 Lee, you're going to have to be Acting
14 Chair here I think after the Fisheries Report -- the
15 Fisheries Monitoring Program that you wanted to make us
16 be flexible and move that up?
17
18 MS. PATTON: Sure. At the call of the
19 Chair. I know that the update on the tribal
20 consultation is of great interest to both the Council
21 and the tribes here in Barrow. And we would still have
22 Esther and Lee here if that one's the ongoing when you
23 go.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think I'm
26 going to.....
27
28 Vince.
29 MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Chairman, before you
30 go you wanted to modify your temporary special action
31 to reflect 26A and B. A quick way around that would be
32 that this -- remaining members agree to it with the
33 concurrence to Steve. Steve was the second to the
34 motion, you were the motion leader on that. I think
35 that will help staff and it will empower your proposal
36 on that same issue. So I -- it's up to you if you want
37 to do that. Right not it stands at all 26 temporary
38 special action.
39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Vince, thank you for
41 reminding us. And I think that's important. It'll
42 strengthen our position because from what we've heard
43 from the ANWR folks that the Porcupine herd is the only
44 herd that's doing really good. In fact, I think they
45 got the caribou that are lost and why all of ours are
46 declining and Canada's is getting bigger.
47
48 So I think that's important and how
49 would you suppose that we structure that so that we
50

1 don't have to go all the way back to reversing a
2 decision.....
3
4 MS. PATTON: Mr.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we'll just make
7 a modification.
8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, it
10 does happen sometimes too that the Office of
11 Subsistence Management will receive a proposal by a
12 proponent, new information is shared and they want to
13 clarify their intent. I think Steve was part of those
14 discussions earlier and it's clear on the record he,
15 you know, was understanding that. I think if this
16 Council, you know, wanted to articulate that with the
17 information that you received on the.....
18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can we make a motion
20 to that effect?
21
22 MS. PATTON: Yes, you can make -- you
23 can make a motion to.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (Indiscernible -
26 simultaneous speech) clear that with Steve?
27
28 MS. PATTON: Yes, and we'll follow-up
29 in the special action that we, you know, consulted with
30 the Council members and the intent was.....
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think we need a
37 motion on the floor to amend the temporary special
38 action for unit 26 to restrict the caribou hunt to
39 Federally-qualified users, to amend that to unit 26A
40 and unit 26B. Is that correct? I think we -- that
41 would be the amendment. I think Steve agreed earlier
42 for the more permanent fix that -- recognizing that the
43 Porcupine herd is actually doing very well and is at
44 its peak production, that we do not affect unit 26C in
45 this proposal. And actually it would strengthen our
46 position.
47
48 What's the wish of the Commission --
49 the Council?
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need a motion on
4 the floor for that temporary special action to modify
5 that to unit 26A and unit 26B to restrict caribou hunt
6 to Federally-qualified users.
7
8 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, to move
9 forward on this (indiscernible - simultaneous
10 speech).....
11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
13 the floor to amend the temporary special action earlier
14 stated to unit 26A for caribou to Federally-qualified
15 users to amend that to unit 26A and B to Federally-
16 qualified users. There's a motion on the floor.
17
18 MS. HUGO: I second it.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by
21 Anaktuvuk. Any discussion?
22
23 MS. KIPPI: Question.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
26 called for. All those in favor of amending the
27 temporary special action plan motion earlier to 26 to
28 limit that to unit 26A, unit 26B for caribou to
29 Federally-qualified users signify by saying aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And Steve not being
34 here and you will make that confirmation with Steve.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 And, Madam Coordinator, I'm going to
39 ask to be excused and hand the Chair over to Lee for
40 the remainder of the agenda items.
41
42 If I may be excused.
43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, you are
45 excused.
46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. (In
48 Native).
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

2
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It was very nice to
6 work with you all and (in Native) to have new members
7 and I hope we continue to get more membership and a lot
8 more participation. I happen to believe these
9 regulatory processes are very important, we got to play
10 the game because it's -- you know, we -- because it's
11 important. And we have to learn how to make
12 regulations that work for us.

13
14 (In Native).

15
16 MS. PATTON: Please do. And I think we
17 did have Hollis Twitchell next on the agenda with the
18 tribal consultation and Native relations policy and we
19 do have Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope here and
20 other representatives who would be very interested to
21 hear those updates as well.

22
23 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair, Council
24 members, Hollis Twitchell, Arctic Refuge. Considering
25 the short amount of time we have here and number of
26 other people that need to present, there's three items
27 that I thought you would be interested in. Certainly
28 the Fish and Wildlife National and Alaska Native
29 Relations Policy would be one of them. A second one
30 would be a special action which was initiated to allow
31 a moose hunt in the Kongakut River drainage this year
32 and it's ongoing at this time. Or the third item would
33 be an update on the International Porcupine Caribou
34 Board as relate with the meetings that they've recently
35 had in Fairbanks, Alaska and up in Venetie just several
36 months ago.

37
38 So I leave that as -- to your
39 discretion. If you want me to cover just one or
40 several of those items I'll follow-up with what you
41 feel would be the most efficient use of time.

42
43 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, this is
44 Stewart Cogswell, I'm sitting in for Eva right now.
45 Now -- I apologize, we have another speaker that has to
46 leave on that same flight. So could we hold off with
47 your presentation at your discretion and have Brendan
48 do his presentation?

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank
2 you. We can move forward on that.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 MR. SCANLON: Hey, everybody. For the
7 record this is Brendan Scanlon with the Department of
8 Fish and Game in Fairbanks. I have to be on the same
9 flight as Mr. Brower so I'm going to try to get at
10 least something done, but if we can't get this going
11 I'm going to ask Eva to print out the presentation for
12 the RAC. So just please bear with me for one minute.

13
14 I'm sorry, it's just -- it's not going
15 to come on and there's just no time to do this. So
16 hopefully Eva can printout handouts of this
17 presentation for everyone. And my contact information
18 is on there so please call me if you have any
19 questions.

20
21 Hey, it looks like I'm back. All
22 right. So rather than do a crummy job on all four
23 projects, I'm just going to talk about one that is
24 ongoing and I think is really important.

25
26 So like I said I'm going to try to run
27 through this. There's actually four projects I was
28 going to talk about today, one is ongoing, one is going
29 to begin this summer up on Chandalar Lake and two are
30 proposed projects we've turned in investigation plans
31 for review by the Technical Review Committee and the
32 RAC for funding, but the one I want to talk about today
33 is one that we started this summer. And it's got to do
34 with conducting aerial surveys on five North Slope
35 drainages to estimate how many fish are overwintering
36 in five rivers. And this partially identifies a
37 priority information need regarding dolly varden in the
38 Hulahula, but fishers in Kaktovik who fish in the
39 marine waters catch fish from all these rivers so we
40 expanded it to include all of them.

41
42 So we don't have (indiscernible) good
43 information, but we -- North Slope fishers primarily in
44 Kaktovik and Nuiqsut harvest about 10 to 20,000 pounds
45 of dolly varden char a year and mostly these are mixed
46 stock harvests coming from several rivers in Alaska and
47 a few in Canada. So unlike Pacific salmon they can go
48 out to sea several times and they spawn and overwinter
49 in springs and upwelling areas, these areas as it gets
50

1 later into the winter become concentrated as
2 (indiscernible) seals form. The largest population are
3 found in the Ivishak, Kongakut, Hulahula, Canning and
4 Anaktuvuk Rivers. And aerial surveys have been
5 conducted since 1971 periodically, but none since 2008
6 and that was another FRMP project and most of those
7 were just on the Ivishak. So we wanted to try to do
8 surveys for our years to get an idea of relative
9 abundance of all five populations.

10

11

12 So the objectives were to conduct a
13 single aerial index count right before freeze up on all
14 five of these rivers and for the three that we have not
15 very much information on, the Canning, Hulahula and
16 Kongakut, we wanted to try to identify an index area
17 where we could reliably survey the same area year after
18 year.

