

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Inupiat Heritage Center
Utqiagvik, Alaska
November 16, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 11/16/2017)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. Good morning. It's 9:00 o'clock and we're going to, you know, get out of yesterday's recess.

And maybe that are on line, if you could introduce yourselves so that we know who's on line.

MR. GORN: Tony Gorn, from the Department of Fish and Game in Nome, is with you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Tony.

MR. GORN: Good morning.

MR. BURCH: Mark Burch, also from the Department of Fish and Game, in Palmer.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Mark.

MS. OKADA: Hi. Good morning. This is Marcy Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Marcy.

All right. That seems to be -- anybody else on line.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And those that haven't introduced themselves from yesterday, it would be appropriate to introduce yourself and make yourself known for the record.

MR. CHEN: Good morning, Council Members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you.

1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Got to finish
4 chewing your cookie.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. PELTOLA: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
9 Council Members. Gene Peltola, Junior, Assistant
10 Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence
11 Management. Apologize for the mouth full of food.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

16

17 Any other people that haven't
18 introduced themselves to the Council.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

23

24 With that, Eva, if you could help us to
25 place us on our agenda.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Okay, Mr. Chair and
28 Council. So at the end of the day yesterday we got the
29 update from our Chair Gordon Brower has -- as the
30 director of the planning commission has to step out for
31 some portions.

32

33 REPORTER: Eva, closer to the mic.

34

35 MS. PATTON: So we.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Madame
38 Coordinator and Members of the Council. About 9:30 I
39 need to run out to the North Slope Borough assembly
40 chambers to attend to the North Slope Borough planning
41 commission. And we do have a few delegates over there
42 on an important topic over there with Deputy Commission
43 Mark Wiggins and other State officials that are
44 attending the planning commission that I need to get
45 some portions of that done and then I'll promptly
46 excuse myself from that and then come back over here.

47

48 So I've got to be at two places at.....

49

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the same time
4 today. So.....
5

6 MS. PATTON: Yeah. And so for the
7 Council, we -- we have quite a bit on the agenda and
8 our key action items for the Council addressing the
9 wildlife proposals.

10
11 And then discussing with our Chair this
12 morning, we were going to try to strategize. Council
13 Member Steve Oomituk is participating by teleconference
14 and anticipated he would be on this morning. That we
15 could with quorum available address some of the
16 crossover proposals that are specific to Point Hope.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think --
19 Madame Coordinator, I think that would be prudent.
20 It's going to be in and out with availability of the
21 Council members scurrying to and fro, so whenever we've
22 got a quorum I think we should try to do some of the
23 action items that need a quorum to facilitate that. So
24 we are.....
25

26 MS. PATTON: And we need a quorum for
27 all of the action items. The strategy would be to --
28 to address the Unit 23 crossover proposals that are
29 really specific to Point Hope. So it's either Point
30 Hope has C&T for hunting in that area or that, you
31 know, they are within Unit 23. And so they would be
32 the community most affected by that proposal.

33
34 And, again, Steve Oomituk anticipated
35 he would be on this morning. We.....
36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe we could take a
38 roll call, establish quorum.....
39

40 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and then take
43 that action.
44

45 MS. PATTON: Okay.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds like a plan.
48 Okay.
49

50

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1 Let's -- Wanda, if you could do roll
2 call, that way we can reestablish quorum today, this
3 morning.

4
5 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Good morning.
6
7 Gordon Brower.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

10
11 MS. KIPPI: Robert Shears.

12
13 (No comment)

14
15 MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi. Here.

16
17 Steve Oomituk.

18
19 (No comment)

20
21 MS. KIPPI: Ester Hugo.

22
23 MS. HUGO: Here.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Lee Kayotuk.

26
27 MR. KAYOTUK: Here.

28
29 MS. KIPPI: Kayotuk. Sorry.

30
31 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruk.

32
33 (No comment)

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
36 Rosemary was planning to be here this morning, as was
37 Robert. I know you had mentioned Robert needed to step
38 -- step out for the same brief period of -- of your
39 meeting, but we were anticipating Rosemary to be here
40 as well.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So Madame
43 Coordinator, would this constitute a quorum at this
44 point or do we need one additional person?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Currently the
47 Council membership is seven.....

48
49 MS. KIPPI: We have a quorum.

50

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1 MS. PATTON:so we need -- plus
2 one, which would be four Council members. But if you
3 step out and -- and Rosemary has not arrived yet, then
4 we -- we don't have quorum.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

7
8 Somebody just joined us. I wonder if
9 that's Steve.

10
11 MS. PATTON: The other option that we
12 discussed and we can check with Marcy Okada is that
13 we'd be able to receive a non-action item agency update
14 from Gates of the Arctic National Park. And that's
15 more specific to Ester Hugo and Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

16
17 Of course important information for the
18 whole Council, but if Marcy was interested or able to
19 provide those updates until we have our quorum here and
20 Steve to work on the Unit 23 proposals.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Madame
23 Coordinator and Members of the Council. I think since
24 we do not currently have a quorum that we maybe allow
25 Marcy to go ahead and do her presentation.

26
27 MS. PATTON: And Marcy, we'll just
28 check on line with you to see if you would be -- be
29 willing and able to do that at this time.

30
31 MS. OKADA: This is Marcy with the Park
32 Service. And I'd be able to give an update.

33
34 Should I go ahead and start?

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Let's just --
37 yeah. You have the floor, Marcy.

38
39 MS. OKADA: Okay, thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Sure. Just one moment,
44 please, Mr. Chair.

45
46 My apologies. We do have a quorum.

47
48 But you -- you anticipate to -- need to
49 leave at about 9:30, so we'll lose that quorum shortly

50

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1 in terms of taking care of business. So if Marcy is
2 willing at this time for that report, that would be
3 good.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And I
8 would -- you know, if we're taking up, like you said,
9 Unit 23 crossover proposal where Steve would need to be
10 instrumental in his dialogue because it's his -- it's
11 an area that affects his Point Hope area. So it would
12 be prudent for Steve to be able to say something on
13 that behalf.

14
15 All right, Marcy.

16
17 MS. OKADA: Okay. So I'll just provide
18 a quick update for Gates of the Arctic National Park
19 and Preserve.

20
21 On subsistence-related information, the
22 Park Service issued 13 fall subsistence sheep hunting
23 permits to residents in the community of Wiseman. And
24 no permits were issued in Bettles or Evansville.

25
26 Additionally, the Park Service
27 continues to work with the community of Anaktuvuk Pass
28 to collect sheep harvest information. And at this time
29 no Federal subsistence sheep hunting permits are issued
30 for that community. So we collect sheep harvest
31 information by just talking to the local hunters within
32 the community.

33
34 As you might have already known, Gates
35 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission met on
36 November 14th and 15th of this week. And Ester Hugo is
37 the newly appointed North Slope RAC and member
38 appointed to our commission. And she attended her
39 first meeting this past week.

40
41 We covered issues such as park
42 management and also shared wildlife research and
43 (indiscernible) activities, as well as the Ambler
44 Mining District Road.

45
46 Let's see.

47
48 Just quickly in regards to fire
49 management, there was just one lightening ignited fire

50

1 within Gates of the Arctic. And it was near Noorvik
2 Lake, which is in the southern portion, the Southern
3 Preserve Unit of Gates of the Arctic near the Kobuk --
4 the Upper Kobuk area. And the fire was ignited on June
5 27th and it was declared out on August 30th.

6
7 In relation to dall sheep harvest or
8 dall sheep surveys, the Park Service conduct distance
9 sampling surveys for dall sheep from July 5th to July
10 14th at the Itkillik and the Anaktuvuk areas, which is
11 in the northeastern portion of Gates of the Arctic.
12 These surveys have been conducted annually in the
13 Itkillik area 2009 to 2017. And in the Anaktuvuk area
14 surveys were conducted in 2009, 2010, and 2015 through
15 2017.

16
17 Preliminary results from the 2017
18 survey indicate continued low numbers of adult sheep in
19 both areas, adjusting that there have been little
20 recruitment of lambs into the population since the
21 2013, 2014 decline. Just to note, a similar trend was
22 seen in the Noatak National Preserve which was surveyed
23 in the same manner -- surveyed at the same time in this
24 past summer.

25
26 Park Service Staff also conducted field
27 work to collect sheep pellets for (indiscernible) in
28 March and April in the Anaktuvuk area. And then April
29 Itkillik area. These collections will be analyzed for
30 sheep genetics, diet, and health conditions.

31
32 A group of University of Alaska
33 Fairbanks students collected vegetation samples and
34 sheep pellets in the John and Itkillik River Valley in
35 June and July of this year. That study was led by a
36 graduate student working with a larger research group
37 studying changes in vegetation and snow conditions and
38 dall sheep habitat across Alaska and the Yukon
39 Territory in Canada.

40
41 Additionally, lung and liver samples
42 donated by local hunters were sent to laboratories for
43 health and trace mineral screenings. Information from
44 these analyses will contribute understanding some of
45 the factors that may be affecting dall sheep
46 populations in these areas.

47
48 And that lastly a recent study
49 investigating movement patterns of grizzly bears in
50

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1 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve has
2 found a strong link between salmon and grizzly bears.
3 To better understand this relationship, the Park
4 Service has been estimating the density and abundance
5 of bears using salmon streams within and along the
6 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

7
8 Three streams have been sampled over
9 the last two years -- Beaver Creek, Kugrak River and
10 the Iniakuk River. Park Service biologists used non-
11 invasive sampling techniques to collect bear hair
12 samples along salmon streams which can be used to
13 identify individual using genetic analysis.

14
15 This study is timely, in that, the
16 proposed Ambler Road is slated to bisect many of the
17 salmon streams in the Upper Koyukuk and Kobuk Rivers.
18 Understanding the relationship between salmon and bears
19 along the road corridor will provide managers with
20 information that will ultimately help reduce negative
21 impacts to bear populations from potential road
22 development and as well as mitigate human/bear
23 conflicts.

24
25 Does anyone have any questions at this
26 time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to
29 Marcy on the National Park Service.

30
31 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee, from Kaktovik,
34 go ahead.

35
36 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Marcy.
37 This is Lee with the Council. I'm seeing you had 199
38 ignited wildfires. Was that just ignited by the people
39 that made the fires or camping out? Or.....

40
41 MS. OKADA: So Council Member Kayotuk.
42 That 199 human ignited wildfires, that was Statewide.
43 And then 103 were lightning ignited fires. And so this
44 wasn't just within Gates of the Arctic, but it was the
45 Statewide count.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Marcy. This is
48 Gordon. Of those that were affected in the Park
49 Service within our Region, were those human affected or
50

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1 were those lightning strikes for the ones that could be
2 within the Park Service at -- that Anaktuvuk and those
3 folks are part of?
4

5 MS. OKADA: So Mr. Chair. If I'm
6 understanding your question correctly, you're asking if
7 the fire that did occur within Gates of the Arctic, did
8 it have any impact on Anaktuvuk Pass residents?
9

10 Is that correct?
11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. And I was trying
13 to follow the same train of thought that Lee from
14 Kaktovik had. Were they manmade or were they natural?
15

16 MS. OKADA: Oh, okay. So the one that
17 did occur within -- we just had one fire within Gates
18 of the Arctic and that was a lightning ignited fire.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
21

22 Any further questions to Marcy Okada
23 from National Park Service.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I would like to
28 acknowledge Rosemary has made it to the Council and is
29 present.
30

31 MS. OKADA: And Mr. Chair. If I could
32 provide -- quickly provide an Ambler Mining Road
33 update.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
36 Marcy.
37

38 Continue.
39

40 MS. OKADA: So the comment period for
41 the Ambler Mining District Road project has started.
42 And Gates of the Arctic National Park will be open to
43 comments. The comment period is open until the end of
44 January.
45

46 And I might have mentioned this at
47 previous meetings, but the Ambler Mining Road -- the
48 Park Service is only required to do an environment and
49 economic analysis. The Bureau of Land Management is
50

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1 the agency, the lead agency that will be conducting the
2 environmental impact statement for the entire road.

3
4 And so for the portion that's just
5 within Gates of the Arctic, the Southern Preserve Unit,
6 the Park Service would be doing an environmental impact
7 and -- environmental and economic analysis. And so
8 currently the comment period is open.

9
10 Tribal consultations and ANCSA
11 Corporation consultation started in March. We sent out
12 a letter to the Tribal Councils and that are in
13 communities. And we started to go take the broader
14 approach that are in communities that harvest from the
15 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And so Tribal
16 consultations have occurred for the North Slope Region,
17 face to face meetings have occurred within Point Hope
18 and teleconference Tribal consultation meetings
19 occurred with Nuiqsut and Wainwright and also Anaktuvuk
20 Pass. Those were the communities that showed interest
21 in consultation.

22
23 And I forgot to mention additionally
24 ICAS as well.

25
26 And so currently we're continuing to
27 reach out to the communities that harvest from the
28 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and contacting them to let
29 them know that the comment period is open until the end
30 of January.

31
32 And so that's just a brief update.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy, for
35 the update on the Ambler Mining District Road and the
36 EIS that's going on.

37
38 At this time, like I said earlier, I'm
39 going to need to be excused at 9:30. And I'm going to
40 hand the chair over to Vice-Chairman Lee Kayotuk. So
41 he can continue the meeting as the Vice-Chair.

42
43 And I'm hoping that Steve Oomituk will
44 be able to join and maintain a quorum to take a look at
45 those crossover proposals that may affect in Unit 23.

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. This is
48 Steve. I've been on for a few minutes. I know you
49 maybe may have heard me come on about five minutes ago.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Steve.
2 So we'll be able to maintain a quorum.

3
4 And I'm going to hand the Chair over to
5 Lee and attend to some other business. And as soon as
6 I'm free from that I will promptly return to continue
7 and join the Council.

8
9 So with that, I'm going to ask to be
10 excused, Mr. Chair.

11
12 MR. OOMITUK: And, you know, for the
13 record we had some people come into Point Hope talking
14 about the Ambler Mine. And that was very interesting
15 that they came and, you know, we're so far away but it
16 dealt with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So we were
17 very fortunate to meet with the Fish and Game for the
18 wildlife that had some concerns, they came to the
19 Native Village of Point Hope, and we had a good meeting
20 with them. And it was very interesting about this
21 road.

22
23 So just for the record.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
26 Steve.

27
28 And at this time we're continuing on
29 our agenda items. At this time, Eva, you could see
30 where we're at at this time?

31
32 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Steve.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 So we have -- with us this morning, we
37 have Lee Kayotuk and Wanda Kippi, Rosemary
38 Ahtuangaruak, and Ester Hugo who are joining us here.
39 And we discussed earlier, Gordon Brower and Robert
40 Shears needed to attend a planning meeting briefly this
41 morning and hope to return.

42
43 So, Steve, we are hoping to cover the
44 Unit 23 crossover proposal since those are most
45 relevant to Point Hope. And have your input on those
46 proposals. So we do have quorum this morning and we'll
47 start with those proposals here.

48
49 And I just want to go over the process.

50

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1 Now that we're starting with the regulatory proposals
2 for both Council members and public and everyone
3 attending. And we have new Council members here.
4

5 So on the back of your name cards you
6 will see the procedures for the presentation and
7 discussion on the proposals. There's also a card up
8 front and one here on the table for the folks attending
9 the meeting.
10

11 We start with an introduction and
12 presentation of the proposals. And we have our
13 biologists and analysts, anthropologists that have
14 worked on those analyses, so the Council will get a
15 full, detailed report on the analysis for each
16 proposal. And then we report on the Board
17 consultations, which are the ANCSA and tribal
18 consultations that were conducted prior to this meeting
19 with the Board. And then we have agency comments.
20

21 And so we have ADF&G Staff here and on
22 line. We have our Federal managers and biologists
23 here. And also if there's Native tribal or village
24 entities both attending here in person or on
25 teleconference. And then we go to the other groups
26 that have also reviewed this.
27

28 So Ester, you know, participated with
29 the SRC meetings, so we do have SRC comments on many of
30 these proposals. And we also look to see if there's
31 AC's that have also commented.
32

33 And then all the other Regional
34 Advisory Councils have already met. And so there are
35 several Councils that have also taken action on most of
36 these proposals and we'll provide that information for
37 the Council.
38

39 We have a summary of written public
40 comments and then we have an opportunity for public
41 testimony. And if members of the public would like to
42 address the Council specific to the proposal -- if you
43 have information or recommendations, your own
44 observations that you would like to share with the
45 Council regarding the proposal specifically, up at the
46 front desk, there by the sign-in sheet we have these
47 little, blue forms. So if you would like to address
48 the Council on one of these proposals, you can fill out
49 a form and just bring that up to me. And that way we
50

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1 make sure we get opportunity for public to comment on
2 the proposals.

3
4 And we'll have the Regional Advisory
5 Council recommendation and discussion. And the
6 Council's discussion, your observations, feedback.
7 Recommendations is what's really critical in
8 determining how you would like to make your
9 recommendation to the Board.

10
11 And when we make a recommendation -- so
12 we can oppose, support, support with modification or
13 defer to the home Region. So for example, some of
14 those crossover proposals, if you feel it's not so
15 relevant to the Council, you can defer or take no
16 action.

17
18 We want to make the motion in the
19 positive. So that even if your intent to oppose, say I
20 make a motion to support this proposal and for these
21 reasons so that we have a full justification on the
22 record. And that's what the Board is looking for. Is
23 your feedback, your knowledge, your observations, and
24 your recommendations to the Council for that support or
25 opposition of the proposal.