19

20

21 Well, a little below, but we worked out
22 of Happy Valley which is west of the Ivishak and these
23 are the five streams and the index areas. Most of
24 those are based on the historical index areas, but we
25 were going to modify them if conditions had changed.
26 So under good conditions, low water and good light and
27 not much wind aerial surveys can do a really good job
28 of counting fish. This is on the Wulik River near
29 Kivalina and there's about 4,000 fish there. And those
30 are almost all dollies except for the handful of
31 grayling close to the shore on the left side of the
32 screen.

33

34

35 So but aerial surveys don't do a great
36 job when the weather's not good and comparison projects
37 using mark recapture and aerial surveys found that
38 aerial surveys reliably count about a quarter of the
39 fish. So in this project we would take all our aerial
40 counts, multiply them by four, which would get us
41 closer to the real number of fish found in the stream

42

43

44 So we found about 1,700 spawners in the
45 Canning, 3,100 in the Hulahula, 2,500 in the Ivishak.
46 These are pretty low numbers, they come in in two
47 groups, the spawners come in first and they go way up
48 in the drainage to spawn and then the nonspawning,
49 overwintering fish which is a much larger group of fish
50 come in right before freeze up so they can feed as long
as they can out in the marine water. So we got a
decent count of spawners in these rivers, but it was
pushing 50 degrees during the day and barely getting to

51

1 freezing at night, the water was warm in late September
2 so it was very late fall, we just didn't get a count of
3 the overwintering, the nonspawners like we wanted to.

4
5 One thing we did find was a tributary
6 of the Ivishak River, the Sagavanirktok (ph), had an
7 iron seep that was pumping out turbid water most of the
8 lake, the Ivishak, and we got a very poor count below
9 that. And so we took some pictures of that. So this
10 is the Ivishak River, it's a tributary of the Sag and
11 this is not high water or anything, this is material
12 that's just floating downriver and we followed it in a
13 helicopter up to the source, we saw a lot of blue and a
14 lot of red water, no fish in any of this. And here's
15 what the sources were, this was a not a disturbance in
16 the hill, it was a thaw slump or anything and I'm not a
17 hydrologist, but it appears to be just a spring that
18 opened up. And these things happen and according to a
19 hydrologist at UAF, this is probably very old water and
20 it -- these things are not usually ephemeral so this
21 may be the new normal for a few years. And it's
22 something we didn't expect, we hadn't seen before, but
23 something we really wanted to keep an eye on.

24
25 And we had a drone with us and we were
26 able to get some pretty interesting footage of both the
27 water and the fish avoiding it. So right along here is
28 a bunch of spawning ramps, there's no fish on them now,
29 but they had spawned and dropped back down, but there's
30 fish all along here along the seam and up here, but
31 they're really staying out of this turbid water. So we
32 went back a week after we observed this and flew the
33 same location, collected water samples and we did some
34 water chemistry, looked at connectivity and dissolved
35 oxygen. We sent the water samples to the lab at UAF
36 and it's almost all iron, it's six to 10 times the
37 concentration you would normally see. These are all
38 fish right here, these are fish right here, there's
39 some up here. But they're all obviously avoiding the
40 plume, but, you know, we can't see in there, we don't
41 know if there's fish in there or not, but typically in
42 streams like this there's some over by Noatak, the fish
43 avoid them completely. These are all spawning
44 (indiscernible) where fish had spawned and dropped out
45 of.

46
47 So we're not sure what to make of this.
48 Alyeska was up there at the pump station and we asked
49 if they would snowmachine out to the river in the
50

1 wintertime to see if it was still running, discolored
2 under the ice. And they drilled a couple holes and
3 they found that it was running clear, but the rocks
4 were still stained.

5
6 So this is a whole bunch of fish here,
7 this is a couple hundred fish. The drone does not have
8 a polarizing filter so it didn't take a great photo of
9 them, but you can get pretty close and they don't get
10 disturbed. And so for fun we tied a go pro to a rock
11 and put it in the water just to get some cool fish
12 footage.

13
14 So in any case I've got to run, there's
15 two other projects I want to talk about, but it's going
16 to have to happen another time and I really apologize
17 for that. But Eva has a copy of all this and hopefully
18 she can share it with you and you're welcome to contact
19 me anytime about any questions about these projects.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thanks,
22 Brendan. And we did do some fishing up Hulahula this
23 winter and we did -- I mean, as soon as you put that
24 hook in there they're just literally going like this to
25 the hook because, you know, and the water is clear and
26 only like probably maybe four foot of water on the
27 Hulahula where the second fish hole is at this time.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. SCANLON: Okay. Thank you.

32
33 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
34 Council, I want to thank Brendan Scanlon for coming.
35 This is part of the real important work that the
36 biologists do and come back to report to the Council.
37 So I apologize that -- on the timing here. But we do
38 have a Council working group to address subsistence
39 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and so perhaps
40 what we could do is can mail out the additional Power
41 Point that he had provided so that you would have them
42 and we could arrange for a teleconference for further
43 updates on those FRMP projects.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
48 Eva.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: I wanted to let the
2 Council know also I am going to have to depart early
3 for a family emergency and our wonderful Stewart here
4 will take over for the rest of the meeting. And I want
5 to thank the Council for all your travels and I also
6 have contact with cell phone so if you need assistance
7 let me know.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
12 Hollis, you could continue with your presentation from
13 earlier.

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: If the Chair will
16 entertain me I think with Doreen and Roy and the
17 audience here I would like to go ahead and go through
18 the Native American Policies initially and then I'd
19 like to talk about the Kaktovik moose hunt that's
20 ongoing right now, it's through a special action. So
21 if that's agreeable with the Chair I'd like to go along
22 that route.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: What's the
25 wish of the Chair, should he move forward on this
26 policy?

27
28 Go ahead, Hollis.

29
30 MR. TWITCHELL: Two and a half years
31 ago the national director of the Fish and Wildlife
32 Service directed the agency to go through a review of
33 the Native American Policy. It was quite dated so he
34 organized a team of individuals to be working on
35 updating the 20 year old policy to try to bring it
36 current with all the new laws, regulations and
37 executive orders and Secretary orders regarding our
38 relationship with Federally recognized tribes. In
39 doing so he brought together 16 tribes from across the
40 country, across the Lower 48 and three different tribal
41 representatives from Alaska as well as 13 Fish and
42 Wildlife employees who are involved with Native
43 American relations. It's a fairly large team. We
44 brought in the tribal consultation at the very
45 beginning. We wanted this to be thoroughly vetted
46 through the tribes in reviewing and developing this
47 policy. It took the team two and a half years to go
48 through all the processes and coming forth with a
49 product which was then brought back to the tribes
50

1 across the country for their review and for comments.
2 And I'm referring to this policy that is our current
3 National Native American Policy. It has the feather on
4 the top of it. This was signed by the director in
5 January, 2016. So it's a completed document.

6
7 Through the process of developing that
8 national policy that applies to all Federally
9 recognized tribes, we received a lot of comments from
10 Native representatives and organizations in Alaska and
11 also a lot of comments from tribes from the Lower 48.
12 And the recommendation was that there was so many
13 unique aspects with the Alaska laws, the Alaska Native
14 Claims Settlement Act, the ANCSA and ANILCA, a variety
15 of other laws regarding marine mammal use by Alaska
16 Natives and endangered species regulations, the tribes
17 involved in this panel suggested that an Alaska Native
18 Relations Policy would be more appropriate to bring in
19 all the various aspects that are unique to the Alaska
20 situation. The national director recognizes that and
21 we are now in the process of developing and refining
22 the Alaska Native Relations Policy. We started a year
23 and a half ago with three of the Alaska Native
24 representatives who were on the national plan as well
25 as a number of other representatives that were
26 requested from the tribes and Native organizations in
27 Alaska if they wanted to be a participant in this
28 writing team to develop the Alaska Native Relations
29 Plan. So that particular group of individuals included
30 16 tribal representatives and 13 Fish and Wildlife
31 representatives and four corporate entities that were
32 involved in this policy.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: From what region?

35
36 MR. TWITCHELL: The -- there are two
37 reasons why the Alaska Pacific Policy was needed and
38 that had to do first of all with subsistence.
39 Subsistence is a provision in the Alaska National
40 Interests Lands Act, the National Marine Mammal
41 Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the
42 Endangered Species Act. These three Acts are specific
43 to the Alaska Native people and therefore we needed to
44 describe our responsibilities to the Fish and Wildlife
45 employees. Since this policy is directed to Fish and
46 Wildlife employees to help ourselves understand all of
47 our responsibilities. The second reason was because
48 there was -- we were directed by a law with Alaska
49 Native entities in addition to the tribal governments.

50

1 There became a need to describe our relationship to
 2 Alaska Native organization and Alaska Native Claims
 3 Settlement Act corporations. Examples of Alaska Native
 4 organizations include the Alaska Migratory Bird
 5 Council, the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Alaska
 6 Native nonprofits like Tanana Chiefs Conference and the
 7 Association of Village Council Presidents or the
 8 Council of Athabascan Tribal Presidents.

9
 10 The draft Alaska Native Relations
 11 Policy gives guidance to our employees for their
 12 responsibilities and opportunities for relationships
 13 with tribes, Alaska Native organization and Alaska
 14 corporations. Sections in this Alaska Native Relations
 15 Policy which is the one that's currently out for review
 16 and consideration, it's the one that has draft typed
 17 across its face. So this particular policy that has
 18 the draft across it is a policy that currently out for
 19 review by Alaska Native organizations, tribes and
 20 corporations and it's being presented to you as the
 21 Regional Advisory Council for your opportunity to see
 22 what is out there as well.

23
 24 So this draft policy is going to be put
 25 out in the Federal Register when the agencies are
 26 allowed to bring any new proposals out for public
 27 review. So until there is a release for new Federal
 28 Register information to be released this policy is
 29 going under just in review as we go through formal
 30 consultation with tribes and Native organizations. The
 31 different sections within this document include
 32 sections on sovereignty and government to government
 33 relations, community -- communications and
 34 relationships, resource management, culture and
 35 religion, law enforcement, tribal capacity and
 36 assistance in funding, implementation and monitoring,
 37 scope and limitations, and there's sections in it that
 38 deal with definitions, overall responsibilities and
 39 authorities.

40
 41 In order to understand the connections
 42 between the national plan and this draft Native Alaska
 43 Relations Policy they need to be viewed together since
 44 much of the things that apply in the national plan
 45 carryover into the Alaska Native Relations Plan. So
 46 rather than duplicate a lot of the language and
 47 situations that the Federal tribes have in the national
 48 plan, you need to be able to look back and forth
 49 between the national plan and he Alaska Native
 50

1 Relations Plan. It helps clarify some of the
2 definitions and responsibilities and authorities that
3 we have to operate under. So that's why we provided
4 both of those copies to you.

5
6 The tribal and Alaska Native
7 corporation consultant phase will occur during the
8 approximate time that the public review is going out
9 and that will be when the Federal Register releases it.
10 We're not certain yet when the public comment period
11 will begin as that date will have to be determined when
12 we're allowed to publish again in the Federal Register.
13 So these documents are there for you to review now
14 prior to the publication in the Federal Register. I
15 hope that you will take the time to look at these,
16 they're fairly significant and have been expanded
17 substantially from the earlier older National Native
18 American Policy.

19
20 So there's no action required from the
21 Council at this point, it's simply provided for your
22 information. And we'll be handing out the address
23 where any recommendations or suggestions regarding this
24 Alaska Native Policy could be sent to and that would be
25 Crystal Leonetti. She's our Alaska Native Affairs
26 Specialist. And I'll hand out an information sheet
27 that has her phone number and email address on how she
28 can be reached. Or to be sent to Joanne Bryant, she's
29 a tribal communications and outreach specialist that
30 works under Crystal Leonetti. So I will hand out these
31 sheets to you.

32
33 So I hope that you will take the time
34 to review these, it is supported by our Alaska regional
35 director. He wants to make sure that the employees in
36 Alaska working for the Fish and Wildlife Service fully
37 understand our trust responsibility to tribes as well
38 as our other mandated responsibilities to communicate
39 and consult with the various Native consortiums as well
40 as at a different level be able to be communicating and
41 consulting with the Alaska Native corporations. So we
42 have a lot of responsibilities we need to share amongst
43 our staff to make sure we're meeting our mandates and
44 identities.

45
46 I'll stop at this point and try to
47 answer any questions you might have.

48
49 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,

50

1 Hollis. So throughout this process for the draft it'll
2 eventually come to the RAC to go through this
3 throughout the process of this towards -- during the
4 summer to fall meetings?

5
6 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, they are. I did
7 this same presentation to the Eastern Interior RAC, the
8 Western Interior RAC and the Yukon-Kuskokwim RAC as
9 well and there's other representatives that were on
10 this Alaska writing team that are going to all the
11 Regional Councils across the State and presenting the
12 same information to them so that it'll be fairly
13 widespread. It's also been mailed out by Crystal
14 Leonetti to all of the Federally recognized tribes in
15 Alaska as well as the Native organizations and to the
16 village corporations. So it will be very widely
17 reviewed by all of those entities as well as it'll be
18 open for the public at large when it's published in the
19 Federal Register.

20
21 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
22 Hollis. Do any Council members have any questions for
23 Hollis?

24
25 Go ahead.

26
27 MR. COGSWELL: Hollis, this is Stewart.
28 I have a question to follow-up on Lee's question. Is
29 the tribal or the Councils going to have a chance to
30 comment again on this before it hits the Federal
31 Register?

32
33 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, you may send in
34 your comments at anytime, you're not limited to any
35 time period. The clock in which we will give this out
36 to the public at large is going to start when the
37 Federal Register is open for announcements. And it'll
38 be at a minimum a 60 days comment period when that
39 occurs. But there's nothing that's keeping the tribal
40 entities, the Native corporations or the Native
41 organizations from reviewing it and submitting in their
42 comments at anytime. They're not limited to the
43 Federal public comment period.

44
45 MR. COGSWELL: Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
48 Hollis. Doreen.

49
50

1 MS. LAMPE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Thank you, Hollis, for your presentation. I did get
3 the email from Crystal Leonetti, we'll be having a ICAS
4 Council meeting on April 6, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. I'd like
5 to invite you to call in and address our ICAS Council
6 regarding this. I think it's much needed, it's a long
7 time coming and I'm glad to see it's gone this far.

8
9 I do have a question on page 4
10 regarding the Endangered Species Act that was enacted
11 in 1973, allows Alaska Natives to take threatened or
12 endangered species for subsistence purposes. I'd like
13 to see a flowchart of some kind in which Alaska Native
14 hunters, especially our ICAS tribal membership, is
15 being overwhelmed with so many endangered species
16 proposed listing, threatened species listing and where
17 we're partnering with other organizations that are not
18 Federally recognized to try and fight these listing
19 because we heard from Ernest Roy Nageak, Jr., he
20 inadvertently took one. And he self reported and there
21 was some statements made by Fish and Wildlife Service
22 staff in Barrow that if you self report yourself that
23 they would be more lenient on a self reported incident.
24 It was with a regular flock of common eider ducks that
25 happened to be one of those spectacle or steller eider
26 species that was flying with the common eiders. So
27 this one sentence I would really like to see a
28 flowchart on if the Fish and Wildlife Service say
29 they're going to be lenient and work with hunters in
30 self reporting and then goes around and does a 180 and
31 give him the full punishment of catching an endangered
32 species listed animal and goes to Federal court and has
33 to pay a fine, that's not a good faith working
34 relationship with a community that we don't harvest
35 spectacle or stellar eider ducks, it was inadvertent,
36 he self reported. They should have kept their word and
37 been lenient and showed the good working stewardship an
38 example of a hunter who self reports and show their
39 leniency to someone that does self report. I for one
40 would not self report myself if you have this
41 experience already with a community. And we don't hunt
42 those spectacle or steller eiders, you see them mostly
43 in the sewage lagoons around Barrow up by NARL.
44 They're not desirable for our Inupiat people to eat
45 those ducks.