26
27 And so we want to make the motion in
28 the positive. I move to support. So that if you do
29 oppose it, you could say I move to support and I oppose
30 this proposal for these reasons. And then it makes it
31 clear that when you're voting no, you're voting to
32 oppose.

33
34 And then we have the opportunity for
35 the discussion and justification from the Council. So
36 really looking for full feedback in that way.

37
38 So any questions. I know we've got a
39 number of new Council members here.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.

44
45 And any questions for you, Steve?

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: No. I make a motion to
48 approve.

49
50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Okay. Then we'll move on.

4

5 And again we're going to start with the
6 Unit 23 proposals, which are listed under the crossover
7 proposals in your agenda.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you. (In
10 Inupiaq) We'll get started with WP18-57. I'm sorry.
11 WP18-41/42 on the Moose Unit 23, modifying the season
12 dates, sex restrictions, hunt areas, establish a bull
13 hunt and winter hunt at this time.

14

15 (In Inupiaq)

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice-
20 Chair. Good morning, members of the Council. For the
21 record, my name is Megan Klosterman and I am a wildlife
22 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

23

24 I will be reviewing WP18-41/42, which
25 can be found on page 219 of your meeting materials.

26

27 The proponent of WP18-41 was the
28 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
29 who requested that the moose season be modified through
30 Unit 23 to a two-month cow season of November 1st
31 through December 31st. The bull season be shortened by
32 three months from July or August 1st through March 31st
33 to July or August 1st through December 31st. And the
34 Federal and State hunt areas be aligned.

35

36 The proponent of WP18-42 was Louis
37 Cusack of Chugiak, Alaska, who requests that the moose
38 seasons be modified throughout Unit 23 to include a
39 winter any moose Federal registration permit hunt with
40 a harvest quota aimed at reducing total cow harvest by
41 20 percent, and that the harvest be modified from one
42 moose to one bull during the rest of the season.

43

44 At the January 2017 Alaska Board of
45 Game meeting, the antlerless moose season in Unit 23
46 was modified to a bag limit of one antlered moose due
47 to conservation concerns. At the March 2017 Northwest
48 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council public
49 meeting, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

50

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1 mentioned that the non-resident moose hunt was canceled
2 for the current regulatory year due to conservation
3 concern.
4

5 In April of 2017, the Federal
6 Subsistence Board rejected temporary special action
7 WSA17-02, which Tom Evans mentioned earlier, which
8 requested the Federal lands in Unit 23 be closed to all
9 non-federally-qualified users for moose harvest during
10 the 2017/2018 regulatory year.
11

12 The current moose population of Unit 23
13 is estimated at 7,500 moose, which is below the overall
14 population goal of 8,100 to 10,000 moose for Unit 23.
15 The most recent data which was collected between 2010
16 and 2016 shows adult moose densities in Unit 23 ranging
17 from 0.03 to 0.44 moose per square mile. And recent
18 calf/cow ratios ranged from 4 to 24 calves per 100
19 cows, depending on the survey area.
20

21 New data was recently made available
22 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the
23 National Park Service, who were able to complete a
24 spring 2017 count survey in the Lower Kobuk/Squirrel
25 River survey area. In this survey area the recent data
26 indicated a 47 percent decline in moose estimates from
27 2,546 total moose in 2012 to 1,346 total moose in 2017
28 in the Lower Kobuk/Squirrel River survey area. This
29 data has not yet been incorporated into the overall
30 population estimate for Unit 23 however.
31

32 According to harvest reports, 165
33 moose, 144 of which were bulls and 21 cows, were
34 harvested in Unit 23 in 2015. 85 of these were taken
35 by local resident users in 2015. Community household
36 surveys show that harvest reporting among local users
37 in Unit 23 is generally low. And after reviewing
38 community household surveys, ADF&G estimated that
39 approximately 300 moose are harvested annually in Unit
40 23.
41

42 So the moose population is in decline
43 across most of Unit 23. These proposals could reduce
44 overall harvest by shortening the moose season and
45 reducing the harvest of cows which are key to
46 population growth. Creation and enforcement of a
47 Federal registration permit could provide more accurate
48 harvest reporting among federally-qualified subsistence
49 users in Unit 23, who are estimated to be responsible
50

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1 for as much as 73 percent of the moose harvest in the
2 unit. But it could also lead to greater confusion and
3 an additional decrease in the harvest reporting.
4

5 It may be worth considering eliminating
6 the antlerless season and changing the overall harvest
7 limit to one antlered bull. This would simplify
8 regulations and could aid in conserving cow moose which
9 are essential to maintaining a healthy moose
10 population.
11

12 This modification would result in
13 additional reduction of harvest opportunity to
14 federally-qualified subsistence users and therefore
15 further discussion with relevant Councils and the
16 public would be warranted.
17

18 So as of right now, the OSM preliminary
19 conclusion is to support Proposal WP18-41, with
20 modification to change the harvest limit to one
21 antlered bull, July 1st or August 1st through December
22 31st, and create a November 1st through December 31st
23 antlerless season by Federal registration permit and
24 delegate authority to the Federal land manager to
25 determine quotas and to close the season via a
26 delegation of authority letter and take no action on
27 Proposal WP18-42.
28

29 Changing to antler bull and antlerless
30 moose seasons rather than bull and cow seasons helps to
31 reduce the risk of inadvertent cow harvest outside of
32 the antlerless season. And limiting the antlerless
33 moose harvest to a two-month season and determining a
34 quota could limit the harvest of antlerless moose and
35 aid in increasing the moose population in the unit.
36

37 Combining Federal hunt areas to align
38 with State hunt areas would reduce user confusion in
39 Unit 23. However, if this modification was supported,
40 we would need to discuss who would receive this
41 delegation of authority.
42

43 Thank you, Council.
44

45 And I'm available for questions.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
48 Megan, for that.
49
50

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1 So how about we go through this Eva.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
4 Maybe we could just check on line with Steve Oomituk
5 and see if he has any questions on the information and
6 analysis that was just presented.

7

8 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I was having
9 trouble trying to get my phone off the mute, it keeps
10 going to mute.

11

12 Yeah. This is Steve Oomituk, for the
13 record. Yeah. Now, you said, bring the hunting
14 (indiscernible) for non-residents, residential people
15 in Unit 23, what about the non-residents, you know, is
16 there a (indiscernible) non-residents, are their
17 numbers going to be the same for harvest, is just the
18 local people going to be cut down, I didn't quite hear
19 on that part.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
22 Maybe we can just try to reiterate what you're asking
23 here. It was a little hard to hear. I think you're
24 asking if this proposal would just restrict Federally-
25 qualified subsistence users or if it applies to non-
26 residents as well.

27

28 And Megan can respond again to you on
29 that one.

30

31 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Through the Vice-
32 Chair.

33

34 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. Yes.

35

36 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Steve, is that what
37 you were asking?

38

39 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. That's what I'm
40 asking. I'm having a hard time hearing. I keep
41 getting cut off, there's a bunch of beeping going on.
42 Either people coming on or going off on line.

43

44 MS. KLOSTERMAN: Okay. This proposal
45 would specifically impact Federally-qualified
46 subsistence users on Federal public lands. But the
47 Board of Game, with the State, has also -- they have
48 limited harvest opportunity for moose within Unit 23
49 for all non-local residents and non-residents.

50

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1 They actually did away with the non-
2 resident moose harvest for the current regulatory year
3 and limited all other users to just one antlered moose
4 due to conservation concerns. So they have reduced
5 harvest on their side. And this specific proposal
6 would be just for federally-qualified subsistence users
7 on Federal public lands.

8
9 Does that answer your question?

10
11 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. You know, being
12 from Point Hope, we don't normally harvest moose.
13 We're not, you know, the other communities but Point
14 Hope people -- anytime we see moose in our area then
15 they're forest fires or when they come into Point Hope,
16 out of moose season and several hunters got in trouble
17 for catching moose and we don't hardly see any in our
18 area, and if we do see any (indiscernible) if we do
19 harvest any, they'd get in trouble, you know,
20 (indiscernible) back in the days, in the early '80s,
21 and there's several of us (indiscernible) we usually
22 don't see moose in our area. I don't know what other
23 Council members have to say. They don't normally
24 harvest moose.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

27
28 And as we had discussed in the
29 introduction to the proposals, if the Council feels --
30 or if you feel specifically for Point Hope that this
31 action is most relevant to the Council Region in which
32 it was proposed, the Council can defer action to the
33 home Region essentially. And that way they're making
34 the recommendation.

35
36 But it is up to the Council and your
37 feedback specifically, Steve, is very important because
38 of the relationship with Point Hope in Unit 23 there.

39
40 So that is an option for the Council,
41 as well as to defer to the home Region. Take no action
42 and defer to the Home Region.

43
44 MR. OOMITUK: Well, if there's no
45 objection, I make a motion to approve.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
48 we still have some other information to provide.

49
50

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1 So we go through the process and then
2 the Council takes action after we hear from the agency
3 reports and the other Region. So we still hear through
4 the process here and then take action.

5
6 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. All right. Sorry
7 about that.

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Steve, I've got a
10 question. This is Rosemary. Would Point Hope users --
11 if they had access to an animal near your community in
12 the allowable hunting times access the -- would they
13 try to harvest that animal?

14
15 MR. OOMITUK: You know, Point Hope
16 people don't -- like I said, they don't go after moose
17 very -- at all. And that's because if we don't see
18 them unless there's a fire and they come -- and that's
19 usually in July -- you know, in June or July. And it's
20 not a moose season. Very rarely Point Hope people
21 harvest moose. They might once in a while but the
22 village would share them if the moose were offered in
23 Point Hope.

24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. Thank
26 you, Steve.

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: They don't come in our
29 area very often, they're far away from Point Hope. We
30 have to go a long ways to get a moose sometimes.

31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

33
34 MS. HUGO: Just a quick question. I
35 see it's -- there's a lot of villages involved besides
36 Point Hope down in the NANA Region. Are they in favor
37 or in support of this proposal.

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: They're going to
40 tell us in this here.

41
42 MS. HUGO: Oh, okay.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Thank
45 you, Ester, for that question.

46
47 Yeah. And so that's part of our
48 process here. And that's why we want to go through the
49 full process before the Council makes a recommendation.

50

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1 Is that we hear from the other Council regions. And
2 also if there's any tribes that have commented -- or
3 SRCs. So we'll get to some of those comments here
4 shortly.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

7
8 At this time we'll continue our -- at
9 this time with this WP in Unit 23.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Okay, Mr. Chair.

12
13 If there are no other.....

14
15 REPORTER: You need to speak closer to
16 the mic.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Sorry. Hold it up.

19
20 REPORTER: Speak up.

21
22 MS. PATTON: So Mr. Chair and Council.
23 If there are no other questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MS. PATTON: At this time then we'll go
28 on to number two on our presentation procedure, which
29 is report on Board consultations.

30
31 And again there was a consultation held
32 via teleconference for tribes and Alaska Native
33 Corporations within the Region of this proposal in Unit
34 23. And we did not get any specific comments on this
35 proposal during that consultation.

36
37 And so we can go on next to the agency
38 comments, under number three.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Morning again.
41 Okay. We're going to follow up on the agency comments.

42
43 ADF&G, Federal agencies, Native,
44 tribal, village, other agencies, Staff committee.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
47 have ADF&G Staff here that will speak to Department of
48 Fish and Game.

49
50

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1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning. This is
2 Ryan Klimstra, with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 For Proposal 41, there's been, you
5 know, just really widespread moose decline in Unit 23.
6 And because of that -- and also because that we support
7 consistency between State and Federal regulations and
8 we don't feel that there's any antlerless harvest
9 warranted at this time, we oppose Proposal 41.

10
11 And -- yes -- thank you.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

14
15 And we're down to our Federal agencies.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. PATTON: Just checking in with
20 folks who've joined us on teleconference. Do we have
21 any Federal agencies on teleconference that wanted to
22 comment on Proposal 41/42.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. Do we
27 have any native, tribal, village at this time.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 MS. PATTON: And again Through the
32 Chair. We'll check on teleconference to see if we have
33 any tribal or community representatives that are
34 calling in on teleconference that would like to
35 comment.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: This is Ryan Klimstra,
40 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game again.

41
42 And the State has the same position for
43 Proposal 42 as well, due to the widespread, you know,
44 moose decline and previous reasons stated.

45
46 So thanks. I just wanted to make sure
47 that was clear.

48
49 MS. PATTON: We'll just check in again

50

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1 to make sure if we have any Native, tribal, village or
2 other community representatives from the Region who
3 have joined us on teleconference that would like to
4 comment on this moose proposal.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MS. PATTON: Okay.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you. Do
11 we have any ISC State committee.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
14 Actually, this is one thing that we did take off our
15 list. The ISC doesn't have recommendations at this
16 time. They make a recommendation after the Councils
17 have all met to the Board. So we can cross ISC off
18 that list at this time.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

21
22 And let's see. Do we have any advisory
23 group comments, other regional council, Fish and Game
24 advisory committees, subsistence resource commissions.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
27 This proposal is relevant to the Northwest Arctic
28 Council within Unit 23 and the North Slope Council.
29 The Northwest Arctic Council has met already and they
30 took action on this proposal, voting to support WP18-
31 41, as written, and take no action on Wildlife Proposal
32 18-42.

33
34 And that is often common when we get --
35 when these two proposals are very similar. And so they
36 get analyzed together and presented together. And
37 taking action on one essentially covers the other one.

38
39 And so that's what happened in this
40 case. Is the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
41 Council supported 18-41 and then took no action on
42 WP18-42.

43
44 We also had comments -- I'm sorry, Mr.
45 Chair. No Fish and Game advisory committee comments
46 that were submitted to us. I don't know if we have any
47 Fish and Game AC's that are on line who'd like to
48 comment.

49
50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: We do have Gates of the
4 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission, which had met
5 earlier this summer and then again this week. And they
6 did take action. They reviewed the Federal subsistence
7 proposals and took action on WP18-41. And they are in
8 support of this proposal. And noting that in the Upper
9 Kobuk the bulls enter rut around the middle part of
10 September and no local rural users will shoot a bull
11 after that. But it still allows for a bull season after
12 they come out of rut.

13

14 And then they did -- similarly had no
15 comments for WP18-42 since it was covered by 41.

16

17 And that's it for the advisory group
18 comments.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

21

22 We're down to a summary of written
23 public comments.

24

25 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.
26 There were no written public comments submitted for
27 this proposal.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

30

31 What's next. Public testimony.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 And again we want to check in on teleconference in
35 particular because -- primarily for Point Hope Region
36 and -- and Unit 23. If we have any public on line that
37 would like to comment on this proposal.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. PATTON: Nope.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

44

45 And at this time we No. 7 Regional
46 Council recommendation motion to adopt.

47

48 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.
49 Steve.....

50

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1 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. This is Steve.

2

3 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Yeah.

4

5 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the
6 record, this is Steve. I make a motion to adopt as
7 presented.

8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I second that. This
10 is Rosemary.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Call for
13 question.

14

15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: First I wanted to
16 recognize that I support the Northwest Arctic support
17 of 18-41 and also I support their no action on 18-42.
18 I also recognize the support from the Subsistence
19 Resource Commission in support of this and recognize
20 the communications from Point Hope and their support of
21 this. And recognize their limited reaction to this
22 because of the way that they use their lands and waters
23 and this resource.

24

25 So thank you.

26

27 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
28 Rosemary.

29

30 Is there a all for question at this
31 time.

32

33 MR. OOMITUK: Question called for.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
36 we could please restate the motion on the record.

37

38 Again, we're addressing two proposals
39 here, 41 and 42. If you're taking action on Proposal
40 41.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

43

44 And we'll continue on this motion to
45 carry this action at 18-41.

46

47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Steve, did you agree
48 with the way that I had.....

49

50

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1 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. Yes, I did. Yes, I
2 do agree. Taking action on 41 and what was the point
3 by the other -- especially with Northwest Arctic.
4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So restating it.
6 The North Slope Regional Advisory Council is in support
7 of Wildlife Proposal 18-41 and chooses no action on 18-
8 42. And stating the support from the discussion before
9 supporting the Northwest Regional Advisory Council, as
10 well as the recommendations from the Subsistence
11 Resource Commission and the community of Point Hope's
12 concern in support of this proposal.
13

14 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I agree with that
15 also.
16

17 And with that I call for question.
18

19 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Question's been
20 called on 18-41, supporting WP-42 at this time.
21 Signify by saying aye.
22

23 IN UNISON: Aye.
24

25 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you for
26 this support of 18-41, supporting the WP42 and 41 -- at
27 this time we'll continue on to 18-42 proposal.
28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We did 18-41 and 18-
30 42. By supporting the action -- the proposal of 41,
31 we're recognizing that we choose no action on 42. And
32 that's what we just voted on.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
35 Rosemary.
36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And motion
38 passes with five in support and two absent.
39

40 Thank you.
41

42 Okay. And then we'll move on to our
43 next Unit 23 area proposal.
44

45 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
46

47 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you. Go
48 ahead, there.
49
50

1 MR. EVANS: Members of the Council.
2 For the record, my name is Tom Evans. I work with OSM.
3 I'll be doing the presentation for WP18-43. That could
4 be found on page 254 of your Council book.
5

6 Proposal 18-42 was submitted by the
7 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
8 and it requests that the Unit 23 brown bear harvest
9 limit be increased from one to three bears and that the
10 season be extended to year-round.
11

12 The proponent believed that there was
13 an overabundance of brown bears in Unit 23 and the
14 proposed changes would reduce bear/human conflicts and
15 disturbance to migrating caribou.
16

17 Proposal 18-44, which will come up
18 next, requests that two raw, untanned brown bear hides
19 with claws attached and/or skulls from brown bears
20 harvested on Federal public lands in Unit 23 could be
21 sold per regulatory year. The decision on WP18-44
22 could have ramifications on this proposal; i.e.,
23 through permanent requirements.
24

25 The biological information and
26 population trends for brown bears in Unit 23 is mostly
27 lacking. Thus, the available information, which is
28 limited, suggests that the brown bear population is
29 stable or increasing. And that may not be occurring in
30 the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.
31

32 The State management objective is to
33 maintain a population that sustains a three-year annual
34 reported harvest greater than 50 percent male. And
35 this is important as adult females are the most
36 important segment of the population, as with most
37 bears. Bears, you know, reproduce and keep their young
38 for two or three years. So they don't reproduce very
39 quickly.
40

41 Brown bears in northern populations
42 require large home ranges and thus occur typically in
43 low densities. In general, the brown bear density is
44 related to food availability.
45

46 Brown bears are a case selected
47 species, meaning that they typically occur in
48 relatively stable environments and occur at or near the
49 carrying capacity in the environment are long lived and
50

1 have extensive parental care, but produce relatively
2 few offspring to survive to adulthood. Thus, it takes
3 a long time for a population to recover if they're
4 over-hunted.