46
47 And I'm glad to see that this is there,
48 but I think that one sentence needs more teeth to it,
49 if you say you're going to allow Alaska Natives to take
50

1 threatened and endangered species for subsistence
2 purposes, we want to see that happen, we don't want to
3 see a self reported hunter get the full charge of the
4 crime and here you state it's allowable. I mean, this
5 sentence is very misleading, very assuring to the
6 public, but in actuality and reality it's not even
7 enforceable or implemented to a Native hunter that is
8 actually self reporting and trying to be cooperative
9 with the Federal agency.

10
11 But overall I think this will be a much
12 needed improvement in our relationship with the Federal
13 government, with the Fish and Wildlife Service,
14 especially their philosophy for selective enforcement
15 on hunters to repopulate a species is my other big
16 issue. I dislike the selective enforcement procedure
17 especially with the lead shot bullet. My son got a
18 citation for shooting lead shot and I told the Fish and
19 Wildlife people to go give the store manager a citation
20 for selling lead shot in our community. And they oh,
21 no, it's not illegal to sell them, it's only illegal to
22 shoot them. Selective enforcement, so frustrating. So
23 go after the people that produce the lead shots, put
24 them out of business. I'm just so tired of this
25 selective enforcement process and the philosophy that
26 if you target the hunter the population will rebound.
27 That's not true, you got to get to the heart of the
28 issue.

29
30 Thank you for the opportunity to
31 comment. I waited a long time for this presentation,
32 all afternoon.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, thank you and
37 I.....

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
40 Doreen.

41
42 MR. TWITCHELL:thank you for your
43 comments. All the comments that come in at these
44 meetings will be presented back to the team, the
45 writing team, including all of the Native
46 representatives on the team and they will be looked at
47 and they will be seriously looked at. So we'll look at
48 that sentence as well and we'll definitely consider
49 your recommendation of a flowchart.

50

1 So I appreciate that, your comments are
2 the same sort of comments that I've heard on the Delta,
3 Y-K Delta, regarding vendors selling the lead shot in
4 various villages out on the Delta as well. So that's
5 not unique just to your concerns here in this northern
6 part of the state. So there's some validity in that.

7
8 I will say that the -- I know that the
9 Fish and Wildlife people can show some discretion. In
10 my case in particular out of Kaktovik there was a
11 trapper who took wolverine out of season and self
12 reported it. And we did not cite that individual, we
13 took the wolverine, ended up having it skinned and
14 mounted and it's coming back to the community of
15 Kaktovik next month to be used in the community school
16 for educational purposes. So, yes, officers do have
17 some discretion and when people come forward and it's a
18 legitimate accident in terms of take, yes, we can -- we
19 can be lenient. I know that for a fact because I'm the
20 one that did exactly that when I was an officer in
21 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

22
23 So I thank you for your comments.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Roy.

26
27 MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak. I'm going to
28 speak as Inupiat. And I want to thank you and the
29 Federal government because I've worked -- I've been
30 working with them for the past three years after a
31 lifetime of serving my people in different capacities.

32
33
34 Some of the issues that I have seen and
35 I'm glad that the constitution language is in there in
36 the beginning, that somehow by the time it reaches our
37 area and our recognition as tribes protected by the
38 Federal government it waters down. Everybody's got
39 their own interpretation of the law and the
40 constitution and the laws that -- the relationship, the
41 tribal to Federal government relationship that we have.
42 From watching (indiscernible) to our region, there's so
43 many interpretations that people attach to it and by
44 the time it comes to our region it's different. And I
45 hope that the laws that are intended for us that come
46 from Washington, D.C. won't be interpreted differently
47 through the State governments especially with funding.
48 It's always a joke that when we as tribes who are in a
49 sense because we live in untaxable Federal lands that

50

1 the Impact Aid that we get Federally recognized for our
2 people, by the time a dollar leaves Washington, D.C.,
3 by the time it reaches us it's like five cents because
4 everybody that's along the way get their share,
5 especially the State.

6
7 And somehow the reflection of receiving
8 Impact Aid or Federal funding that it comes -- a dollar
9 comes out, a dollar comes to our tribe. That's always
10 been the issue. And I don't know, it's -- by first
11 glance I need to find that. And it's a start. I don't
12 know whether this will be a living document now with
13 the tribes. We just need to be assured in the
14 financial. Like I've been with the school board for
15 over 20 years in my prior life and when we receive
16 Impact Aid for our students, Federally recognized tribe
17 students, and then by the time we get it it has to pass
18 through our local State government and North Slope
19 Borough and then when they receive it, when the State
20 government gives student funding with student count,
21 that Impact Aid is taken away from our students because
22 we receive it. And always to me that was always in my
23 mind illegal. That us, our students who are State
24 citizens, which are counted to receive funding because
25 we receive Impact Aid they take away our student count
26 money. And somehow it don't really help us, it just
27 goes to the State.

28
29 Those kind of issues could be addressed
30 immediately I think through this (indiscernible) that
31 sometimes happen.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you, Roy. And
36 you made a couple good points there, first of all that
37 this would become a living document and would not
38 become stagnant like it had been for 20 years. And
39 incorporated in this the tribes were pretty insistent
40 that this should be reviewed every three to five years
41 by the tribal entities as well as the Fish and Wildlife
42 to see whether we're being held accountable for what
43 we're saying we're going to do in these national
44 policies. So this is something that will be reviewed
45 with a tribal caucus periodically just to see how we're
46 doing. There's accountability that is built into this
47 from the national director all the way down to our
48 field staff in terms of their roles and
49 responsibilities. And that is in the back of the

50

1 document, the overall responsibilities. It starts from
2 the director down and it goes right on down to the
3 regional directors to the Refuge managers, to the field
4 staff. And so there is some accountability built into
5 it. This is Fish and Wildlife programs and so we don't
6 get involved in the school.....

7
8
9

MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

10 MR. TWITCHELL:funding
11 curriculum, but accountability was the second big thing
12 that the tribal caucus was wanting to ensure that it
13 was built into these documents. And so we've tried to
14 do that.

15
16
17

So those are good points you had.

18
19

MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

20
21

MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

22 MR. NAGEAK: What I saw when the
23 Federal government and State never before Alaska became
24 a State and the Federal government and we were at the
25 far reaches at the end of the nation and the freedom
26 that we have even though we were poor, we always had
27 food to eat and the freedom to hunt as we please just
28 by our ability to hunt and have that freedom a sense of
29 peace and serenity was always here. And as time change
30 and rules and regulations try to regulate the way of
31 life that we have, with the creation that god has made
32 with the animals and the earth and our spiritual
33 relationship with it, I thought that to me if I ever
34 lose it our people wouldn't have an identity. And to
35 me when I saw at first glance our identity as Inupiat
36 and trying to be forcefully assimilated and to be like
37 the greater society and not be Inupiat and lose your
38 identity, to me this will be one of the best things
39 that we will see that I could live peaceful as an
40 Inupiat in the lands and the seas that I grew up on and
41 then in the future my grandkids, I have 13 of them now
42 that I'm teaching ever since they were young and Ernest
43 is my son that work with the Federal Fish and Game. It
44 was his choice because he said I want to make sure that
45 my nephews and nieces, my grandkids will have the same
46 opportunity that he has. And now I think through these
47 that we will have the peace and serenity to hunt the
48 fish and wildlife as stated through this Native
49 American Policy. And I think the people that were

50

1 involved in making sure this -- this is bringing peace
2 to me for my grandkids.

3

4 Thank you very much.

5

6 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. As an
7 Alaska Native I consider this crucial and I'm really
8 happy that the agency at the national level, the Fish
9 and Wildlife, including the extremely strong support
10 we're getting from our Alaska regional director
11 regarding this policy. It's very encouraging to me, it
12 seems like we're making some positive movements here
13 internally in our relationship with Alaska Native
14 people.

15

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Go ahead,
17 Doreen.

18

19 MS. LAMPE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 Doreen Lampe for the record. I forgot to mention
21 regarding the Endangered Species Act and the costly
22 process to list species and then the cost to delist
23 species from the Endangered Species Act should be --
24 should be identified as a number. When you have
25 reached a sustainable population like the bowhead
26 whale, they reached almost 20,000, they should be
27 automatically delisted from the Endangered Species Act
28 so the North Slope Borough doesn't have to go out and
29 count whales every year while we could be building
30 houses. Every time you list a species we have to fight
31 it because we're fighting for our way of life, our
32 right to access these natural renewable species that
33 are becoming endangered or threatened not due to our
34 over hunting, no, due to other outside forces beyond a
35 hunter's control. And once you have identified a
36 sustainable number they should have an automatic
37 delisting procedure to delist those endangered species
38 or threatened species.

39

40 Personally I don't think 20,000 polar
41 bears is a threatened species population for the polar
42 bear. We weren't even consulted, we weren't even asked
43 what's a sustainable population for polar bears, what's
44 your annual harvest of polar bears. And we would like
45 to be notified before we become -- made criminals just
46 for taking an endangered species. Like my great uncle,
47 Percy (in Native), that one year they had three quotas
48 for Barrow in 1980 and they struck and lost how many
49 whales. And then my great uncle Percy, he said that

50

1 the elders told him to go and catch a whale, we need
2 the whale, they need it for their diet. So they got
3 one whale over the quota limit, he was banned from
4 whaling for 20 years and he went to jail for one year.
5 And we had to pay the price, the community, just for
6 Federal government saying they're endangered so they're
7 going to enforce some really strict, harsh penalties
8 for going over a quota. So they're good and healthy, I
9 mean, every report I've seen out of the North Slope
10 Borough Wildlife it's good for them, they really got
11 some good high numbers so there should be a procedure
12 for automatic delisting of endangered or threatened
13 species once they hit a certain number. And when they
14 did this presentation on the polar bear Chukchi they
15 couldn't even answer me what's a healthy population for
16 the polar bear, 50,000, 100,000, is there that many
17 seals in the world for them to sustain that high of a
18 number.

19
20 So we need a delisting process on the
21 Endangered Species Act that can just hit this number,
22 delist, Federal notice out, we don't have to quit
23 counting whales.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. I'll
28 definitely make sure that comment is in the process.
29 And I guess I would also say that the emperor goose is
30 being delisted and it's going to be available for
31 harvest. It's currently out on the Delta. So there is
32 a process, I don't know all the ins and outs of it, but
33 that was announced down in the YK Delta when I was
34 there. So there is means and methods on how a species
35 that are recovered enough where they can be opened
36 again for subsistence harvest.

37
38 MR. NAGEAK: One other clarification
39 that I need. Because currently the local State
40 government is dealing with a group that had made a --
41 an organization called Voice of the Arctic Inupiat
42 which is a State 403(4)(a) organization. And the
43 question now is that the Inupiat people have a voice
44 and it say Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and
45 every tribal organization is the voice of the Inupiat,
46 the tribe. And I hope that this further recognize that
47 the only voice for the people, the tribal people, are
48 their tribal organizations that's going to speak on
49 their behalf, no organizations that try to put a lot of
50

1 business organizations, city organizations speak for
2 our Inupiat people. I just want to make -- assure that
3 the tribe through their tribal organizations will be
4 the voice of the tribal people, the Inupiat, recognized
5 by the Federal government. I just need that assurance.
6

7 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes, and I think
8 there's other regions in this State where it's similar.
9 The Council of Athabascan Tribal Government, there's
10 tribes that can delegate their voice to a particular
11 Native organization that speaks on behalf of a
12 conglomerate of tribes.

13
14 MR. NAGEAK: But not State recognized
15 cities.

16
17 MR. TWITCHELL: Oh, no, unh-unh.

18
19 MR. NAGEAK: Or the corporations and
20 business corporations or subsidiaries.

21
22 MR. TWITCHELL: No, it needs to be
23 coming from the tribal governments themselves.....

24
25 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you very much.

26
27 MR. TWITCHELL:bringing together
28 in recognition that.....

29
30 MR. NAGEAK: And being together.

31
32 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. That this Native
33 organization can speak on their behalf, but it has to
34 be recognized by the tribes for that to stand. So, you
35 know, it's directed.....

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

38
39 MR. TWITCHELL:it directed just
40 towards those tribal organizations.

41
42 Well, this has taken a lot of time.
43 I'm interested in where the Council is interested to
44 go. Do you want to continue these discussions or
45 should we move on to the next topic?

46
47 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Council
48 members. Go ahead with Doreen there and then proceed.
49 I'm pretty sure we shouldn't be too long before we end
50

1 this meeting here.

2

3

Thank you.

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MS. LAMPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just one more concern on page 8 and it talks about ANILCA. It starts off on page 7 on the last sentence. The Service is committed to carrying out the purpose that Congress establish in title III of ANILCA for the Alaska National Wildlife Refuges to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity, to fulfill international fish and wildlife treaty obligations of the United States. When a tribe appoints a tribal representative to serve on the Alaska Nanuuq Commission the tribe does not give that one tribal representative the authority to make treaties with Russia. The Fish and Wildlife Service has to go back to the tribal government and talk with the tribal government that you are entering into a treaty with another foreign country and you would need to communicate that to the tribal government, the Inupiat government, that this is going to take effect, you're going to be impacted by quotas and the Fish and Wildlife troops are going to be enforcing these things. We were not consulted. We were all taken by shock in Nome in June, 2016 when the defunct Alaska Nanuuq Commission bankrupted, had two years of bad audit findings and the Fish and Wildlife could no longer honor their cooperative working agreement with the Alaska Nanuuq Commission because they had bad mismanagement in their administration. And they were not even consulting with their tribes on a treaty that was going to be signed with Russia and have real major implications to the tribes. So when tribes appoint a representative to a Commission that does not give that tribal representative the authority to enter into international treaties with foreign governments. The Fish and Wildlife Service needs to come back to the tribal governments that have these representatives and let that be known that they were -- they are or were or going to enter into an international agreement with another foreign company, corporation, government, whatever they are. But we were just all taken by shock on this and that's the belittlement of tribal sovereignty that is being diminished just be these types of policies where you want to appoint a tribal representative to serve on such and such commission, to monitor the population and the harvest levels. And then that should stop there. If you're going to go

1 into treaties with foreign governments come back and
2 work with the tribal government, not appointed tribal
3 representative serving a what, never ending term on a
4 commission that has no term limits.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you.
11 Is that all for you, are you done now, Hollis, or do
12 you have furthermore discussions on this item?

13
14 MR. TWITCHELL: No, I don't have. Just
15 make sure that the people understand that Crystal
16 Leonetti is the point of contact to receive these
17 comments and I'll make sure that I get transcripts from
18 Eva so that all these comments are going to be advanced
19 through that process. And certainly we're welcome to
20 entertain any comments in the future. This is not the
21 only time when people can submit their thoughts and
22 concerns.

23
24 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank
25 you, Hollis.

26
27 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay. Then I'll ask
28 just one question. Would you like me to say anything
29 regarding the special action that opened the Kongakut
30 River drainage to moose hunting?

31
32 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Sure, you
33 could go ahead with that. I'm pretty sure it will take
34 just a briefing.

35
36 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay.

37
38 MS. KIPPI: I just want to thank Roy
39 and Doreen for their comments, concerns and just thank
40 them for giving their comments. It's very good to have
41 that input.

42
43 Thank you. (In Native).