5
6 For example, over-harvesting may
7 already be occurring within the accessible areas within
8 the Gates of the Arctic. Given that the brown bear
9 density is low within GAR -- within Gates of the Arctic
10 -- even low levels of harvest may impact that
11 population.

12
13 Brown bears are a highly respected and
14 utilized subsistence resource in Northwest Alaska. And
15 they may provide food when other large land mammals are
16 not available. Bears are predominantly harvested
17 during the spring and fall. They are rarely hunted
18 during the summer because they are lean, their hides
19 are of lesser quality, and they are considered more
20 dangerous.

21
22 Local hunters rarely take bears in
23 defense of life and property as the process is onerous
24 and the hunters fear that they have broken the law.
25 Rather, nuisance bears are more often killed and not
26 reported, but their meat is often utilized.

27
28 From 1990 to 2016, the annual harvest
29 of brown bears in Unit 23 was 50 bears. Unit 23
30 residents have reported 14 brown bear harvests per year
31 on average; however, when unreported harvests are
32 included, Unit 23 residents have harvested an estimated
33 20 to 30 brown bears per year. Approximately 71
34 percent of the bears harvested are by non-local
35 residents and non-residents.

36
37 The biological impacts of increasing
38 the harvest limit for brown bear populations in Unit 23
39 is unknown due to the unreported harvests and the lack
40 of population data. Over-harvesting may already be
41 occurring like within the Gates of the Arctic National
42 Park and Preserve.

43
44 One alternative that was considered for
45 this proposal was to increase the harvest limit to two
46 bears versus three bears due to the uncertainties about
47 the brown bear populations and harvest. Given the lack
48 of reliable population data and that brown bears are
49 slow to recover from over-harvest, a more conservative
50

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1 approach may be warranted.

2

3

4 A two bear harvest limit would be
5 consistent with the State regulations and thus reduce
6 user confusion. Increasing the harvest limit as
7 requested by the proponent would give more opportunity
8 for federally-qualified subsistence users through the
9 increase in the harvest limit and the season extension.

10

11 For changes to the brown bear harvest
12 regulation on Federal public lands in Unit 23 to be
13 adopted, the State would need to agree to allow
14 federally-qualified users to use a State registration
15 permit with a season and harvest limits that differ
16 from the existing State regulations. Additionally, and
17 some action on WP18-44 may influence the outcome of
18 this proposal.

19

20 As all edible meat must be salvaged and
21 two bears can already be harvested under the State
22 regulations, an increase in the Federal harvest limit
23 is not expected to result in a substantial increase in
24 the harvest. Similarly, as bears are traditionally
25 harvested in the spring or fall, few bears are expected
26 to be harvested during the extended season in June and
27 July.

28

29 A year-round season harvest limit may
30 increase reporting of bears taken, especially defense
31 of life and property bears, which requires submitting a
32 hide and skull to the State. This proposal only
33 applies to federally-qualified subsistence users, which
34 comprise only 28 percent of the reported harvest and an
35 unknown portion of the total harvest.

36

37 There may be conservation concerns
38 given the uncertainties of brown bear populations and
39 harvest in Unit 23. In addition, a three bear harvest
40 limit would be the highest in the State.

41

42 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
43 support Proposal WP18-43, with modification to increase
44 the harvest limit to two bears per year by State
45 registration permit.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 And I'll open it to questions.

50

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1 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. This is
2 Steve here.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

5
6 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. We keep getting
7 cut off. But I would be in support of this proposal. I
8 don't know if we're going to be hearing more comments
9 or anything, you know, the abundance of brown bears in
10 our areas is just -- is at the high rate also. I know
11 -- like what he says, you know, we do eat the meat but
12 very rarely sometimes, but other people might. I
13 haven't caught a brown bear in years. I've heard of
14 some people in Point Hope catching them. But I know
15 the abundance of bears is visible, you know, they're
16 starting to come in closer to town.

17
18 But I don't know if we're going to hear
19 more testimony on this before we make any motions
20 or.....

21
22 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Yes,
23 Steve. Thank you for your observations and comments.

24
25 And so if there are no questions, then
26 we'll continue on. We'll here again all the
27 consultations and the agency comments, as well as
28 public comments and written comments.

29
30 So are there any other questions for
31 the analyst on this.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Not at this
36 time.

37
38 Eva, should be continue on with the
39 WP18-43 for the Unit 23?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
42 Again we did hold both tribal consultation and ANCSA
43 consultation with the Board prior to this meeting. We
44 did not get any comments specific to this proposal from
45 tribes or ANCSA consultation.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

48
49 Number three. Do we have any agency
50

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1 comments or ADF [sic]. Federal ADF [sic].

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Hi. This is Ryan
4 Klimstra, Alaska Department of Fish and Game again.

5

6 And for Proposal 43, we do support as
7 modified by OSM. This does align with the State
8 regulations, which we really appreciate the consistency
9 there.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That modification
14 was reducing from three to two?

15

16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes.

17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. Thank
19 you.

20

21 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes. That's correct,
22 Rosemary.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Ryan.

27

28 At this time, do we have any Federal
29 agencies at this time.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Just
34 checking on line to see if we have any Federal agencies
35 who would like to comment on WP14 -- I'm sorry -- 18-
36 43. And this is regarding bear harvest.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. PATTON: No.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

43

44 If there's none, we'll move down to
45 Native, tribal, village, and other.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. And

50

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1 again we'll check on line to see if we have any tribal
2 representatives, village representatives.

3
4 We have a tribal representative here in
5 Barrow.

6
7 MR. EDWARDSON: This is George
8 Edwardson with ICAS.

9
10 Just had a question for you. You were
11 talking about, you know, quotas for killing brown
12 bears. What do you do with those half breeds? The
13 polar bears and brown bears. They've been
14 interbreeding and you can tell the difference between
15 the regular polar bear and the half breed. Do you
16 treat them as brown bears? Can I harvest a half breed
17 polar bear as a brown bear?

18
19 That's the question I have for you.
20 And it's a valid question. You know, the animal is
21 half brown. So how would you look at it?

22
23 MR. EVANS: So I worked with marine
24 mammals before this. Worked with polar bears for 20
25 years. So this occurs very, very seldom, but as the
26 individual here said, that it does occur occasionally.

27
28 I think if a hunter took a bear like
29 that it would have to be -- and they -- it looks more
30 like a polar bear, but had brown paws or something that
31 would indicate that it is a hybrid, they'd probably do
32 a genetic analysis on it to just verify that it was a
33 mixed bear.

34
35 But I don't know the true answer to
36 whether it would be classified as a brown bear or polar
37 bear because there is nothing for hybrid bears in the
38 regulations right now. But I think if a hunter took a
39 bear and then, you know, it looked like that it was a
40 hybrid, that would be of interest certainly to the
41 scientists. And I am guessing that they would probably
42 be allowed to keep it and keep the meat and the hide,
43 but I don't know that for a fact at this point.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. EDWARDSON: Yeah. The question I
48 had was did I catch a brown bear or did I catch a polar
49 bear? That's the question I had for you.

50

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1 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
2 George, for that.

3
4 Okay. We'll continue on here as we
5 follow our procedures for proposals.

6
7 At this time we're going down to a
8 summary of written and public comments -- sorry --
9 advisory group comments.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We
12 do have other Regional Advisory Group comments on this
13 proposal.

14
15 The Northwest Arctic Subsistence
16 Regional Advisory Council voted to support WP18-43, as
17 written. And noted they voted to support the proposal.
18 The Council feels there are many bears out in the
19 country and it's a public safety issue.

20
21 The Western Interior Council also took
22 action on WP18-43 and they voted to support the
23 proposal, with the modification as noted in the OSM
24 preliminary conclusion, which provides an increase in
25 the limit to two and not three as proposed. It was
26 noted that there does not seem to be a conservation
27 concern for the population. And that was the Western
28 Interior Regional Advisory Council's support, with the
29 OSM modification.

30
31 And then we also have the Gates of the
32 Arctic SRC. And they also took action on this proposal
33 and made recommendations on this proposal, noting that
34 in the Upper Kobuk hunters have been seeing more brown
35 bears than ever before. And people think they're
36 coming down to the river from the mountains.

37
38 They note there's been reports under
39 the Upper Kobuk River Trail on the way down to Kiana.
40 And also they've observed larger numbers of brown bears
41 on the Noatak River. They note not many people harvest
42 bears, but there are certain people that do. And so
43 they wouldn't be opposed to supporting this harvest.

44
45 And that concludes the Regional
46 Advisory Council and SRC comments.

47
48 I don't know if we have any AC's on
49 line. We didn't receive any comments from any State
50

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1 Fish and Game advisory committees.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. For the record,
6 this is Joshua Ream, anthropologist with OSM.

7

8 It was reported at the Northwest Arctic
9 Council meeting that the Cape Krusenstern SRC voted to
10 support the proposal as modified by OSM. And also the
11 Upper Kobuk AC voted to support the proposal as
12 written.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you for
17 that.

18

19 We'll continue on at this time. And do
20 we have any Subsistence Resources Commissions.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 What I last reported there was feedback from the Gates
24 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. And
25 again while they noted that people in their area don't
26 harvest bears very often, some do. And they were in
27 support of that opportunity.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

30

31 Moving along here. We got any summary
32 of written public comments.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
35 There was one letter that was submitted. Written
36 public comments for this proposal. And you can find
37 that letter on page 272 of your meeting books.

38

39 And I will just provide a brief summary
40 of their statements. They're two individuals who had
41 served in the Region as biologists and -- with the
42 Wildlife Conservation Society. I'm sorry. The --
43 yeah. The Wildlife Society.

44

45 And they -- a couple of points. They
46 assert that there is no basis for the assertion that
47 there's an overabundance of bears in this game unit.
48 And cite some of the earlier reports from the Region.

49

50

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1 They also note the question of reducing
2 conflicts with brown bear. They acknowledge that
3 there's conflicts with bears that occur, but they feel
4 that there should be documentation of these conflicts
5 to warrant the request.

6
7 And they feel that reducing the effects
8 of brown bears and disrupting the caribou migratory
9 patterns that was noted by the proponents -- that they
10 again feel there's no support for this assertion that
11 bears are disrupting the patterns of the caribou.

12
13 They also question the reduction of
14 destruction of cabins and the taking of meat from boats
15 by brown bears. Again they feel there should be
16 documentation of this happening. And while doubtless
17 nuisances occur to some residents, they don't see that
18 those disturbances would be reduced by reducing the
19 population.

20
21 They also address -- oh, I'm sorry.
22 And then they move on. They also comment on Proposal
23 44, which is coming up next.

24
25 So those were their primary comments on
26 Proposal 43.

27
28 And that concludes the summary of
29 written public comments.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

32
33 Again, we're doing the Proposal WP18-
34 43. I seen that's together. Is that together -- 18-43
35 and 44 at this time? No. We're just doing the WP18-
36 43, right?

37
38 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank
41 you, Eva.

42
43 Do we have any public testimony at this
44 time.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. PATTON: Again through the Chair.
49 We'll just check in on line to see if we have anyone
50

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1 that's joined us on teleconference that would like to
2 provide public comment on this proposal.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

9
10 At this time, do I have any Regional
11 Council recommendation motion to adopt WP18-43.

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. For the
14 record, this is Steve. Make a motion to adopt as
15 presented.

16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Second.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: There's a motion
20 on the floor. It's been seconded.

21
22 MS. KIPPI: Question.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair -- Mr. Chair and
25 Council. If I may just ask for clarification. If the
26 intent is to adopt the proposal as written or
27 consideration of the OSM modification.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Steve, that was a
32 question I also had.

33
34 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. Yes. I made a
35 motion to adopt as presented, so as written.

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. So go ahead
38 and.....

39
40 MR. OOMITUK: If there's no objection
41 on this proposal, then as presented.

42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So you want to keep
44 it as it is written with the recommendation for
45 increase to three?

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. I agree

50

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1 with that.

2

3

MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

4

5

6

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I support the
recommendation for 18-43.

7

8

9 We recognize the support with the
10 Northwest Region Advisory Council. They wanted the --
11 they supported this proposal as it was written, with
12 the three. We do recognize that there are concerns for
13 -- from OSM in keeping it at two, but we also support
14 the Region's people on the ground from these
15 communities that feel that keeping it at three is
16 better for their area.

16

17

18

19

20

21

Also recognize the Subsistence Resource
Council communications around this proposal, as well as
Noatak didn't oppose this. With the communities that
are on the ground in this area, I support keeping it as
written.

22

23

24

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
Council Member Rosemary.

25

26

27

28

At this time, it's in support of WP18-
43 for any discussion or justification at this time.

29

30

31

32

33

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Question been
called for WP18-43. Signify saying aye.

34

35

36

37

38

IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40

41

42

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Question's been
called, it's been passed, WP18-43 at this time.

43

44

45

46

Eva.

47

48

49

50

MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. Just for the
record, I didn't know if I heard you say if any
opposed. I keep getting cut off. I don't know if I

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1 heard if there was anybody opposed. I don't know if
2 you gave them a chance to oppose it or not.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Through -- through the
5 Chair. Yes, Steve. So -- so there was a call for the
6 question and the vote was five yeas and two absent.
7 None opposed.

8
9 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

12
13 And Mr. Chair, if I may.

14
15 Steve, just pipe up at any time since
16 we can't see you. You know, just interject.

17
18 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Just interject when you
21 need to -- to get our attention. So if you're not able
22 to hear something so that we can.....

23
24 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I have a hard time
25 -- I don't know. It keeps getting turned off or beeps
26 coming on my phone and I miss sometimes the wordings,
27 but -- so all right.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

34
35 At this time we'll go to WP18-43. 18-
36 44. Sorry.

37
38 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. Members of the
39 Council. Good morning. Again my name is Joshua Ream.
40 My Tlingit name is (in Tlingit). I am an
41 anthropologist for your Council, the Northwest Arctic
42 and the Seward Peninsula.

43
44 Proposal 18-44 was submitted by the
45 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
46 and it requests regulations allowing the sale of up to
47 two raw, untanned brown bear hides, with the claws
48 attached, and/or the skulls per regulatory year from
49 brown bears that are legally harvested by federally-
50

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1 qualified subsistence users on Federal public lands in
2 Unit 23.

3
4 The Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory
5 Council voted to submit the proposal to align State and
6 Federal regulations in Unit 23 by adding a provision in
7 Federal regulations allowing the sale of up to two
8 skulls and raw, untanned hides of brown bears legally
9 harvested on Federal public lands by federally-
10 qualified subsistence users per regulatory year.

11
12 And now that's regardless of the
13 outcome of 43, so even if there was a three bear
14 harvest limit they only ask for two skulls and untanned
15 hides to be able to be sold.

16
17 The Council also voted to submit a
18 companion proposal to increase the Federal harvest
19 limit for the brown bears, the last proposal that you
20 heard.

21
22 The proponent clarified that they only
23 seek to allow again the sale of two of the skulls and
24 untanned hides per regulatory year.

25
26 Because the State increase in brown
27 bear harvest limit to two bears per regulatory year in
28 Unit 23, the sale of brown bears and hides with the
29 claws attached is legal under State regulations in Unit
30 23; however, brown bears harvested under a State
31 subsistence registration permit in Unit 23 as currently
32 required under Federal regulations that are either
33 removed from the subsistence area or presented for
34 commercial tanning must be sealed by a designated
35 sealing officer and the skin of the head and the front
36 claws must be removed and kept by the Alaska Department
37 of Fish and Game.

38
39 Federal regulations currently allow the
40 harvest of one brown bear annually in Unit 23 by State
41 registration permit, therefore requiring that the front
42 claws be removed and kept by the Department upon
43 sealing.

44
45 Since much of the regulatory history,
46 the harvest history, and the biology were presented in
47 the last proposal, I won't repeat it here unless asked
48 to do so by Council members. If you have any questions
49 about these, please do ask at the end of the
50

1 presentation.

2

3 In 2008, the Board did adopt Wildlife
4 Proposal 08-52 that allowed the sale of handicrafts
5 made from the fur of a brown bear taken in Unit 23 so
6 that subsistence users could more fully utilize the
7 brown bear resource.

8

9 In 2012, the Board adopted Proposal
10 WP12-01 to require sealing of brown bear hides or claws
11 prior to selling handicrafts incorporating these parts.
12 This was done in order to ensure that marketed
13 handicrafts were made from legally harvested bears.
14 The proposal was submitted by the Brown Bear Claw
15 Handicraft Working Group.