44
45 MR. TWITCHELL: I'll try to make this
46 much quicker. The last meeting Lee Kayotuk mentioned
47 that he would like to see at least an opportunity for
48 Kaktovik to get at least one or two moose in his area
49 for 20C. The map that I just handed out to you

50

1 represents the moose that were observed during -- for
2 our moose survey on the North Slope in 20C last April.
3 And it's a colored map, the dots that are blue
4 represent adult moose, the dots that are red represent
5 cows. You'll see there's double numbers in the box
6 next to those red cow observations. If it's -- the
7 second number is one that means there's one short
8 yearling calf associated with that cow, if you see a
9 number 2 after the red dotted one that means that there
10 were two calves observed with that cow.

11
12 The important thing is to see is the
13 distribution of where the moose were across that area
14 from the Canning River to the Canadian border. That
15 represents 20C area. There were 42 moose seen last
16 April, 37 of those moose were in the Kongakut River
17 drainage. And only five moose were seen all across the
18 rest of 20C on the North Slope. That is an increase
19 from the amount of moose that we saw last year. The
20 distribution was similar, having the highest
21 concentration the year before also in the Kongakut
22 River drainage. And speaking with our biologist and
23 speaking with the State biologist and with the tribal
24 council, we asked the tribal council if they would be
25 interested in having a limited moose hunt for bulls in
26 the Kongakut River drainage. This was offered up as a
27 result of Lee's inquiry about a limited moose hunt.
28 And even though we were below the management target of
29 50 moose before we'd allow a hunt, we felt that the
30 concentration of moose in the Kongakut River drainage,
31 that being 37 moose, could safely sustain a limited
32 hunt of two moose particularly if it was for bull moose
33 only.

34
35 We approached the tribal council and
36 held a meeting in the tribal council on the 19th of
37 January and asked for their advice on whether they
38 wanted to have a limited hunt in the Kongakut River
39 drainage and if so would -- what would be the dates
40 that they would like to see for that particular hunt,
41 winter hunt, and whether they had any objections to
42 having it limited to just a bull harvest only. The
43 decision was to go ahead and proceed and so through the
44 delegated authority that was passed to the Refuge
45 manager for doing special actions regarding moose in
46 unit 20B and C, the Refuge manager prepared a special
47 action request, advanced it to the OSM and we
48 incorporated that hunt which would be open on February
49 15th and would be open until April 15th. So it's
50

1 currently open at this time. Two moose permits have
2 been issued through a drawing permit that was managed
3 by the Native Village of Kaktovik in which they
4 announced locally for 15 days that there was going to
5 be an opportunity for this hunt and anyone of the
6 residents of Kaktovik could come in and apply for one
7 of the drawing permits for those moose. There were 17
8 applicants that submitted applications for this hunt.
9 The drawing occurred on February 10th and two names
10 were drawn. This whole drawing process was
11 administered by the tribal wildlife -- Native Village
12 of Kaktovik. People in attendance at that drawing was
13 Lee Kayotuk, first chief Edward Rexford, myself and the
14 administrative officer, Matthew Rexford. So that hunt
15 is ongoing now at this time. As Lee described the snow
16 conditions have been extremely marginal. So as -- to
17 my knowledge no hunters have traveled over across to
18 the Kongakut at this period of time. It continues to
19 be open until April 15th.

20
21 So if you have any questions I'll try
22 to answer those as well.

23
24 MR. NAGEAK: Who were the lucky
25 hunters?

26
27 MR. TWITCHELL: The names drawn were
28 Burt Acoochick, that was the first successful drawer,
29 followed by Walter Toorek, Jr.

30
31 Is that correct, Lee?

32
33 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Yeah.

34
35 MR. TWITCHELL: Yeah. So those were
36 the individuals. Matthew Rexford also has a designated
37 hunter permits. If either one of those hunters for
38 whatever reason are unable to travel over to do that
39 hunt then Matthew Rexford can issue a designated hunter
40 permit for that individual. And at this point I don't
41 believe anyone has received the designated hunting
42 permit.

43
44 And that's the end of my presentation.
45 We are going to do our annual moose survey again in
46 April, we do it the same time of year. The moose
47 habitats that are flown during that survey is
48 represented on all browse habitat in those drainages in
49 20C. Those are identified as those green shaded areas

50

1 on your map that shows where those moose were observed
2 at. That survey area is done every year the middle of
3 April.

4
5 With that is there's no other questions
6 I'm going to leave the rest of the topics that I
7 normally would have presented because your meeting
8 notebook starting on page -- starting on page 38 of
9 your meeting notebook has all the information on other
10 studies that have occurred on Arctic Refuge this last
11 year, including sections on the Porcupine caribou board
12 and the caribou movement throughout the range over the
13 course of the year. There's information in there on
14 muskox, dall sheep surveys that were conducted, common
15 eiders and vegetative studies as well as polar bear
16 viewing opportunities, some law enforcement aspects and
17 also the youth ambassadors that operate out of the
18 Kaktovik area. So that information is all there for
19 you in your meeting notebook. And if you have
20 questions you can either contact myself or someone on
21 the Refuge and we'll try to get you any additional
22 information you might need.

23
24 So with that.....

25
26 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
27 Hollis. Any Council members have any questions for
28 Hollis at this time?

29
30 MS. HUGO: I do briefly. There's
31 something in that draft I'm going to review, but I've
32 got a concern. I know that we are in the Gates of the
33 Arctic National Park and it so happens that my mother's
34 got a Native allotment which she never ever went to
35 summertime. And now that I inherited her allotment
36 I've been working with the Park Service with Marcy, but
37 I refuse to fill in all the application that is
38 required. I don't know -- I asked them how can we
39 change this and they got to do an act of Congress,
40 you've got to get -- you know. But I really would like
41 to go to my mother's allotment summertime. It's down --
42 40 miles down the trees and we can't -- we just have
43 to fill out this paperwork. And that's a bunch of
44 nonsense because my mother owns that allotment and
45 we're -- we can't get there. So it's really hard
46 because I would like to go see her allotment in the
47 summertime, let alone winter, we can drive there with
48 snowmachines.

49
50

1 MR. TWITCHELL: Is it a question on how
2 you can access it in the summer.....
3
4 MS. HUGO: Uh-huh.
5
6 MR. TWITCHELL:and is that the
7 permit that the NPS is asking for you to submit, is it
8 an access permit?
9
10 MS. HUGO: Yes, it is.
11
12 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay.
13
14 MS. HUGO: But I don't see why we
15 should be doing that if, you know, we own that
16 allotment.
17
18 MR. TWITCHELL: It's true Native
19 allotments whether they're on Refuge lands or on
20 National Park lands, those are privately owned parcels
21 and they have all the land rights of any private
22 property. ANILCA does provide reasonable access to in-
23 holders who have property such as yours. And so that
24 decision is by the NPS in terms of what would be
25 reasonable access for you to get there, particularly if
26 you're using an ATV to get there then they will have
27 some environmental concerns on potential impact, but
28 the decision with the agency to provide you reasonable
29 access to your property. That's the provision within
30 ANILCA. So, you know, they would need to adhere to
31 that, but that would be between yourself and the NPS as
32 to what that reasonable access may be.
33
34 MS. HUGO: Okay. Thank you.
35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Is there
37 anything else for Hollis or -- Council members?
38
39 (No comments)
40
41 MR. TWITCHELL: I just want to thank
42 you, I've learned a tremendous amount at this meeting
43 from your concerns, Wanda and Esther, about aircraft
44 use and your concerns about migratory movements being
45 impacted and affected. I've learned a tremendous
46 amount about -- from Gordon and others on the staff and
47 I do want to thank the audience here, Doreen and Roy,
48 for taking the time to bring so many informations
49 forward to us. It was greatly appreciated.
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
4 Hollis and Roy and Doreen for their -- to address, you
5 know, issues that are very important to the RAC and to
6 the village of each person where they're living is
7 really important for Fish and Wildlife to or Fish and
8 Game to, you know, bring issues that are throughout the
9 Slope that, you know, we try to address, to comment on
10 every summer and fall which, you know, is quite
11 extensive to bring up and forward to the public and
12 what goes on in this meetings.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 Steve, go ahead.