16

17 In 2016, the Board of Game adopted
18 Proposal 57 to allow the sale of brown bear hides
19 and/or skulls by Alaska residents in units where the
20 harvest limit is two or more bears annually. The
21 proposal was submitted by the Nushagak Advisory
22 Committee with the stated intent of encouraging brown
23 bear harvest to reduce predation on moose and caribou
24 and to reduce bear hazards around communities.

25

26 In 2017, this year, the Board of Game
27 adopted Proposal 40 to increase the resident brown bear
28 harvest limit in Unit 23 to two bears per regulatory
29 year. The Board of Game supported Proposal 40 because
30 it provided more harvest opportunity, because there
31 were no conservation concerns, and because it was
32 supported by five local Fish and Game Advisory
33 Committees.

34

35 In November of 2017, the Board is
36 hearing Proposal 49, which requests that a permit be
37 required before brown bear skulls and hides with claws
38 attached can be sold. This proposal was submitted by
39 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game because there is
40 currently no method to track the sale of bears
41 harvested in areas where the harvest is two bears per
42 regulatory year.

43

44 The proponent states that this proposal
45 will allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
46 track and quantify the interest in selling brown bear
47 skulls and hides with the claws attached. The
48 proponent also states that there are concerns about the
49 potential to commercialize the harvest of brown bears

50

1 and that there is interest in knowing the magnitude of
2 this type of use.

3
4 Raw, untanned hides with the claws
5 attached and the skulls do not align with the
6 definition of a handicraft, but these items may be sold
7 perhaps more appropriately under customary trade.
8 Federal subsistence regulations define customary trade
9 in 50 CFR 100.4 as exchange for cash of fish and
10 wildlife resources regulated in this part, not
11 otherwise prohibited by Federal law or regulation to
12 support personal and family needs. And does not
13 include trade which constitutes a significant
14 commercial enterprise.

15
16 If defined as customary trade, the sale
17 of raw, untanned hides and skulls of brown bears under
18 Federal regulations would still require adherence to
19 the meat salvage regulations.

20
21 The issue of claw retention was
22 examined extensively by the Brown Bear Claw Handicraft
23 Working Group that was formed by the Board in 2009 to
24 discuss a range of issues relating to brown bear claws,
25 including their use in handicrafts and the feasibility
26 of tracking these items and potential changes to
27 regulations. Of particular concern to this group was
28 preventing the illegal harvest and sale of brown parts
29 that can garner significant monetary value in worldwide
30 markets and which may incentivize illegal harvest of
31 brown bear populations elsewhere in North America,
32 where conservation concerns are prevalent.

33
34 Brown bears have long been a highly
35 respected and utilized subsistence resource in
36 Northwest Alaska and the species has a prominent
37 physical and symbolic role in the lives of the local
38 people. These animals provide a source of meat, of raw
39 materials, and of medicine with the Inupiat culture of
40 the Region.

41
42 Brown bears have also been prized as
43 trophy hunting animals in the Region, largely by non-
44 Native residents of the regional hubs of Nome and
45 Kotzebue.

46
47 The hunting of brown bears in Inupiat
48 culture traditionally required strict adherence to
49 prescribed practices designed to show respect to the
50

1 animal and a hunter's was considered dependent on
2 adherence to these protocols.

3
4 The use of brown bears for food in the
5 Region is variable among the communities, depending on
6 the geographic location. Inland communities eat brown
7 bears more frequently, while coastal communities rarely
8 eat this species unless it is harvested in interior
9 areas where bears feed on fish and berries. Coastal
10 bears are often considered unpalatable due to their
11 tendency to consume marine mammal carcasses along the
12 beaches.

13
14 Among the edible parts of a brown bear,
15 the fat is the most prized product. Local hunters time
16 their hunting to correspond with when bears have the
17 most fat and the meat is of highest quality.

18
19 Customary trade is a longstanding
20 practice among Alaska Native culture statewide and
21 closely resembles bartering practices with the
22 introduction of monetary exchange. In 2010, data on
23 customary trade for one Inupiat community in the
24 Northwest Arctic Borough, Selawik, was documented by
25 ADF&G. During the study year, approximately 32 percent
26 of households engaged in customary trade, though brown
27 bear hides and skulls were not included in any of these
28 transactions.

29
30 The preliminary OSM conclusion for this
31 proposal is to oppose it. Adoption of this proposal is
32 unlikely to significantly increase subsistence
33 opportunities for area residents. Few residents of
34 Unit 23 hunt brown bears under Federal or State
35 subsistence regulations due to the meat salvage and
36 sealing requirements. These requirements would remain
37 in place if this proposal was adopted.

38
39 There are also law enforcement and
40 conservation concerns regarding the sale of brown bear
41 products. Global markets do drive very high prices for
42 brown bear parts and are known to encourage poaching.
43 Increasing market available and/or prices of brown bear
44 products may intensify illegal harvest from those
45 populations. Tracking the illegal harvest and sale of
46 brown bear products is often difficult. Furthermore,
47 customary trade of animal products may not rise to the
48 level of a significant commercial enterprise. But
49 defining and enforcing the parameters of this is

50

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1 challenging.

2

3

4 Given the unaltered nature of the
5 products requested in this proposal, these products
6 also do not meet the requirements of a handicraft which
7 may already be sold under Federal subsistence
8 regulations.

9

10 While there is evidence of a general
11 pattern of customary trade of wildlife in Unit 23,
12 there is no documented pattern as it relates
13 specifically to this species, especially the hides and
14 skulls of the species. The most recently documented
15 harvest data for brown bear suggests that harvest by
16 local residents for food is low. Additionally, the
17 proponent lists several justifications for the request,
18 but none of these indicate that adoption of this
19 proposal would facilitate patterns of customary trade.

20

21 Lastly, population data for brown bears
22 in Unit 23 is sparse and variable. Brown bear
23 populations are slow to recover from over-harvest and
24 commercial incentivization may increase the risk of
25 over-harvest from potentially vulnerable populations.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the
28 Council.

29

30 I'd be happy to try to answer any
31 questions that you have.

32

33 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

34

35 We'll continue on with Proposal WP18-
36 44.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. We
39 just want to check on line with Steve Oomituk if you
40 have any questions.

41

42 (No comment)

43

44 MS. PATTON: Uh-oh. Steve, did we lose
45 you?

46

47 (No comment)

48

49 MS. PATTON: I think we might have. We
50 might have gotten disconnected.

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1 Steve Oomituk, were you able to hear
2 the presentation of the proposal?

3
4 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Sorry about that.
5 I was in the restroom. I just got back.

6
7 MS. PATTON: We're just checking in to
8 see if you have any questions on the proposal.

9
10 MR. OOMITUK: I would be in support of
11 this proposal.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Do you have any questions
14 from the Council.

15
16 MS. HUGO: I guess my question is if we
17 were to approve this proposal, wouldn't it kind of trap
18 a lot of non-users to -- because, you know, you've got
19 to -- you were talking about selling the hide and the
20 skull. And wouldn't it attract the non-users to come
21 and hunt for the bears? Like they did -- the
22 sporthunters on caribou. It would attract, I think.

23
24 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. For the
25 record, this is Joshua Ream.

26
27 Ms. Hugo, this proposal would only
28 allow -- if adopted, would only allow the sale of those
29 skulls and hides by federally-qualified subsistence
30 users.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MS. HUGO: Okay.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

37
38 We'll continue on with our proposal at
39 this time. Let's follow the procedures for this
40 proposal.

41
42 Introduction and presentation of the
43 analyst's report. Consultation with tribes and ANCSA.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
46 Again, we did conduct a tribal and ANCSA consultation
47 on this proposal. We did not receive any comments
48 specifically regarding WP18-44.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

4

5 Do we got any agency comments. ADF&G.

6

7 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes. This is Ryan
8 Klimstra of Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

9

10 Thank you, Lee.

11

12 Under State regulation brown bears
13 taken in areas where there is a two bears every
14 regulatory year bag limit, the tanned and untanned
15 skulls may be sold after sealing. So we do support
16 this proposal because it does align with State
17 regulation.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Ryan,
22 for that.

23

24 Do we have any Federal agencies.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. We'd
29 like to check on line again to see if we have any
30 Federal agencies that would like to comment on Proposal
31 18-44.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

38

39 Do we have any Native, tribal, village
40 or other for Proposal WP18-44.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MS. PATTON: Again, through the Chair.
45 We want to just keep checking on line to make sure that
46 we're inclusive of all that are participating by
47 teleconference.

48

49 Do we have any Native, village, tribal

50

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1 representatives who've joined us on line.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

6

7 Moving on.

8

9 Do we have any advisory group comments.
10 Other regional councils.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
13 Yes. We have the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
14 Advisory Council. And the Council supported the
15 proposal as modified by OSM in the other alternatives
16 considered section that was addressed by Josh. And
17 that's on page 93 of your analysis.

18

19 So again Northwest Arctic Council
20 supported proposal as modified by OSM under the other
21 alternatives considered.

22

23 And discussion of that council felt it
24 would align with State proposal -- or State
25 regulations. And the cost of living is very high in
26 the Region. They noted the proposal would allow people
27 to put money in their pockets. And they had some
28 discussion of also clarification of customary trade
29 regulations in the Region.

30

31 So the Western Interior Council --
32 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council also took
33 up WP18-44. And the Council voted to take no action
34 and defer to the home Region on this issue. And they
35 noted -- they wondered whether the permitting process
36 would change the proposal, but it was also necessary
37 for the Northwest Arctic Council to wade through the
38 issue and deal with the complexities since it was most
39 relevant to their Region.

40

41 And we did also have comments from the
42 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission
43 that were submitted on WP18-44. And the discussion by
44 the Subsistence Resource Commission noted that under
45 Federal subsistence regulations you're required to
46 salvage the meat. And there would have to be a
47 separate proposal to change that part. They felt it
48 should have been included in the original proposal to
49 eliminate the salvage of meat in game Unit 23. If you

50

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1 can sell the skin and the skull, but to discard the
2 meat is illegal. And that was Gates of the Arctic SRC.

3
4 I didn't receive other comments, but
5 Josh was at the Northwest Arctic meeting and was able
6 to hear comments in person from other Fish and Game
7 Advisory Committees.

8
9 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair and Members of the
10 Council. If I may, this is Joshua Ream.

11
12 I just wanted to clarify that I believe
13 that the alternatives considered that was voted on by
14 the Northwest Arctic was on page 295 of your Council
15 books.

16
17 And it's sort of a complication
18 situation, but in order to -- if this were to pass, in
19 order to make this legal we would have to uncouple the
20 hunt from the State subsistence registration permit
21 because that permit requires during sealing that the
22 skin of the head and the front claws be removed. And
23 the Northwest Arctic Council wants to be able to retain
24 those items, so the alternative would essentially
25 create a general hunt for brown bears that wouldn't
26 require the removal of those items.

27
28 In addition, in order for it to be done
29 under customary trade, it has to explicitly say that
30 within regulation. That this species would be allowed
31 under customary trade. And so everything that you see
32 on page 295 would do that. And that is the reason that
33 the Council voted to adopt that modification to their
34 own proposal.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Steve, this is
39 Rosemary. Do you have that information?

40
41 (No comment)

42
43 MS. PATTON: And maybe -- through the
44 Chair. Steve, let us know if it would be helpful in
45 clarification on what that modification is. We can
46 give an overview of what that modification is here so
47 it's clear.

48
49 (No comment)

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Are you able to hear us,
2 Steve?

3
4 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I'm sorry. I got
5 cut off. I had to call back in. I just got back on.
6 I keep getting cut off from this line.

7
8 But I don't know if a motion was made
9 to be in support of this proposal, as modified with the
10 Northwest Council's support. I would support this
11 proposal.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. We
14 were offering -- there was some question from the
15 Council here to get clarification on what the
16 modification was that the Northwest Arctic Council was
17 referencing. And so Josh was going to provide a brief
18 overview on what that modification is to clarify that.

19
20 MR. OOMITUK: Oh, okay. Yes. I got
21 cut off line and I wasn't sure if there was a proposal
22 made yet or not or a motion to adopt. But yes, I would
23 like to hear the -- as modified by the Northwest
24 Council.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you.

27
28 MR. REAM: Through the Chair. Hi,
29 Steve. This is Josh Ream, anthropologist with OSM.

30
31 Again, the modification that was
32 adopted by the Northwest Council is on page 295 of your
33 Council books. And two things needed to happen if this
34 were to be adopted in order to make it legal. One --
35 and possible.

36
37 One of those is that brown bears to be
38 sold in customary trade needed to explicitly be in
39 regulation. And therefore there would be an update
40 that would say you may sell through customary trade the
41 skull or raw, untanned or tanned hide with claws
42 attached and the skull from up to two brown bears
43 legally harvested on Federal public lands in Unit 23
44 annually. Any skull or hide must be sealed by the
45 Alaska Department of Fish and Game representative prior
46 to its sale.

47
48 And then we would also need to uncouple
49 the brown bear hunt from the State subsistence

50

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1 registration permit because the State requires under
2 that permit that the skin of the head and the front
3 claws be removed and retained by the Alaska Department
4 of Fish and Game.

5
6 So we would essentially create a
7 general hunt. So the regulation would read under Unit
8 23 brown bears -- Unit 23, one bear by State
9 subsistence registration permit, August 1st to May
10 31st, or one bear by Federal registration permit,
11 August 1st to May 31st.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Josh,
16 for that.

17
18 And again we're moving on at this time
19 for WP18-44. Do I have any Fish and Game Advisory
20 Committee -- or Subsistence Resource Commission.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
23 have provided the SRC comments.

24
25 Again, the Gates of the Arctic SRC had
26 noted under the Federal subsistence regulations there's
27 a requirement to salvage the meat. And they were
28 saying that this proposal should have eliminated that
29 requirement. You can sell the skin and the skull, but
30 to discard the meat is illegal. And so that was Gates
31 of the Arctic SRC.

32
33 Josh had provided feedback from the
34 Northwest Arctic Council meeting in terms of other AC's
35 that were there. And there's some discussion here, so
36 we'll just give them a moment.

37
38 We do have public written comments. So
39 if you'll find on page 302 and 303.

40
41 And this is the same letter as was
42 referenced for WP18-43. They also commented on
43 Proposal 44. And in this letter -- and again I'll just
44 summarize briefly.

45
46 And in this letter they state that
47 promoting the alignment with State regulations. That
48 there's no alignment needed as under the State
49 regulations the sales are already permitted for bears

50

1 taken in Unit 23 under the State's general hunting
2 regulations with a bag limit of two per year. And they
3 suggest that this would mis-align the State regulations
4 if supported as written.

5
6 Most significantly, they note the
7 extension of subsistence regulations designed to reduce
8 numbers of bears on Federal conservation areas like the
9 national parks and national preserves and wildlife
10 refuges they felt would conflict with the Federal
11 obligations to manage such areas for natural diversity.
12 And they also called into question established C&T uses
13 by qualified subsistence users in the area.

14
15 They suggested another point. That to
16 promote the increased utilization and harvest of brown
17 bears, that it's internally consistent. And
18 acknowledges that brown bears are not traditionally
19 used by Inupiat people for food or the making of
20 handicrafts or brown bear parts. They call into
21 question the sale of hides taken from national parks
22 and preserves, as well as wildlife refuges.

23
24 Another point they made. That the
25 opportunity for profit that the sale of untanned bear
26 hides with claws attached and the skulls is already
27 allowed since last year under State regulation. Since
28 this was just adopted, that they suggest there's not a
29 recent customary and traditional use based on such
30 sales. And they feel it would be dangerous to the
31 bears to commercialize the sale of skin or the hides
32 under subsistence regulations.

33
34 They also note, you know, the concern
35 about the human/bear interactions. That the point was
36 addressed in the previous proposal in 43 and that
37 there's already regulations that allow for the taking
38 of bears for defense of life and property and that
39 covers those situations.

40
41 And that concludes the public written
42 comments.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva,
45 for this.

46
47 Do we have any public testimony.

48
49 (No comments)

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1 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair and
2 Council. We'd like to again touch base with folks on
3 teleconference. If we have anyone from the public who
4 would like to comment on this proposal.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MS. PATTON: And if not on line, if we
9 have anyone who has joined us here today from the
10 public that would like to comment on this proposal.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

17
18 Do we have any Regional Council
19 recommendation or motion to adopt WP18-44.

20
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adopt
22 WP18-44, with the modifications that were recommended
23 on page 295.

24
25 MR. OOMITUK: And I second that motion.
26 For the record, this is Steve.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: There's a motion
29 on the floor for WP18-44.

30
31 Any further discussion on this agenda
32 item.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In support of our
35 member from Point Hope and recognizing their support of
36 this proposal. Also in support of the Northwest
37 Regional Advisory Council. In support with the
38 modifications that were recommended by OSM. Also with
39 recommendations from the Western Arctic and the Gates
40 of the Arctic Resource Commission in support of these
41 discussions, I feel that this is important to recognize
42 the concerns that were presented, the information that
43 was presented, and support this modification.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank
46 you.

47
48 MR. OOMITUK: I call for question.

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. If I
2 may, I just want to acknowledge we did have Robert
3 Shears, member, join us partway into the discussion at
4 the beginning. I want to make sure he has an
5 opportunity to ask questions before.....

6
7 MR. SHEARS: Thank you. Yeah. And
8 quickly.

9
10 Excuse me, Steve. Before you call for
11 questions.....

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

14
15 MR. SHEARS:I have to just
16 interject my opinion on the subject.

17
18 Brown bear meat is -- you know, is an
19 important -- not a staple, but it is an important
20 supplement to our annual diet, you know. And so I can
21 understand the need to -- you know, the subsistence
22 need for harvesting brown bear for food.

23
24 The brown bear furs -- the skin without
25 the claws and the head is a very useful instrument for
26 sleeping blankets, tents, whaling. Use it often. And
27 the skin is a very important subject to retain on the
28 customary trade and barter list because we often
29 exchange them and give them to whaling captains.

30
31 The claws are often ornamental and used
32 for making traditional jewelry. And there's already a
33 requirement that they are tagged when sold or the sale
34 of them is given to a non-subsistence user.

35
36 So I look at the intent behind this to
37 try to understand why Unit 23 would like to retain the
38 head and the claws on the skin. And I could see a
39 certain specific reason. Is to increase the economic
40 value of the byproduct of the brown bear, to encourage
41 more harvesting and to therefore reduce the stress that
42 this predator animal causes on caribou. Obviously, the
43 brown bear harvest -- brown bear predated on a lot of
44 caribou, especially calves, in Unit 26. There are not
45 a lot of calves in Unit 23, but there's some.

46
47 But by allowing the skin, claws, and
48 head to be tagged all together in one package and sold,
49 then a manufacturer could tan the skin, head mount it,

50

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1 put some felt backing on it, and then resell that to
2 rich people all over the world who like to have wall
3 decorations. This will create an extreme controversy
4 on the use of the brown bear if it's used in this
5 manner. It would open up Pandora's box to all types of
6 criticism on how -- on the purpose of subsistence.

7
8 I strongly oppose this measure. I
9 think that the current regulations that are in place
10 that allows that the skull, claws, and skin to be --
11 keeps them as separate, individual, distinct products
12 not attached to each other is sufficient to protect us
13 from -- you know, protect -- allow the continued use of
14 the skin byproducts, the peripheral byproducts of the
15 bear, besides the meat that we eat.

16
17 I can understand that if we did create
18 an economic engine around the byproduct of the brown
19 bear, the result would be that there would be less
20 brown bears. More of them would be harvested simply by
21 people out of greed. You know, to asset the wealth of
22 the animal for money. And the result of that would be
23 more caribou.

24
25 I like that thought process, but I
26 think the side effects are even more detrimental. We
27 need to find another way to work around to help the
28 caribou herd -- to help the caribou population.

29
30 So I am going to oppose supporting this
31 measure.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Bob,
34 for that.

35
36 We'll continue on at this time. There
37 was a motion on the floor to WP18-44.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Mr. -- through the Chair.
40 Just -- just to clarify.....

41
42 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, it was
43 seconded and under discussion. And I call for the
44 question.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Through -- through the
47 Chair. If I may. Just to clarify, there was some
48 discussion of support of WP14-44 with the modification
49 that was discussed just now. So we want to clarify if
50

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1 the Council was making a motion with the modification
2 as discussed by OSM.

3
4 MR. SHEARS: The motion as amended.

5
6 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

7
8 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you. Thank
9 you.

10
11 MR. OOMITUK: With all that said, I
12 call for the question.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Call for
15 question on WP18-44 to amend and correction of this
16 item on WP18-44. So move all to -- everybody signify
17 by saying aye to WP18-44.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Any nays.

22
23 MR. SHEARS: Nay.

24
25 MS. HUGO: Nay.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Okay. Just to clarify, I
28 couldn't hear Steve. So we had yeas. Just to clarify,
29 Wanda, Lee, Rosemary.

30
31 Steve, what was your vote, please?

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: Aye.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Okay. Aye.

36
37 MR. OOMITUK: In support.

38
39 MS. PATTON: Okay. So we have four
40 yeas and two nos and one absent. Motion passes.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva,
43 for that motion passed.

44
45 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve,
46 for the record. How many more proposals are there, you
47 know, I've been in meetings all week last week, I
48 didn't make it back home to get my packet. And I'm
49 still traveling. And I do have another meeting that I
50

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1 need to attend. And now that Robert is back and we're
2 still maintaining a quorum, I'm going to be asked to be
3 excused. But I wanted to know how many more proposals
4 needed to be acted on, I know we went through four of
5 them, I think, already. How many more proposals, is
6 there other action items later on this afternoon or
7 tomorrow. Because I.....

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The crossover
10 proposals that we're currently covering, we've got
11 Wildlife Proposal 18-45, Unit 23 decreased a harvest
12 limit from five to three on caribou per day.

13
14 18-46/47, Unit 23, close harvest to
15 non-federally-qualified users.

16
17 And 18-56, sheep Unit 25A, AVSMA open
18 Arctic Village sheep management areas to harvest by
19 non-federally-qualified users.

20
21 That's what we have in this section.

22
23 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. Now that there is
24 a quorum still maintaining with Bob back, I'm going to
25 have to be asked to be excused. And, you know, the
26 meetings are still going on this afternoon. I should
27 be able to call back by 2:00 o'clock.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.....

30
31 MR. OOMITUK: I should be able.....

32
33 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair.....

34
35 MR. OOMITUK: But I do need to attend
36 this meeting and I'm already running late, but.....

37
38 MS. PATTON: Through -- through the
39 Chair.....

40
41 MR. OOMITUK: So with that, can I asked
42 to be excused.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Through -- through the
45 Chair, thank -- thank you, Steve.

46
47 Yes. And so maybe what we'll try to do
48 -- of those crossover proposals there are still two
49 within Unit 23 that are most relevant to you.

50

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1 And so we'll work around that to take
2 up some of the other proposals so that we're able to
3 get you back on to provide input on Proposal 18-45,
4 which is asking to decrease the harvest of caribou in
5 Unit 23 from five to three per day. And then also 18-
6 46/47 is the request for closure of harvest of caribou
7 to non-federally-qualified users in Unit 23.

8
9 And so if we're able to get you back
10 this afternoon. Two -- 2:00 o'clock you thought you
11 would be able to call back in?

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. I didn't know what
14 time you guys were going to break for lunch, I might be
15 able to come back in an hour and 10 -- oh, it's 11:00
16 o'clock, yeah, it's probably going to be about 2:00
17 o'clock.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Okay, Steve. Thank --
20 thank you. We'll do our best to keep working around
21 folks here so that we get.....

22
23 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Sorry about that.
24 But I do need to -- I didn't realize it was already
25 11:00 o'clock.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

28
29 MR. OOMITUK: All right.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Thank -- thank you, Steve.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: I'll talk to you guys
34 later.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

37
38 MR. OOMITUK: All right. All right.
39 Talk with you guys later. All right. Goodbye.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
42 Steve.

43
44 And we'll continue on here. I got a
45 question on the floor there, Eva.

46
47 Maybe after George, we'll take a 15-
48 minute break and -- after he speaks, if the Council is
49 okay with that.

50

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1 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. The question I
2 have is I hear you're an Advisory Board. And what
3 you're passing and what you're doing is going to become
4 law or is it advisory to the Feds and the State. I'm
5 trying to understand, you know, how far your votes are
6 going and what are you achieving with it.

7
8 Is this an Advisory Board or are you
9 making the laws themselves. That's the question I
10 have.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Thank
13 you for your question.

14
15 This Council is an Advisory Council.
16 And they make recommendations directly to the Federal
17 Subsistence Board. So after this meeting -- after all
18 the Regional Advisory Councils have made their
19 recommendations, those go to the Federal Subsistence
20 Board. And that will be the process in which the Board
21 takes their recommendations, hears public testimony and
22 from the tribes as well, and then makes a motion to
23 support or oppose or support with modification the
24 proposals.

25
26 And this year the Federal Subsistence
27 Board will be meeting in April. And that's when they
28 will be taking up these proposals here.

29
30 The way the structure of the Regional
31 Advisory Councils is set up on the Federal Subsistence
32 Program, it's in ANILCA. They're governed under ANILCA
33 and the Board provides deference to the Council's
34 recommendations if there is no conflict with
35 conservation. And also they take into consideration if
36 one Region's recommendation would have an impact on
37 subsistence in another Region.

38
39 So they're considering the Council's
40 recommendation and the Council has a direct voice to
41 the Board. We'll be providing a public notice for that
42 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. That's also open to
43 the public. And so they're seeking feedback from
44 tribes and communities as well. And then the chair of
45 the Council is there to provide the Council's
46 recommendation to the Board.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

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1 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.
4 We'll take a few minute break here and get back to the
5 table.

6

7 (Off record)

8

9 (On record)

10

11 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: We will convene
12 at this time. And people on teleconference we'll
13 convene our proposals.

14

15 We'll move on to statewide Proposals
16 WP18-51 at this time.

17

18 And we had a person on the floor that
19 wanted to say something. Abel was on the floor that he
20 would want to speak. So I think he's in the coffee
21 room there at this time.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Abel, did you
26 want to say something at this time? You're welcome to
27 the floor there.

28

29 MR. AKPIK: My name is Abel Akpik, I'm
30 from Barrow, not, Utqiagvik, Barrow, Alaska.

31

32 Okay.

33

34 I'm trying to put in my head the
35 structure you have here for regulating our livelihood.
36 I'm having a hard time with it. You're talking about
37 how much -- about units, numbers. And the Inupiat way,
38 that's not the way. I'm true blood Inupiat and I want
39 to let you know that whatever you put down on paper, we
40 can't read it on the Tundra. So we just do nothing
41 with it.

42

43 It doesn't matter if I'm going to break
44 the law if my family is hungry for some tuttu or
45 something. You were talking about brown bears this
46 morning. Where's the brown bears. They don't got no
47 regulations for brown bears.

48

49 But at the same time you're passing

50

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1 regulations and laws and what I can do and what I can't
2 do. But I -- the way I way I did away with the laws
3 and everything from around about 1980s -- the early
4 1980s. I had been going to school and everything and I
5 ended up working at NARL, Arctic Services when I was
6 starting as an electrician. And I was doing electrical
7 work there.

8
9 And because I wanted to hold my job, I
10 wasn't hunting for my family. And then finally one day
11 somebody -- one of my workers -- one of my -- somebody
12 that worked with me told me that there's tuttu up
13 there, right behind Barrow. And I was hungry. And the
14 caribou -- that's -- tuttu is caribou. Tuttu they say.
15 Tuttu up there by the dew line site.

16
17 And while I was working, I told my boss
18 -- I said I'm going to go get tuttu up there. So I
19 went and caught two of them. They were two little ones
20 about two, three miles off the dew line site. And I
21 took them down. And then on the way back I was packing
22 one. I had cutted him and got him ready for cool down
23 meat. So I took about -- they weren't that big, so I
24 hoisted one on my shoulders and I was walking it back
25 to the line so I can bring it home.

26
27 Anyways, I was walking along there and
28 here comes somebody. Here comes somebody. Was coming
29 up to help me. Maybe one of my buddies. Maybe
30 somebody will come out to help me pack my caribou back.
31 Anyways, I never had been in trouble before. But I --
32 here comes somebody.

33
34 And I laid down and rested and waited
35 for him. And then it turned out to be a woman game
36 warden. She was wearing -- came in and picked me up.
37 And she said that since I recognized their uniform -- I
38 recognized it was a uniform. I didn't know what they
39 did. I had never been in trouble before. So I ended
40 up giving it to her.

41
42 She told me that when I'm hunting out
43 of season, this is an -- and she's going to confiscate
44 it. I sat there. And that caribou -- I laid down. I
45 laid down it. And I could have -- since she was a
46 woman, I could have take off the Tundra. She'd never
47 catch me with my caribou.

48
49 Anyways, I just wanted to know what was
50

1 going to happen to it. I never been in trouble before.
2 So what do they do. What do they do when they break
3 the law. So she said well, we're going to bring it
4 into someplace. I asked her first if she was going to
5 take it out of town. If you're going to confiscate it,
6 don't take it out of town. Give it to senior centers
7 or children's home so they can have it, if I can't have
8 it.
9

10 Anyways, I took it back for her. And
11 we put it in one of the walk-in freezers at NARL. And
12 then she put me in jail. We had a town jail. They put
13 me in jail. She took me in, handcuffed me, and take me
14 to jail. And that time Sadie (Indiscernible) was the
15 magistrate. And she put us in front of Sadie -- that
16 magistrate. And me and Danny -- Danny were -- Danny
17 Edwards and I -- Danny was caught transporting illegal
18 game. Illegal game -- caribou -- my food -- it's
19 illegal now. Holy cow. I couldn't figure out what I'm
20 going to do now.
21

22 Anyways, Edmond Hopson, he was the
23 president of UIC. And he had a lawyer. And he gave us
24 his lawyer. UIC's lawyer to represent us in court. So
25 we got represented in court. And then the State said
26 -- Sadie released us on our own recognizance. So we
27 went home. And we left it. We got released and I said
28 Danny, don't follow me. I told Danny don't follow me.
29

30 So later on that night the other
31 caribou that I had -- when I put it down, I laid it
32 down on the edge of the lagoon. And I walked straight
33 to -- cross Tundra to the road. Anyways, later on we
34 packed a canoe and went up on the edge of the water --
35 on the ice. On the edge of the water there was a
36 little bit of water. And then we paddled up to the
37 caribou that I'd left back there and hide it in the
38 canoe. Snuck it back into town. Put it in my garage
39 and had (In Inupiaq).
40

41 The other one, they said they destroyed
42 it. That one that was put in the walk-in freezer, they
43 said they destroyed it. Why. There was some frozen
44 fox meat in there. Might be -- have disease in it.
45 But -- so they destroyed my evidence. State never came
46 up with charges. They dropped charges because they
47 couldn't come up with nothing. They were -- after 120
48 days if you don't have the law that says that going to
49 court within 100 -- laws of your -- 100 days of your
50

1 charge. State dropped it because me and the lawyer had
2 enough stuff on them that we could have taken the law
3 state out of our Region. That was how powerful I was
4 going to be.

5
6 But what I want to tell you is that
7 every time that you're talking passing law, passing
8 regulations, and this and that, you -- you -- you --
9 all these -- everybody. I'm going to take you out to
10 Tundra and let you subsist off the Tundra. And figure
11 out how to pass regulations on that. You wouldn't be
12 passing regulations how to hunt, how to subsist.

13
14 And one thing I never get cleared in my
15 head now, that definition of subsistence -- I've never
16 been clarified by the State or the Federal government.
17 What are you talking about when you're talking to me
18 about my subsistence. I've subsist across the State.
19 Lived in Point Lay a couple of years. Lived in
20 Anaktuvuk a couple of years. I've been up Hulahula
21 River. You know, I've been all around the -- all of
22 the State. I've fished Southeast Alaska. I hunted
23 seal in Southeast Alaska.

24
25 Anyways, subsistence. You're passing
26 subsistence law on me. Yeah. If I'm going to go
27 letter by letter on you, I would never go hunting. So
28 after that incident with that game warden, talk to me
29 about law. Talk to me about subsistence.

30
31 Come out and stay with me maybe five
32 months at my fish camp. When I was raising my dogs for
33 Iditarod, that's where I lived. My subsistence -- my
34 Native allotment. And five months straight. Lived on
35 fish a couple of months. But anything I could eat,
36 that's what I subsist on.

37
38 Now you're passing law on me that
39 you're going to do -- you're going to regulate on how
40 much brown bear I'm going to eat. How many I'm going
41 to sell. Maybe I sell a claw for five gallons of gas.
42 That's about all I do. When I lived on the Tundra a
43 couple of years, that's what I did. I'd bring back a
44 chunk of meat and get maybe five gallons of gas or ten
45 gallons of gas. Subsistence -- is that subsistence.

46
47 You're passing law on me. And what you
48 can do with your law -- maybe use it for firewood so I
49 can keep warm. Passing all your papers.

50

1 Okay.

2
3 Abel Akpik. I'm 75 years old. I
4 didn't get here till -- I didn't go back and forth and
5 make law. I live here. I'm a retired electrician from
6 33 years in the IBEW. I still subsist.

7
8 Okay. All right.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Abel,
11 for that report.

12
13 You know, it's pretty sensitive
14 decisions when it comes down to trying to provide for
15 your family. And, you know, when you come down to
16 regulations and things like that is very difficult
17 sometimes when it comes down to trying to bring food
18 home. But, you know, how it works with the whole North
19 Slope I believe at this time.

20
21 Anyway, we'll continue on with our
22 proposal. And we'll go to the statewide Proposal WP18-
23 51 at this time to continue our proposal at this time.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 Members of the Council. My name is Tom Evans and again
29 I work for OSM as a wildlife biologist.

30
31 Wildlife Proposal 18-51 was submitted
32 by the Eastern Interior Council and requests that
33 Federal bear baiting restrictions be aligned with State
34 regulations, specifically the use biodegradable
35 materials. And again this is a statewide proposal.

36
37 The proponent states that the current
38 Federal bear baiting restrictions are more restrictive
39 than the State's and do not provide a Federal
40 subsistence priority. Aligning the State and Federal
41 bear baiting restrictions would reduce Federal
42 regulatory complexity and user confusion and allow bear
43 baiting with items such as dog food, baked goods, et
44 cetera, that have been traditionally used as bear bait
45 by federally-qualified subsistence users and are
46 currently allowed under the State regulations.

47
48 Currently under the Federal regulations
49 only biodegradable materials may be used as bait. Only
50

1 the head, bones, viscera or skin of legally harvested
2 fish and wildlife may be used for bait.