17
18 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, I -- we're
19 almost done. We're down to the last few things. So
20 Eva left me with a list of things to cover and we'll
21 get those done in short order I believe.

22
23 There's I think three more things on
24 the list and that's if we have any, and I don't believe
25 we do, have any tribal representation right now?
26 Tribal governments?

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MR. COGSWELL: So I can cross that one
31 off the list. The next thing on the list is BLM. So
32 we have an update from BLM.

33
34 MR. NAGEAK: I had left some paperwork
35 in regard to a report by BLM, Bureau of Land
36 Management, on the NPR-A. There's three pieces. Oil
37 is being found around Nuiqsut. (Indiscernible) and
38 ConocoPhillips are busy making a road to GMT-1 and at
39 the same time planning for next year's GMT-2. And
40 Caelus had found a major strike right in front of
41 Ikpikpuk on the west side of Lonely. And I think you
42 have heard too that on the State side 20 miles south of
43 Nuiqsut was a major find by Repsol. So they're
44 planning for NPR-A, BLM managed land, there was some
45 major leases that were done and planning for more
46 development. And if you just look at the report, I
47 just want to make it short. It's a written handout.
48 And there's things that are being done in NPR-A. Just
49 want to make sure. And there's two sheets that

50

1 recognize the NPR-A Working Group which was delegated
2 by former Department of the Interior Secretary that
3 will help on subsistence issues with the development
4 that is happening in NPR-A. And there's some
5 mitigation funds that will be made available to address
6 issues, but I think that is one item that the new
7 president and new leadership is looking at. We'll keep
8 an eye on that one.

9
10 But the NPR-A Working Group will be
11 involved and making sure that any impact on subsistence
12 hunting will be addressed and help the local people.
13 And I know that Nuiqsut has been helped a lot and
14 working along with the working group that is set and
15 very aware of our subsistence advisory panel fact
16 sheet. And when I look at all the meetings that that's
17 happened, aircraft, since day one of their meetings
18 since 19 -- since the creation of SAT in 1998, every
19 meeting they have they have concerns about the
20 aircraft. And I think the subsistence and the
21 proposals that could be made could be a future item for
22 proposal and controlling -- not really controlling, but
23 knowing where a lot of the aircrafts that go into our
24 region that impact the migration of the caribou. And
25 we heard it from you and we heard it from Council
26 members about the airplanes and Gordon and stuff that
27 need to be proposed to assure that the caribou herd are
28 not being impacted negatively.

29
30 And I thank you for the concerns. You
31 have the paperwork.

32
33 MS. KIPPI: I have a question. Did
34 they ever finish that marker route with the search and
35 rescue?

36
37 MR. NAGEAK: The one.....

38
39 MS. KIPPI: I heard.....

40
41 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.

42
43 MS. KIPPI:they were doing it
44 last (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

45
46 MR. NAGEAK: They were doing it, but
47 they started freezing.

48
49 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, they stopped at my
50

1 house.
2
3 MR. NAGEAK: So they're going to start
4 finishing it off.
5
6 MS. KIPPI: So how much do they have
7 left, is it the.....
8
9 MR. NAGEAK: To Wainwright, to Cook.
10
11 MS. KIPPI: They went through Atqasuk,
12 right, they got to go through Wainwright and Atqasuk,
13 they never finished.....
14
15 MR. NAGEAK: Yes.
16
17 MS. KIPPI:huh, they got to
18 finish the other half?
19
20 MR. NAGEAK: No, from Barrow they went
21 above (in Native) and then they just need to go from
22 (in Native) to Cook. Wainwright is the one that went
23 to Cook and then from there they'll go to Atqasuk I
24 think. I thought the one from Wainwright to Atqasuk
25 was done.
26
27 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, I think so because
28 they stopped at my house. They stayed there for a
29 while, that weather just got them stuck there for it
30 seems like a week or so.
31
32 MR. NAGEAK: Okay. And then from
33 Atqasuk to the road that will connect right around
34 (indiscernible) or someplace where it's flat.
35
36 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh.
37
38 MR. NAGEAK: They will
39 (indiscernible).....
40
41 MS. KIPPI: Yeah.
42
43 MR. NAGEAK: This summer.
44
45 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, interesting one.
46 Thank you.
47
48 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you. Any other
49 questions?
50

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
2 Roy. We'll get this information and bring it forward
3 to the right people and address it, you know, Eva
4 Patton and throughout the BLM working group and provide
5 this and get some feedback and just to where they stand
6 at this time.

7
8 Thank you, Roy, for your information.

9
10 MR. NAGEAK: They do have a monthly
11 meeting, the working group, but everybody's been so
12 busy traveling. And I believe a member from each
13 vehicle that are in the working group or the Native
14 corporation, the city and the tribes from each village
15 on the North Slope.

16
17 Any other questions?

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
24 Roy. Steve, where are we at now?

25
26 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, we have the
27 OSM update and I'm going to -- I'll hand out one -- I
28 don't know if you have it, but I'll hand it out to
29 Council members. I'm going to go through this really
30 fast. I am not going to read it, I'm just going to
31 talk about it. So this is the OSM update.

32
33 And first of all we lost one employee,
34 Ameer Howard. She's still in the region, she was our
35 policy coordinator. She went to be the Congressional
36 Affairs liaison in external affairs.

37
38 We have a new admin assistant, Hilary
39 Krieger. She's awesome, we love having her. She's a
40 very good addition to OSM.

41
42 Caron McKee was hired as our
43 subsistence outreach coordinator. Again another
44 outstanding employee, a good hire. She's getting all
45 our outreach materials, these nice books you have with
46 the covers and stuff, that's all her graphics and
47 stuff, I think they look really professional and she's
48 doing a great job.

49
50

1 After a year and a few months we have a
 2 new deputy assistant regional director. His name is
 3 Tom Doolittle. He'll be Gene Peltola's assistant. And
 4 he comes -- actually Gene Peltola was the Refuge
 5 manager at Yukon-Delta and Tom was his assistant
 6 manager. So he's coming back to Alaska. He went to
 7 Wisconsin, then he went to the Forest Service, now he's
 8 back with the Fish and Wildlife Service as the deputy.

9
 10 And I just want to say there's been a
 11 lot of changes at OSM and people shifted around. I
 12 want to give a big shout out thanks to Jennifer Hardin,
 13 she stepped up and was the acting fisheries division
 14 chief and did an amazing job, the FRMP, the regulatory
 15 cycle, just did an amazing job. I can't say enough
 16 about Jennifer and the job's she done.

17
 18 Another person who stepped up was
 19 Robbin LaVine. She stepped up as the anthropology
 20 division chief. This isn't in your notes, I'm just
 21 telling you this. I just want to -- I mean, I'm so
 22 thankful for these people that step up to the plate and
 23 do good work. Robbin stepped up and was our
 24 anthropology division chief and did an amazing job too.
 25 And Robbin's just a great person to work with.

26
 27 Let's see, I went through the MOU
 28 between the Board and the State yesterday and I still
 29 haven't got a -- I'll have to get back to you on an
 30 update for that. I did not receive a call back from
 31 the regulatory division.

32
 33 But I have two other things to update
 34 you on, one is the Nonrural Determination Policy. I'm
 35 just going to -- I will read this one because it's only
 36 a couple of sentences. It's on the backside.
 37 Following input from Regional Advisory Councils, public
 38 tribes and ANSCA corporations the Federal Subsistence
 39 Board formally adopted its Nonrural Determination
 40 Policy at the January, 2017 regulatory meeting in
 41 Anchorage. The policy now provides guidance for
 42 submission of proposals to change communities to rural
 43 or nonrural status, a decision making process and a
 44 timeline. The next call for proposals to change rural
 45 status of an area or community we announce with the
 46 call for Federal fisheries proposals in January of
 47 2018. So that happened at the Board meeting. So and
 48 that's been -- I think the Council's seen that many
 49 times over the past couple of years getting that done.