3
4 Federal regulations for bear baiting
5 have remained the same since they were adopted from the
6 State regulations since 1990. Currently, black bears
7 may be taken at bait stations under Federal regulations
8 in all units except for Units 1C, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18,
9 22, 23, and 26. So 23 and 26 are the units that
10 pertain to this Council.

11
12 In 2015, the National Park Service
13 published a final rule prohibiting the use of the take
14 of black bears and brown bears over bait on national
15 parks and preserves under the State regulations.

16
17 In 2017, the National Park Service
18 published a final rule 36 CFR 13.480 limiting the types
19 of bait that may be used for taking bears under Federal
20 subsistence regulations to native fish or wildlife
21 remains from natural mortality or parts not required to
22 be salvaged from legal harvest. An exception to this
23 final rule allows the superintendent of Wrangell-Saint
24 Elias National Park and Preserve to issue a permit to
25 all the use of human produced foods as long as they are
26 compatible with park purposes and values and the
27 applicant doesn't have access to natural foods for
28 baits. So this is only for Wrangell-Saint Elias. And
29 then that's also based on the documented history of
30 bear baiting by folks hunting under the Wrangell-Saint
31 Elias Park regulations.

32
33 The use of bait stations is
34 controversial. Those that support bear baiting state
35 that it allows hunters to be selective. They can pick
36 the sex or allow for the identification of sows with
37 cubs. It's the humane -- and then it's an effective
38 method to kill bears. It facilitates clean kills by
39 bows and allows hunters with limited mobility to
40 participate in the hunt.

41
42 Those that oppose bear baiting
43 practices often cite safety concerns and food
44 conditioning.

45
46 If adopted, this proposal would prevent
47 the use of scent lures on Federal public lands
48 administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service BLM
49 and the U.S. Forest Service. However, scent lures are
50

1 not currently defined under Federal regulations. If
2 scent lures are not defined, then any materials or
3 chemicals including toxic and including non-
4 biodegradable materials could be used at registered
5 bait stations on Federal public lands.

6
7 The proposed definition of a scent lure
8 is as follows:

9
10 A scent lure means any biodegradable
11 material to which biodegradable scent is applied or
12 infused.

13
14 If adopted, the federally-qualified
15 subsistence users could use any biodegradable materials
16 as scent lures at registered bait stations on Federal
17 public lands administered by again the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service BLM and U.S. Forest Service. So you
19 notice I'm not saying the Park Service in this.

20
21 A bear bait is limited to native fish
22 and wildlife remains on National Park Service lands.
23 If adopted, this proposal would align State and Federal
24 baiting regulations. The requested changes are already
25 permitted under the State regulations and it's not
26 expected that there would be any differences in the
27 bear harvest populations or subsistence uses or
28 habituation of bears to human foods from this proposal.

29
30 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
31 support Proposal 18-51 with modification to establish
32 the definition for scent lure and clarify the
33 regulatory language.

34
35 Under definitions, a scent lure in
36 reference to bear baiting means any biodegradable
37 material to which a biodegradable scent is applied or
38 infused. And then the second part is you may only use
39 biodegradable materials for bait. If fish and wildlife
40 is used as bait, only the head, bones, and viscera or
41 skin of legally harvested fish and wildlife -- the skin
42 carcasses -- yeah, okay. Going on.

43
44 The skin carcasses of furbearers and
45 unclassified wildlife may be used, except in Unit 7 and
46 15 -- fish and fish parts may not be used for bait.
47 And that's a concern over the high -- the fish runs in
48 Southeast -- along the Kenai Peninsula and the areas
49 down there that have -- so they don't want fish being

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1 used because it could be attractant. Scent lures may
2 be used at registered bait stations.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 I'll take any questions now.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Tom,
9 for that proposal.

10
11 At this time we'll continue on with
12 WP18-51.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
15 there are no questions, we did hold tribal and ANCSA
16 Corporation consultation on this proposal and there
17 were no comments submitted specifically.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

20
21 At this time we'll go on to ADF --
22 Federal agency, ADF -- at this time.

23
24 MR. BRUNING: Hello, Mr. Chairman and
25 Members of the Council. My name is Darren Bruning.
26 I'm the Regional Division of Wildlife Conservation
27 supervisor for the Interior Northeast Arctic Region,
28 based out of Fairbanks.

29
30 And the Department supports this
31 proposal because it reduces regulatory complexity and
32 user confusion by allowing federally-qualified users to
33 bait bears with additional attractants that are
34 currently allowed under State regulations.

35
36 This proposal would align State and
37 Federal regulations. Little additional take of bears
38 is expected and there are no expected conservation
39 issues.

40
41 In addition, aligning the State and
42 Federal regulations would simplify enforcement.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
47 Darren, for that.

48
49 Continuing on with Federal agencies.

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. We
4 just want to check on line to see if there's any
5 Federal agencies who would like to comment on Proposal
6 18-51.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

13

14 Do we have Native, tribal, village,
15 other.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MS. PATTON: And again we'd like to
20 check on line if we have any tribal or Native village
21 representation who would like to speak to this
22 proposal.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. PATTON: Do we have any tribal
27 representatives that would like to speak to this
28 proposal.

29

30 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: For the record, Roy
31 Nageak. I'm just wondering when rules and regulations
32 are made and the ability of the State that kind of
33 overlooks everything within our Region and the ability
34 to assure that these rules and regulations are
35 followed. And their capability. And we know the
36 financial straits that the State has in making sure
37 rules and regulations are followed within our Region,
38 especially hunting caribou and stuff like that.

39

40 I just want to be assured who's going
41 to take care of all these rules and regulations that
42 are made.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Roy,
45 for that.

46

47 We'll continue with the advisory group
48 comments, other regional councils.

49

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 Since this was a statewide proposal, all ten Regional
3 Advisory Councils took action on this proposal.
4

5 Nine Councils -- all Councils support
6 the proposal as modified by OSM, except for
7 Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
8 which took no action on WP18-51, as bear baiting is not
9 currently allowed in their Region.

10
11 So nine Councils support the proposal
12 as modified and no action by Kodiak/Aleutian
13 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
14

15 And Mr. Chair and Council. I did not
16 receive any Fish and Game advisory committee comments
17 for this proposal. There may have been AC comments
18 provided in person at some of the RAC meetings.
19

20 Maybe just check on line to see if we
21 have any AC representatives who would like to provide
22 their comments from the AC.
23

24 (No comments)
25

26 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.
27

28 And I also did not receive any comments
29 from the Subsistence Resource Commission regarding this
30 proposal.
31

32 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.
33

34 We'll continue on. Is there any
35 summary of public comments.
36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
38 do have three written public comments that were
39 submitted for Proposal WP18-51. You can find those
40 letters starting on page 512 of your meeting book.
41

42 All three -- and again I'll just
43 summarize the letters since they're provided in full,
44 for the record, in your meeting books. All three
45 members of the public and one non-profit group that had
46 submitted comments had very similar comments. Mainly
47 raising the concern for the habituation of bears to
48 human food and the possibility for increasing more
49 human/bear conflicts and creating more problems through
50

1 that process.

2

3 So again all three proponents -- or I'm
4 sorry -- all three public comments were primarily
5 concerned with that potential for the habituation of
6 bears to human food.

7

8 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva,
9 for that.

10

11 Is there any questions from the floor
12 or teleconference or from the Council at this time.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: And so moving
17 forward on to the -- is there any public testimony.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Again,
22 we'll just check in teleconference.

23

24 If there's anyone who would like to
25 provide public comments.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. PATTON: Hearing none.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thanks, Eva.

32

33 Moving on to 7. Regional Council
34 comment, recommendation, motion to adopt 18-51.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, make a motion
37 to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-51.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: There's a motion
40 on the floor to adopt the 18-51 at this time.

41

42 MS. HUGO: Second.

43

44 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Second on the
45 floor to adopt 18-51.

46

47 MR. SHEARS: Under discussion.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Under

50

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1 discussion.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Generally, I am an
4 advocate for looking for opportunities to align Federal
5 subsistence regulations with State regulations. I
6 think this proposal is in the spirit of that. Both the
7 State and Federal regulations are -- I think are
8 necessarily restrictive; however, that this is -- that
9 this wildlife proposal is less restrictive than the
10 previous one.

11

12 It's a move in the right direction and
13 I support it.

14

15 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
16 Robert.

17

18 Tom.

19

20 MR. EVANS: Just one point of
21 clarification. Are you accepting it as proposed or as
22 modified by OSM.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. SHEARS: Currently, as proposed.
27 If somebody wants to discuss an amendment, I'd be
28 willing to entertain it.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: As proposed on
33 the table here for WP18-51.

34

35 And at this time we set a call for
36 question.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: And it's been
41 seconded.

42

43 As for this WP18-51, all in favor of
44 the motion to be carried on 18-51, signify by saying
45 aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Any opposed, say

50

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1 nay.

2

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

6

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: At this time,
we'll pass this motion to be carried.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

On 18-51.

11

12

13

14

15

16

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
had a little bit of discussion here with our analyst in
trying to juggle the schedule so that it works best for
both Gordon's participation and Steve's participation.

17

18

19

20

21

22

We have one proposal WP18-32, which is
at the top of your regional proposals that was
submitted by the Western Interior Council, requesting
to modify season dates and align with the State. And
that proposal we would get the most of you to get
recommendations on that if you concur.

23

24

25

MR. SHEARS: Which one was that again,
Eva? I didn't hear you.

26

27

28

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: What was that
again, Eva? Which proposal?

29

30

31

32

33

MS. PATTON: WP18-32, which was
submitted by the Western Interior Regional Advisory
Council, asking to modify season dates to align with
the State.

34

35

36

37

38

And Tom would be able to provide the
analysis for you. They were looking to kind of create
a unified season across the game units of 21D, 22, 23,
24, and 25A, 26A, and 26B.

39

40

41

42

43

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

We'll continue on with WP18-32 at this
time.

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Robert.

MR. SHEARS: I think Gordon and Steve

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1 would probably be very interested in weighing in and
2 being participatory to this discussion in particular.
3 I'd -- not that they have said anything to me, but I
4 just understand that -- you know, how their thought
5 processes are aligned.

6
7 Could we possibly adjourn for an early
8 lunch at this time and allow them an opportunity to
9 rejoin us to -- before we take up this subject.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Yeah. I think
12 we should adjourn until after lunch. You know, if we
13 get other speakers that are on the Council that want to
14 participate in this item would be more prominent to
15 others to listen on their way to continue this proposal
16 and we'll break for lunch till probably 1:30.

17
18 (Council nods affirmatively)

19
20 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. We'll
21 break for lunch and then reconvene at 1:30. And we'll
22 continue on our agenda items at this time.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 (Off record)

27
28 (On record)

29
30 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Anybody on line
31 with us at this time.

32
33 MS. KENNER: Hello. This is Pippa
34 Kenner, with the Office of Subsistence Management, in
35 Anchorage.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Hello, Pippa.

38
39 And anyone else joining us on
40 teleconference this afternoon.

41
42 MR. GORN: Good afternoon. This is
43 Tony Gorn, with the Department of Fish and Game, in
44 Nome.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon.

47
48 Anyone else on tele.....

49
50

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1 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good afternoon. This
2 is Marcy Okada, with the National Park Service.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Hi, Marcy.

5
6 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein, also
7 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in Anchorage.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon, Jill.

10
11 Anyone else on line with us this
12 afternoon.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. PATTON: Okay. Maybe we'll check
17 back in through the Chair here. We are still waiting
18 for our Council member Gordon Brower, who would like to
19 participate in the regulatory proposals this afternoon.

20
21 I will look to the Council to see in
22 this interim until he arrives, which should be shortly.
23 We were going to continue on with the Proposal 56 when
24 Gordon arrives, which addresses the Red Sheep Creek
25 area.

26
27 Wondering in the meantime if we're able
28 to get some of the non-regulatory updates from Arctic
29 National Wildlife Refuge. And then when Gordon arrives
30 we can go into the proposal.

31
32 What would be the Council's wishes. We
33 could try to take up some of the non-action items until
34 Gordon arrives.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. If
37 it's appropriate we could do the non-agenda items until
38 Gordon shows up. If not, you know, we can continue
39 where we left off with our agenda at this time.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Non-action items,
44 yes.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Okay.

47
48 Hollis, if you'd be willing, we could
49 provide the Council with some of the Arctic National

50

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1 Wildlife Refuge updates.

2

3 And then hopefully Gordon will be here
4 shortly and then we can get into the proposal.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
9 Hollis. Council.

10

11 And we'll go ahead and continue on our
12 agenda.

13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair.
15 Council Members. Hollis Twitchell, Arctic National
16 Wildlife Refuge.

17

18 I'm wondering whether you have had a
19 copy of our summary of projects for this year. It
20 should look like this. I believe it was mailed out to
21 you. Okay. I'll be speaking on it on some of the
22 projects in here. I'm going to hold back on a couple
23 of them because I think Gordon wants to be involved
24 with some of those discussions as well.

25

26 So I'll go through and hit those
27 projects that are going on primarily on the North
28 Slope. I'm not going to spend any time dealing with
29 projects on the south side of the Refuge.

30

31 The first one in your books talks about
32 caribou. And since there was quite a long discussion
33 about that early on, I thought I'd touch on a few
34 things within that program.

35

36 First of all, there is a management
37 body -- the Porcupine Caribou Board, which is an
38 international board that we work with. They are an
39 advisory body to the different managing agencies on the
40 Canadian side, on the Alaska side in regards to
41 research and projects that are pertinent to the
42 International Porcupine Caribou Herd.

43

44 There's quite a number of entities
45 involved in this herd. There's two Federal governments
46 -- that's Canada and Alaska; three territorial
47 governments in the Canadian side; eight Native land
48 claim agreements; five national parks, preserve,
49 refuges; one territorial park in Canada; two special

50

1 management areas. And we also have two residents --
2 Alaska residents -- that sit on this board and then
3 there's Canadian representatives as well.
4

5 So they meet usually once or twice a
6 year. The last meeting was held last winter. It was
7 held in Fairbanks. And representatives from the board
8 attended that one day in Fairbanks and then the board
9 reconvened up in Venetie for the next day. So they
10 wanted a chance to actually get out into one of the
11 communities that are pretty heavily dependent on the
12 Porcupine Caribou Herd. It was quite cold up there
13 that day, but it was a good meeting nevertheless.
14

15 In your book there it talks about sort
16 of a wide range of projects that are encompassed by the
17 different agencies. You can look through that
18 yourselves if you wish.
19

20 I wanted to go into the next few
21 paragraphs a little bit primarily because of comments
22 that Lee presented in terms of issues with the
23 Porcupine Herd and the availability of the animals from
24 -- for the Kaktovik community.
25

26 So after declining for a number of
27 years from the 1990s to the 2000s, the Porcupine Herd
28 has been increasing for several years. As Beth
29 indicated, the census in 2010 had the herd at 169,000
30 animals. Another census completed in 2013, the
31 estimate was 197,000 animals. ADF&G again completed a
32 photo census this year and we're all waiting to hear
33 what the actual number estimate is for the herd at that
34 time.
35

36 Most of the caribou were concentrated
37 on the coastal plain within Arctic Refuge, although
38 many of the bulls were in groups over towards the
39 Richardson Mountains in Northern Yukon. And that's not
40 unusual. Typical of how the bulls will separate out.
41

42 During the winter of 2016 and '17 the
43 caribou were distributed across the Southern Brooks
44 Range. And that would be from the Chandler Lake area
45 on the south side of the Brooks in Alaska, all the way
46 over to Old Crow Flats in Canada. Most of the herd
47 wintered along the south side in Alaska. The Sheenjek,
48 Coleen, and Upper Firth Rivers, with smaller groups
49 aggregated around Arctic Village in Alaska and also
50

1 over in the Old Crew Basin.

2

3 Spring migration began in late April
4 and proceeded rapidly through May. The caribou moved
5 from Alaska to the northeast into the Canadian
6 territory and then west along the Arctic coast back
7 into Alaska.

8

9 Calving was spread out across a wide
10 stretch of the coastal plain from Northern Yukon and
11 across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal
12 plain. As in 2015 and 2016, much of the calving
13 occurred on the Refuge coastal plain this last year,
14 although there was some calving going on in Yukon as
15 well.

16

17 Similar to the 2016 and 2017, calving
18 aggregations occurred on Alaska coastal plain. In
19 early July they moved rapidly to the southeast through
20 the Brooks Range, to the upper Coleen. There were
21 portions of the herd that moved along the north slopes
22 of the Brooks Range over into Canada.

23

24 That might help explain why there
25 wasn't a lot of caribou around at certain times of the
26 year in the Kaktovik area. I think what's happening --
27 if I understood Lee's comments that they only had 15 or
28 17 caribou in the falltime that they were harvesting
29 along the coastal regions.

30

31 That's probably due to the fact that
32 the herd -- by August the herd was in the Richardson
33 Mountains. And some of the caribou crossed the border
34 into the Northwest Territories just west of the Village
35 of Inuvik. In late August the caribou moved back
36 across the west -- to the west and by early September
37 much of the herd was back in Alaska.

38

39 I don't know what portions of the herd
40 actually crossed up into the North Slope in that
41 westerly movement that occurred in August and
42 September. It sounds like -- according to Lee that
43 that wasn't a very significant amount.

44

45 It seemed to me like they moved across
46 later in the year on the south side than in the past.
47 From our patrols and our activity, we didn't see the
48 large amount of animals coming back into the Alaska
49 side until later in August.

50

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1 One other item that was noteworthy to
2 mention regarding the International Porcupine Caribou
3 Board. One of their recommendations a couple of years
4 ago was that they would like to see the Alaska side
5 utilize a community harvest more to reporting for the
6 harvesting villages, similar to the programs that they
7 have going over in Canada.