50

1 So we're -- I'm very thankful that's done.

2

3 So the next thing I'm going to is the
4 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program status update.
5 We had a call for proposals, I believe we received --
6 it closed in I think February, it was open for three
7 months, 90 days. I believe the North Slope put in -- I
8 think we got nine projects in. Those have to be
9 validated to make sure they're all legitimate projects,
10 but we have -- we received nine from the North Slope.
11 I think we received 54 total from across the State, 53
12 or 54. We're in the process of validating all those
13 right now in fisheries and anthropology. And we will
14 start the analysis of those, they are -- it's a
15 competitive process, just because you put in projects
16 does not mean you're going to get them. I think we get
17 funded -- oh, I think there's probably for each region
18 there's like two or three, you know, from zero to four
19 probably is the range of projects per region. There's
20 six regions and there's -- right now there's like
21 probably \$1.3 million. So there's not a lot of money,
22 it's about one of the lowest totals for the FRMP since
23 its inception. But we'll try -- I think we have a lot
24 of good proposals this year. So we'll hopefully get
25 some of those.

26

27 If you have any questions you can
28 contact me about that.

29

30 So any questions on that?

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. That ends the OSM
35 update. And so what we have left to do, Mr. Chair, we --
36 and these are.....

37

38 I'm sorry. Josh, do you have
39 something? Go ahead.

40

41 MR. REAM: Yes, just real briefly.
42 Hilary Robinson, the acting chief of resources at
43 Western Arctic National Parklands asked me to relay to
44 you that she's sorry that she couldn't be on the phone,
45 you had asked for updates on muskox and bears. I told
46 her that any print materials or Power Point
47 presentations that she can forward to me, I will make
48 sure that Eva gets them and forwards to your Council.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, the last
4 thing, it's an action item, is we have to confirm the
5 fall, 2017 meeting date and location. And that's a
6 motion and it's on page 141. And I believe it's the
7 North Slope Regional Advisory Council is meeting this
8 fall on August 24th and 25th in Wainwright.

9
10 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Steve, was
11 that the -- in Wainwright August 24 and 25 correct?

12
13 MR. COGSWELL: Yes.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Okay. Then
16 that'll be our fall meeting this fall?

17
18 MR. COGSWELL: Uh-huh.

19
20 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Okay.
21 Council members, did you get that right for August 24
22 and 25th the North Slope RAC will have their meeting in
23 Wainwright, 2017.

24
25 I'd like to amend this meeting into
26 Wainwright for August 24 and 25th of 2017 in
27 Wainwright, Alaska.

28
29 MS. HUGO: Second.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Seconded by
32 Esther.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: Question.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Question. We
37 would like to pass the meeting to August 24 and 25th in
38 Wainwright. At this time I would like for you guys to
39 say aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Any
44 questions?

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: We will pass
49 this at this time to have our 2017, August 24, 25

50

1 meeting in Wainwright at this time.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. COGSWELL: Okay, Mr. Chair. Now we
6 have to plan the winter, 2018 meeting. I'm going to
7 pass out this handout and that shows the available
8 dates. We can only put one or two meetings per week so
9 we have a window between February 5th and February 16.
10 So we have, you know, the week of February 6th and
11 February 12th and the week of February 26th that are
12 options. This is -- I think -- well, you and -- this
13 RAC and the Southeast Council are going on right now.
14 So I have to let them know what you choose so then they
15 have to choose something else. So you have to pick one
16 of the weeks without another -- with only one other --
17 you can't -- we can't triple up meetings.

18

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Let's see
20 what the Council -- I guess let's do this at this time.
21 If you would like to speak and pick your dates or you
22 think it's appropriate to have a meeting during one of
23 these months.

24

25 MS. KIPPI: Looks like the best time to
26 have the meeting is in between February 12 through the
27 16th, it's open. Either of those two dates during that
28 week.

29

30 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, I don't know
31 if you want to wait -- I mean, this is just a -- I
32 don't know if this matters or not, but February 14th is
33 kind of a day, I think.

34

35 MS. KIPPI: It's what?

36

37 MR. COGSWELL: It's a day.

38

39 MS. KIPPI: Oh.

40

41 MR. COGSWELL: Valentine's Day. I
42 don't know if people are avoiding that or not, but.....

43

44 MS. KIPPI: It's not a holiday.

45

46 MR. COGSWELL: I'm just throwing it out
47 there. I think that's why people are going to.....

48

49 MS. KIPPI: Just give them some

50

1 chocolate.
2
3 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Steve, yeah,
4 we would look I guess from February 12th to the 16th
5 and, you know, it's pretty open and other days are
6 pretty much in between full and not full, you know. We
7 can't have it on a Sunday I guess, you know, people
8 need to get here and Sunday, you know, Sunday being a
9 day off for everybody and we'll have it open between
10 February 12th to the 16th of 2018, February, March.

11
12 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, I'm
13 recommending the 13th and 14th or 14th and 15th.

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: What's the
16 Council's wishes?

17
18 MS. KIPPI: 13 and 14. Sooner the
19 better.

20
21 MS. HUGO: 13 and 14.

22
23 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: At this time
24 we'll have a Regional Council meeting February 13 and
25 14, 2018 at this time.

26
27 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. Now you just need
28 to make a motion to pass that.

29
30 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Making a
31 motion to attend the February 13 and 14 RAC meeting of
32 2018.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

35
36 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Steve, will
37 that be in Barrow?

38
39 MR. COGSWELL: Yes, it'll be in Barrow
40 because you're having one in Wainwright it'll probably
41 be back in the hub. I'm sorry, yes. Thank you, Tom
42 Evans.

43
44 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: So hearing
45 that we'll be having a meeting in Barrow during this
46 time I'd like to make a motion to continue this meeting
47 dates at this time if the Council wishes to pass this
48 on.

49
50

1 MS. KIPPI: Question. I called for
2 second already.

3
4 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Call for
5 question. The second's been called. We will have a
6 meeting February, 2018, February 13 and 14 in Barrow.
7 All in favor say aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Any opposed.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Hearing none,
16 the motion passes to have these two dates for the RAC
17 meeting, February 13 and 14 in Barrow, Alaska at this
18 time.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MR. COGSWELL: Okay. Mr. Chair, we
23 have just two things left on the agenda. The next one
24 is any closing comments by the Council.

25
26 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Does anybody
27 have any closing comments at this time?

28
29 MS. HUGO: I do. I know that
30 everybody's gone, I just want to apologize for, you
31 know, my -- I don't know what I should call it, but
32 it's something that came within.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Thank you for sticking with
37 us to the end.

38
39 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Thank you,
40 for, you know, all you guys at OSM and Fish and
41 Wildlife and the reporter and everybody that was here,
42 you know. It's a tough, strong week we had in a couple
43 days, you know. People just got to work together and
44 hopefully everything will work out throughout the
45 coming months.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. COGSWELL: All right. Mr. Chair,

50

1 the last thing we have to do is adjourn, but before we
2 do that I'd like to echo what the Chair had to say and
3 thank everybody that was here, Josh, Tom, Vince and Pat
4 and Lynn. Being on the Federal staff a lot of work
5 goes into these meeting from the production and there's
6 a lot of people back in the office that you've probably
7 never see that are behind the scenes. And I'd really
8 like to thank everyone from OSM, I mean, it's a great
9 place to work and a great mission to be a voice for the
10 folk here in rural Alaska.

11
12 Thanks everyone for sticking around
13 too.

14
15 So the last thing we need is a motion
16 to adjourn.

17
18 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Make a motion
19 to adjourn the meeting at this time.

20
21 MS. HUGO: Second.

22
23 MS. KIPPI: Question.

24
25 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Second's been
26 called, question's been called. All in favor signify
27 by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 ACTING CHAIRMAN KAYOTUK: Meeting
32 adjourned.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 16th day of March at Barrow, 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 1st day of April 2017.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18