8
9 They've been fairly active in
10 developing a community harvest monitoring model. It's
11 been in place for I believe eight years. Maybe Beth
12 can correct me on that. Somewhere between eight and
13 ten years it's been put in place. And they have
14 refined their process in how they organize and gather
15 the harvest information, report it out to the different
16 advisory bodies -- primarily the Canadian Porcupine
17 Management Board, which would be similar to our Alaska
18 Board of Game.

19
20 Joe Titlichi is the -- been a member of
21 the International Porcupine Board for essentially all
22 of its existence. He's Gwich'in. And he has offered
23 to come over to the Alaska side communities. That
24 would be Kaktovik, Arctic Village, Venetie, and Fort
25 Yukon and describe to them how they were able to
26 organize and successfully implement their community
27 harvest monitoring programs.

28
29 So with that offer, we have been
30 speaking with the Tribal Councils in Kaktovik, Venetie
31 -- which half of the Venetie Tribes live in Arctic
32 Village and the other half in Venetie. And so we spoke
33 with them, as well as Fort Yukon Gwichyaa Zhee Tribe.

34
35 The reason we were doing this is to see
36 whether they would be interested in doing a unified
37 tribal wildlife grant through the Fish and Wildlife's
38 funding sources that would create a prototype of a
39 similar sort of community harvest monitoring that was
40 organized and structured in the Alaska communities.
41 I've got letters now from all of those tribal entities
42 saying they would like to be co-partners in the
43 development and see whether they can acquire funding to
44 use -- initiate the community harvest monitoring idea.

45
46 So we're hopeful that we will be able
47 to complete a proposal package this year, 2018. And
48 we'll see how that progresses.

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1 We at one time earlier in this year had
2 some dedicated funding that was being discussed from
3 the national office; however, with the changes of
4 administrations and sort of the realigning of much
5 that's going back east, those funds that we were hoping
6 to have access to in 2017 were taken off the table.

7
8 So we're very excited about working
9 with our communities -- the tribal entities -- to
10 prepare a grant proposal that will be submitted
11 hopefully this fall, end of September.

12
13 That would complete the caribou one.

14
15 I'll move on if there isn't a question.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Yeah. I've got
18 a question. I know the Porcupine Caribou Herd is like
19 197,000. And I probably only saw only like 15 of them
20 this summer. But I know on the Dempster Highway, is
21 there a corridor for them to be set like off the
22 highway to hunt in the Dempster highway. The Porcupine
23 Herd runs through that area, too.

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: It does. I'm not aware
26 that there is any corridor. You're talking about a
27 corridor for special hunting regulations or.....

28
29 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Well, like off
30 the highway. Is there a corridor set for like right
31 off the road right-of-way.

32
33 MR. TWITCHELL: Not that I'm aware of.
34 Possibly Beth would be familiar with that, but I'm not
35 familiar with it.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank
38 you, Hollis.

39
40 And another one was is there a specific
41 time like the Arctic Village guy was going to meet
42 sometime? You said maybe this spring.

43
44 MR. TWITCHELL: We've heard that the
45 appointments to the board -- at least on the Alaska
46 side -- are being -- not being renewed right away.
47 There has been a lot of interest on the new
48 administration to look at any international agreements
49 and right now it's pretty much in a holding pattern.

50

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1 And we were hoping that they would move forward and
2 reappoint members to this board, but that has not been
3 done yet.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
6 Hollis.

7
8 MR. TWITCHELL: I guess I should at
9 least mention that the representatives from the Alaska
10 Native communities that sit on this board, although
11 their terms have expired now like many of the others,
12 would be Edward Rexford, First Chief, NVK, and also Ed
13 Frank, from Venetie. They are the two currently
14 expired appointed representatives from the Alaska
15 communities.

16
17 I have a handout here. I'm hoping that
18 there's going to be enough for everyone because I'd
19 like to speak to the moose situation now and I'm
20 looking for the stapled one.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva. I just
23 wanted to acknowledge everybody, that I'm back here and
24 I should be here the remainder of the day. And I
25 apologize for the -- yeah. Some of my meetings didn't
26 end as early as I thought they would end.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Thank
29 you, Gordon.

30
31 And maybe we'll just update Gordon. We
32 were holding out a little bit here for you to arrive.
33 And Hollis is providing some of the non-action item
34 updates from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. And
35 then we were planning to move into Proposal 56 for Red
36 Sheep Creek. And he has reports for the moose.

37
38 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair Gordon, I don't
39 know whether you would like me to proceed at this time
40 with agency updates and reports or whether you want me
41 to defer to the agenda, as Eva said.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think it's
44 important to do the things that when you have a quorum
45 -- because sometimes we fall in and out of a quorum.
46 If there's action items, then I would defer to Madame
47 Coordinator here to advise us here. But at the same
48 time, I don't have any problem with continuing with
49 your agency updates.

50

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1 So -- but I will defer and try to get
2 advice from our coordinator to see -- and to advise the
3 Council.
4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
6 And I'll just check back in with Hollis again here, he
7 did have a moose update which is a delegation of
8 authority to the Refuge that this Council had supported
9 and is specific to Kaktovik.
10

11 And maybe you'd want to complete that
12 update and then we'd move into the action items.
13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: I think that would --
15 because you may choose to take some action one way or
16 the other -- or advise us one way or the other.
17

18 So this one might be a good one to
19 continue with and then defer.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead and
22 continue, Hollis.
23

24 MR. TWITCHELL: Okay.
25

26 We conducted the moose survey on the
27 north side of the Brooks Range again this last year,
28 2017, in Unit 26C. The river corridors were flown of
29 all habitable -- available moose habitat for moose.
30 And that included all the drainages from the
31 Sadlerochits all the way over to Canada. Primarily,
32 the Kongakut River drainage.
33

34 And let's see. There's two different
35 maps that I handed out for you. And I would have you
36 look at the first one, which is this one. It doesn't
37 have the red dots in it. It just has the regular blue
38 dots in it.
39

40 In there you will see -- on that map
41 you will see that there is a coloration on the
42 drainages coming out of the Brooks Range. And it's
43 sort of a light greenish color. Those represent places
44 that have been identified of having the browse and the
45 habitat for moose in.
46

47 We have been doing these trend surveys
48 on moose in these drainages for quite a number of
49 years. And so it's consistent from year to year in the
50

1 areas that we look at and how we fly them.

2

3 On there you will see a number of blue
4 dots. The blue dots are the locations that moose were
5 observed. Next to that dot you will see a number and a
6 square box. If it's the number two, that means that it
7 was a cow and a calf. Where you see the number three,
8 that would be a cow with two calves. And then one
9 would be just an individual animal. So that shows you
10 the distribution that moose were observed in 2017.

11

12 A total of 61 moose were observed in
13 this survey area, with nine short yearlings. Two of
14 which were sets of twins. Most of the moose were again
15 observed in the upper tributaries of the Kongakut River
16 Drainage. That's the large one over towards the
17 Canadian border.

18

19 In 2016, going back one year from this,
20 which is going to be the second handout that you would
21 have -- it's the map that has the red dots, the blue
22 dots on it, depicting the same drainages. So I'm going
23 to be talking about the numbers that moose were seen
24 back then. On that, again, in the box if it's a cow
25 and a calf, it's one, one. If it's just two animals,
26 it's two.

27

28 So in 2016, we counted a total of 42
29 moose in this service area, with nine short yearlings.
30 In 2015, which I didn't bring that map, we observed a
31 total of 36 moose in all of those drainages. So you
32 can see the moose population has grown from 36 total in
33 2015, 42 total 2016, and up to 61 total in 2017. So
34 we're seeing the recovery from a fairly substantial
35 decline in moose populations when we had that severe
36 icing event 2012, 2013, and then a minor one 2014.

37

38 Those particular years really impacted
39 moose populations and sheep. Both our populations of
40 those species dropped about 50 percent in those two
41 coinciding fairly severe winter years. So we're seeing
42 that the population is coming back. We're seeing the
43 calves in the population. And for the first time we're
44 seeing two calves. Several cows with two calves. So
45 the population is recovering and it is growing.

46

47 The thing that I'd like you to
48 recognize in both these maps from 2015 -- or '16 -- I'm
49 sorry -- and 2017 is the distribution of where those

50

1 animals are. You can see that the drainages outside of
2 the Kongakut River Drainages -- the numbers of moose
3 are very low. And this has been the pattern that's
4 been that way for quite a number of years.

5
6 Last year, with the request from Lee
7 Kayotuk that there be some -- at least some minimal
8 opportunities to harvest moose, the Refuge manager met
9 with NVK and we discussed providing some Kongakut River
10 Drainage harvest opportunities. Last year we agreed
11 upon two bull moose out of the Kongakut River Drainage,
12 which we conducted that hunt activity in partnership
13 with NVK. They managed the drawing of the permits and
14 the issuing of the permits and hunters went over on I
15 don't know how many occasions.

16
17 Lee, probably two occasions or one
18 party was successful in harvest a moose on the lower
19 Kongakut River Drainage. The second party was not able
20 to locate a moose where they were hunting in the
21 Kongakut.

22
23 I met with my biologist this year.
24 We've had conversations with First Chief of NVK, and
25 discussions with Beth. And we feel comfortable with
26 doing hunting in the Kongakut River Drainage again. We
27 are recommending staying with the two bull moose
28 harvest and Ed Rexford said that he was comfortable
29 with the February 15th through April 15th season.

30
31 So we are prepared to do a special
32 action that's going to open up the Kongakut to most
33 harvest for bull this year. And again, as we've done
34 for the last four or five years, we will coordinate the
35 management of issuing those permits with NVK.

36
37 So with that, that is our intentions
38 and how we plan to proceed.

39
40 And I'll try to answer any questions if
41 you have them.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Any questions
44 for Hollis on the moose in these two maps depicted.

45
46 And I'm glad this presentation is
47 showing signs of recovery. It's been very contentious
48 many years over moose in this area. And I'm just glad
49 to see maybe the changing tide in the population trend

50

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1 counts. I mean we've always argued over moose quite a
2 bit over in that sector over there from transient
3 animals to other things that -- tried ways to get the
4 harvest level increased for that community.

5

6

So any questions for Hollis.

7

8

MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

9

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Lee.

11

12

(In Inupiaq)

13

14

MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you. Thank you.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Yeah. I want to thank you for giving
us, you know, opportunity to give us a moose permit
again. You know, it's pretty tough when you don't have
the caribou hanging around anymore like they used to on
the coast. But, you know, the caribou and the
Porcupine Herd stays in the Interior and we can't get
up there and provide meat for our family. You know, at
least we've got two moose, but, you know, it takes us
two days to get to the Kongakut River from Barter
Island.

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

And, you know, we've got to camp out
there and set up camp for one day. It takes us a good
maybe six, seven hours to get to Demarcation Bay and
another day just to go look around up on the Kongakut
River. But, you know, it's -- there were moose
sightings the first day we got there. You know, we got
one on that first day. And we went back to Kaktovik.
And we went back again and we did not see any moose.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

So the moose must have went into the
Drainage. Because we went in about 18 miles up the
Kongakut River and we didn't see any moose. But, you
know, there's signs of tracks everywhere, but, you
know, there's no snow in the river last spring that --
you know, we -- I mean it's just too rough on the
machine to go even further.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

But, you know, the way it works, it's
just that we're very fortunate to get a moose out of
these places that -- you know, where the population is
kind of a little bit higher, but, you know, not so
high. We're kind of seeing the moose in the Hulahula
and other drainages, but pretty low. But, you know, in

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1 that section where we do travel to go to the -- almost
2 to the border there is -- it takes some time to get
3 there.

4
5 But anyway, thank you, Hollis, for
6 that.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
9 for Hollis.

10
11 MS. HUGO: I do. I'm not familiar with
12 this map, but where is the Kongakut River or the
13 Sheenjek River?

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: The Kongakut River is
16 that big drainage. Would be on the far, righthand side
17 of that map.

18
19 MS. HUGO: This.

20
21 MR. TWITCHELL: Far righthand side
22 where you see the largest concentrations of numbers and
23 dots. Those numbers and dots represent where moose
24 were observed.

25
26 So that's the Kongakut.

27
28 MS. HUGO: Thank you. The Sheenjek.

29
30 MR. TWITCHELL: The Sheenjek River?

31
32 MS. HUGO: The Sheenjek River, yeah.

33
34 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. It's -- if you
35 come over the top of the Kongakut to the top of that
36 drainage, it would descend right into the Sheenjek
37 River Drainage. So it is just south of the Kongakut.

38
39 MS. HUGO: Isn't the Sheenjek by the
40 Fort Yukon area? Way down further south?

41
42 MR. TWITCHELL: Through the Chair.
43 Yes, Esther. It is. The Sheenjek River descends from
44 the Brooks Range, out into the Yukon Flats, and it
45 flows down into the Porcupine River not too far up
46 drainage from Fort Yukon.

47
48 MS. HUGO: Yes. I was just interested
49 because my mother-in-law and some of her siblings were

50

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1 born there. And I believe Barter Island is right up
2 here, right?

3
4 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes. Yes.

5
6 MS. HUGO: My mom was also born there.
7 So I was just asking.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. TWITCHELL: Chair, if I may.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Hollis.

14
15 MR. TWITCHELL: I just wanted to let
16 Lee know that I'm definitely sensitive to the
17 challenges in the weather that you face and having to
18 travel such distances to get resources. And I
19 understand and I appreciate your concerns and what
20 you're saying.

21
22 So I hope the Porcupine Herd will come
23 closer to your areas and I hope there isn't any
24 deflection that would cause them not to do that.

25
26 I'm very hopeful that we won't have any
27 severe weather events because it seems like the moose
28 and the sheep are most severely impacted. The caribou
29 seem to be able to get out of the way better and move
30 to different parts of the range and habitat.

31
32 But let's hope for a good year this
33 year with no more wild and crazy icing events.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hollis.

36
37 Rosemary.

38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. I appreciate
40 the work that's gone into this process and the
41 communications and working with the village that's
42 impacted in this discussion.

43
44 With the increasing numbers, right now
45 we want to see what happens with this population. If
46 they stable out and stay in a good way, but others are
47 going to want to see increased activity and access to
48 these areas.

49
50

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1 How much time are we going to be
2 looking at numbers before we have to see a reaction to
3 others wanting to come in and hunt in this area?
4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, for moose it
6 doesn't -- the way this population is growing so
7 slowly, I think it's going to be quite a while. And
8 there will be other weather events, so this population
9 is on the very upper end of their range. And when
10 events happen it really affects their numbers pretty
11 radically, as we've seen.
12

13 So it's going to be a slow growth and
14 I'm hoping that they will be able to continue as they
15 are because we saw double the amount of moose in that
16 area just south of Kaktovik than we did a year ago.
17 That's pretty good considering the fact that three and
18 a half years ago when we did the muskox survey we saw
19 more grizzly bears out in the middle of April than we
20 did moose in that whole region.
21

22 And when the grizzly bears are
23 outnumbering the moose on that particular region of the
24 Refuge, then that's a challenge.
25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
27 for Hollis.
28

29 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to
30 recognize that this area is important to the Village of
31 Kaktovik and the management in a cautious manner is
32 very important. And recognizing that this Region has
33 gone through additional changes, the Village of
34 Kaktovik really needs this resource.
35

36 So we thank you.
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have some
39 observations, Hollis, that maybe -- you mention about
40 1,200 visitors annually visit the Refuge. And what
41 number of that is on the North Slope side of that? I
42 think the floaters, the hikers. I know a few of them
43 have been picked up by search and rescue where I think
44 polar -- not a polar bear, but grizzly bear ate a
45 couple of people a few years ago.
46

47 And just wanted to know because there
48 might be correlation between the period of time that
49 the needed movement of caribou needs to occur and
50

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1 interruption from aircraft, river rafters, and those
2 kind of things that could potentially impact the
3 destination value for the Porcupine Herd.
4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. To answer
6 your question. In the earlier part of the summer
7 there's sort of a peak of recreational use in July.
8 And those are primarily river floating type operators
9 and they float pretty much most all of those big
10 drainages on the north side. Those are -- seem to be
11 more used than the ones that drain to the south at that
12 time of year.
13

14 When we shift over into the hunting
15 seasons later on in August and September, the river
16 floating tends to shift to the south side associated
17 with moose hunting activities. So it varies between
18 which time of year that the visitors may be coming into
19 that area.
20

21 Overall, I can't give you the exact
22 numbers that went north and that went south, but the
23 numbers were probably larger going north than they were
24 going south since the majority of that use is going
25 down those drainages on the north side.
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you. I
28 think it's just -- it's good to note. And sometimes
29 good to monitor that and see what the use pressure of
30 just nature, sightseeing, and those kind of things.
31 Because we see the impacts in NPR-A and other areas
32 with small aircraft and the use of aircraft for summer
33 studies and things like that. A lot of different
34 studies that go on and a lot of folks that complain
35 about caribou being deflected out of reach of, you
36 know, reasonable subsistence activities.
37

38 So I think, you know, it's hard to say,
39 you know, what the variable is there, but it seems to
40 be they go hand in hand when -- and it's just
41 observations we've seen over time on other areas about
42 human use, aircraft access, and movement of terrestrial
43 migratory routes.
44

45 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm glad you asked
46 that. That's a very good question.
47

48 When we did our CCP, that's just a
49 Comprehensive Conservation Plan -- those plans are
50

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1 generally -- predict or look out about 15 years on
2 really what direction the Refuge should be going. And
3 one of the items identified in there is that we need to
4 do a Public Use Management Plan. And which we couldn't
5 do within the time period that we were allocated to do
6 our larger 15-year plan.

7
8 So it's identified as a priority to be
9 done. And that is when we're going to need to be
10 coming back to all of the people who use the Refuge and
11 work on dealing with what sort of experiences and what
12 sort of conflicts there are and what sort of people
13 management that we should be thinking about or doing.

14
15 And it's becoming more and more
16 important that we do this as we see the growing amount
17 of wildlife viewing happening in Kaktovik with polar
18 bear. And I'm sure our visitors from -- whether
19 they're recreational hikers or floaters or the general
20 hunting public, are going to probably be increasing in
21 the future as well.

22
23 So it's timely that we do this. And so
24 I will carry your comments right back to our Refuge
25 manager.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
28 for Hollis.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

33
34 MR. SHEARS: Just curious. You know,
35 the 19 moose difference between 42 last year and 61
36 this year. I can envision, you know, even if you were
37 using a pilot to copilot in a plane that's decked with
38 three observers. Two visually observing and one
39 manning a -- or forward or looking in an infrared
40 camera to try to identify. And having to cover these
41 hundreds of miles of drainages that were covered in a
42 single month. That thousand of square miles. It's an
43 unimaginable effort of -- you know, flying effort and
44 counting effort that went into this.

45
46 The terrain is so extreme that the
47 shadowing -- the ability for animals to hide in it.
48 There's so much variability built into these counts and
49 environmental factors that we don't even know of on a

50

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1 day-to-day basis that makes the difference in these
2 numbers inconsequential to me.

3
4 And I don't think we can arrive at any
5 conclusion that there's any change in the herd count
6 because the numbers are so close together considering
7 the variability -- statistical analysis of what we've
8 arrived at.

9
10 MR. TWITCHELL: Well, these -- indeed
11 our trend counts are not meant to be the really
12 detailed high confidence interval types of surveys. We
13 do them the same way every year. We choose a weather
14 environment when we do it. It's not just the coastal
15 fog issues, but it's the wind, it's the lighting. You
16 know, if it's really flat light then you're just not
17 going to be doing that.

18
19 So before we even begin these surveys
20 we know we need to have those sorts of conditions to
21 optimize sightability. Then we use people who are
22 experienced. I actually used Lee one year. And I'm
23 hoping I will be able to use him again for these types
24 of surveys.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

27
28 Any other questions for Hollis.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

33
34 I appreciate your update on the moose.

35
36 All right, Madame Coordinator. I'm
37 going to need your help as to where we sit here. I
38 don't know if we've jumped around on the agenda.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. In
41 your absence this morning, Council Member Steve Oomituk
42 was on teleconference with us and so we began to work
43 on some of the crossover proposals that were specific
44 to Unit 23.

45
46 Steve had anticipated he might be able
47 to be back on at 2:00 o'clock, at which time when he
48 was able to rejoin us, we wanted to get back into the
49 caribou proposals that are relevant to across the

50

1 Region.

2

3 There was some discussion about taking
4 up Proposal 56 if Steve was going to be able to join us
5 soon. And I'm not sure -- I know there were a couple
6 of beeps on line.

7

8 Steve, if you were able to reconnect
9 with us by teleconference?

10

11 (No comment)

12

13 MS. PATTON: I.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, are you on
16 line?

17

18 (No comment)

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It appears that Steve
21 hasn't rejoined us yet.

22

23 MS. PATTON: So it would be at the wish
24 of the Chair and the Council if you wanted to pick up
25 Proposal 56 in the anticipation that Steve would join
26 us or if the Council would like to move into the
27 regional proposals. We had planned to start with the
28 Council's own caribou proposal.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
31 the Council. Do you guys want to start with regional
32 proposals and give Steve an opportunity to participate
33 on those crossover proposals that would probably peak
34 his interest in Unit 23.

35

36 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I think we
37 should continue our proposals until Steve will get back
38 on line again and continue on our agenda.

39

40 MR. SHEARS: I agree. Let's move with
41 the regional proposals.

42

43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, keep moving.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
46 let's keep on trucking.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, just to
49 clarify. So the Council would like to start with the

50

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1 regional caribou proposals. As we had discussed
2 yesterday, we were going to start with Proposal 18-57,
3 which was submitted by this Council.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Let's go ahead
6 and move towards that direction.

7
8 I think we heard Bob and Rosemary chime
9 in that that's -- start up with the regional proposals
10 and when Steve is able to rejoin us, then those
11 crossover proposals would be more advantageous, I
12 think.

13
14 So is that Joshua and Tom.

15
16 MR. EVANS: That would be correct.

17
18 So these proposals -- I should mention
19 all our proposals are a group effort. They're done by,
20 you know, not only the wildlife biologists, but the
21 anthropologists and a lot of people -- a lot of
22 reviews. And it goes through an extensive review
23 process. So even though one person may be the lead
24 analyst and present it, these proposals are
25 representative of a lot of work throughout the OSM and
26 the agencies that provide data and whatnot.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before you start,
29 Tom, I have a big -- a quick question.

30
31 We heard earlier from the census from
32 Mr. Ryan on the herds that we're very concerned about.
33 That the count is not done and expected to arrive to
34 some conclusion later in December. It seems to me that
35 would kind of weigh a little bit heavy on whether or
36 not these herds are improving. If there's a different
37 trend. There's been a longstanding trend of decline
38 over the last ten years and that has led to the need to
39 start addressing conservative management scheme of this
40 herd.

41
42 And I'm wondering if that would have a
43 measurable impact on the decision that this body makes
44 knowing that we didn't have a full count of the census.
45 And then moving forward only for the Federal
46 Subsistence Board to get that information and we didn't
47 have it.

48
49 And it seems like that would be a --

50

1 could create some sort of a conflict.

2

3 MR. EVANS: Well, certainly we'd like
4 to have more information than less. And we don't have
5 the information yet. We do have some of the metrics
6 that Ryan and Beth, you know, presented, you know,
7 showing that some of the bull/cow and the calf/cow
8 ratios seem to be doing better. And so we have that.

9

10 But you're right, Gordon. We'd love to
11 have the population census stuff here, but it takes
12 some time to process the data and we're just at where
13 we're at.

14

15 So.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. With that, I
18 think we should go ahead and continue.

19

20 MR. EVANS: Okay. For the record, my
21 name is Tom Evans and I work as a wildlife biologist
22 with OSM.

23

24 The Proposal WP18-57 can be found on
25 page 156 of your Council book. I will be presenting
26 the summary of Proposal WP18-57, which requests that
27 Federal public lands in Unit 26A and 26B be closed to
28 caribou hunting by the non-federally-qualified users.
29 This proposal was submitted by the North Slope
30 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

31

32 There are five proposals concerning
33 caribou regulations across the ranges of the Western
34 Arctic, Teshekpuk, and the Central Arctic Caribou
35 Herds, including WP18-32, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and this
36 proposal 57. These proposals will be presently
37 consecutively and overlapping information such as
38 caribou biology and harvest will only be presented once
39 to reduce repetition and redundancy.

40

41 So I will present that information with
42 this proposal and then will not present biology,
43 harvest history, and cultural history for the remaining
44 proposals. But you're welcome to ask questions at any
45 time if any questions come up on those issues.

46

47 One thing I would also like to mention
48 is one of the tables I handed out to you was wrong in
49 the analysis. There was a mislabeling of the figures

50

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1 between 13 and 14 or 12 and 13 and 57. And so the
2 captions that go along with the figures are corrected
3 in the handout that we provided -- supplemental handout
4 that we provided to you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And Tom, maybe
7 I'm not catching something here. You said some
8 figures.

9
10 MR. EVANS: Yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe you could point
13 those out that were incorrect.

14
15 MR. EVANS: So you got this handout
16 here. And my analysis doesn't have page numbers on it
17 anywhere, so let's see. So for 57 that would be.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said the captions
20 were incorrect?

21
22 MR. EVANS: Correct. The -- so just
23 give me a moment here. Which page is it.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MR. EVANS: Okay.

28
29 So on pages 198 and 199 there are two
30 figures. The caption heading should be reversed. And
31 like I said, the supplemental handout that I provided
32 corrects that.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe I'm just being
35 thick-skulled or something. So which needs to be
36 reversed?

37
38 MR. EVANS: So in the book -- in the
39 Council book that you have.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. EVANS: You'll have a figure
44 heading for Figure 12. That should be for Figure 13 on
45 page 199. And the figure heading for 13 should be for
46 Figure 12, which is on page 198.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Well, it's
49 good to be precise, you know.

50

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1 Can you re-explain that to.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. EVANS: Okay. So figure -- in your
6 book the Figure 12 heading appears on the top of page
7 199 for the previous figure. That heading, Figure 12,
8 if you just cross out the 12 and put a 13. And on the
9 Figure 13 heading cross out the 13 and put a 12 and
10 you'll be good.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it's on 199 then
13 we need to.....

14

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah. The figure heading
16 for Figure 12 should have occurred on page 198, but it
17 got flipped over onto the next page.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead and
20 continue.

21

22 MR. EVANS: Okay.

23

24 The proponent wanted to ensure that
25 local people get the caribou they need, protect the
26 three caribou herds from over-harvest, and to reduce
27 user conflicts.

28

29 The proponent also was concerned about
30 declines in the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk and
31 the Central Arctic Caribou Herd populations.

32

33 In 2016, the State Board of Game
34 adopted Proposal 40, which established a registration
35 permit in Unit 22. In 2016, the Board of Game also
36 adopted a portion of Proposal 85 requiring harvest
37 tickets for Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to improve
38 harvest monitoring and management flexibility.

39

40 In January of 2017, the State Board of
41 Game adopted Proposal 2 requiring registration permits
42 for residents hunting caribou in Units 23 and 26A.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Evans,
45 maybe you could point us in which page we could find
46 that we could follow along.

47

48 MR. EVANS: Okay. So the proposal
49 starts on page 156, I believe.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. I'm there.

2
3 MR. EVANS: Okay.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And you're reading
6 OSM's findings? Or.....

7
8 MR. EVANS: I'm going through the
9 regulatory history right now. I'm sorry.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
12 The regulatory history starts on page 165.

13
14 MR. EVANS: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

17
18 MS. PATTON: So Tom won't be reading
19 verbatim. He's providing a summary for the Council.
20 But that's where the regulatory history starts.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. But I just
23 like to be able to find where he's reading and where
24 he's concentrating his efforts from.

25
26 MR. EVANS: Yeah. That's fine.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Absolutely.

29
30 MR. EVANS: So is everybody onboard
31 now. Okay.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. EVANS: So in February 2017, the
36 State Board of Game adopted two more restrictive
37 caribou hunting regulations in Unit 26B to reduce the
38 overall caribou harvest and cow harvest from the
39 Central Arctic Caribou Herd. Several other proposals
40 were submitted that affect caribou regulations in Units
41 23 and 26A. The outcomes of these proposals,
42 specifically WP18-32, 45, 46, and 47 and 48, 49, may
43 influence this proposal if adopted.

44
45 This proposal is very similar to the
46 special action WSA17-04 which we discussed at the
47 beginning of this Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
48 meeting.

49
50

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1 The Western Arctic, Teshekpuk, Central
2 Arctic, and Porcupine Caribou Herd ranges overlap. And
3 that's map 1, which is on page 169 of your Council
4 book.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

7
8 MR. EVANS: And there can be
9 considerable mixing during the winter. During the
10 1970s there was little overlap between the herds, but
11 this seems to be increasing in recent years. As the
12 populations decline, the amount of overlap between the
13 herds tends to be reduced again.

14
15 In the early 2000s the number of
16 caribou wintering on the North Slope peaked at over
17 700,000 animals. And that estimate includes the
18 Porcupine Caribou Herd. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is
19 doing well, so the focus of the biology section on this
20 will be on the three remaining populations, the Western
21 Arctic, Teshekpuk, and the Central Arctic Caribou Herds
22 due to the declines in those populations.

23
24 The Teshekpuk Caribou Herd declined
25 from approximately 69,000 in 2008 to 39,000 in 2014.
26 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd population declined
27 from approximately 490,000 in 2003 to 201,000 in 2016.
28 And the Central Arctic caribou population declined from
29 approximately 68 to 70,000 in 2010 to 22,000 in 2016.
30 As we heard before, new population counts should be
31 forthcoming for all three of these populations and
32 including the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well.

33
34 The most important factors contributing
35 to the decline of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk
36 populations were poor calf recruitment and survival and
37 adult cow mortality. For the Central Arctic Caribou
38 Herd adult cow mortality and immigration of the caribou
39 from the Central Arctic to the Porcupine Caribou Herd
40 and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd were the primary factors
41 for the declines. The bull/cow ratios for the Central
42 Arctic Caribou Herd are within the management
43 objectives.

44
45 Caribou are an important subsistence
46 resource -- so now I'm in the cultural background
47 section of the analysis. Caribou are.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What page is that?
50

Page 260

1 MR. EVANS: That would be page.....

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's.....

4
5 MR. EVANS:199.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What was that?

8
9 MR. EVANS: Page 199.

10
11 This is a very long analysis. The
12 whole analysis was about 80 pages long, so obviously
13 I'm just summarizing little highlights from each of the
14 sections.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead and
17 continue.

18
19 MR. EVANS: Caribou are an important
20 subsistence resource for the Inupiaq people of northern
21 Alaska. This is particularly true for inland
22 communities such as Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass where
23 marine mammals are not readily available.

24
25 For example, in 2014 residents of
26 Anaktuvuk Pass harvested approximately 330 pounds of
27 caribou per person, representing 84 percent of the
28 entire community harvest that year. Subsistence means
29 more than just meeting a nutritional need for Alaska
30 Native peoples. It's also the base on which they
31 establish their cultural identity.

32
33 Some of the Unit 26 residents have
34 suggested that user conflicts have degraded a
35 meaningful subsistence experience. Testimony has
36 linked this to aircraft activity, wanton waste, and
37 archery wounding loss. User conflict concerns
38 regarding caribou in Unit 26 have been most frequently
39 reported in the vicinity of Anaktuvuk Pass and along
40 the Dalton Highway corridor. Concerns also exist
41 regarding herd migration deflections due to hunting
42 activity along the Dalton Highway corridor and its
43 various river drainages in the Arctic National Wildlife
44 Refuge which are accessible by boat and road.

45
46 The harvest -- I'm going to go now into
47 harvest history, which is page -- if I had known I had
48 to do the page numbers, I could have looked these up
49 beforehand. So I apologize for that.

50

Page 261

1 MS. PATTON: Page 183, at the top.
2 Starts harvest history on page 183.

3
4 MR. EVANS: Okay. Everyone there. All
5 right.

6
7 The average annual harvest from 2000 to
8 2014 from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd was 11,984
9 caribou per year. Local residents take approximately
10 94 percent of the harvest and the vast majority comes
11 from residents of Unit 23.

12
13 Residents of Anaktuvuk Pass, Point Lay,
14 and Point Hope from the North Slope harvest primarily
15 from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Local residents
16 in Unit 26A take about eight to ten percent of the
17 harvest. So roughly 980 to 1,300 caribou are taken by
18 local residents, which is around one percent of the
19 total harvest. Non-federally-qualified subsistence
20 users from that same -- from Unit 26A take about 102
21 animals, which is less than one percent of the total
22 harvest.

23
24 The average harvest from the Teshekpuk
25 Caribou Herd is about 4 to 5,000 caribou per year. The
26 residents of Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright
27 harvest primarily from this herd. The annual harvest
28 consists of 99 percent of the harvest comes from local
29 residents. Less than three percent is harvested by
30 non-federally-qualified subsistence users of the total
31 annual harvest from the Teshekpuk caribou.

32
33 The harvestable surplus for the
34 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is approximately 2,500 at a six
35 percent harvest rate. Currently, the harvest rate from
36 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is approximately ten
37 percent, which is almost double that of the Western
38 Arctic Caribou Herd and the Central Arctic Caribou Herd
39 populations. If the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd population
40 falls below 35,000 the harvest rate may have to be
41 reduced to four to five percent. So that would be
42 almost half of what's currently being done.

43
44 But just to give you an idea of the
45 caribou harvest in 2014 -- I'll just give that from the
46 different villages. The percent of their harvest from
47 the Teshekpuk Herd.

48
49 So Atqasuk, 86 percent of their harvest
50

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1 came from the Teshekpuk Herd in 2014; Utqiagvik, 93
2 percent came from the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd; Nuiqsut,
3 45 percent; and Anaktuvuk Pass, 38 percent. And I
4 don't have a value for Wainwright for 2014, but from
5 2011 to 2012, 60 percent were harvested from the
6 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd population for those three years
7 -- those two years.
8

9 The average harvest from 2013 to 2015
10 from the Central Arctic Caribou Herd was 930 animals.
11 Approximately 100 animals are taken by local residents
12 primarily from the community of Nuiqsut. And then this
13 is compared to where approximately 830 there were taken
14 by non-federally-qualified subsistence users. So non-
15 federally-qualified subsistence users in Unit 26B take
16 about 89 percent of the total caribou harvest in that
17 unit.
18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.
22

23 MS. PATTON: If I may just interject
24 here. There's a Table 6 on page 193 that breaks down
25 that harvest percentage by caribou herd and community.
26

27 MR. EVANS: Yes. And that's a little
28 different table than the way I presented it just now,
29 but that gives you an idea of the percentage of the
30 harvest by the North Slope communities from the
31 different herds.
32

33 So the proposed change to the caribou
34 regulations that we're -- that the State has done for
35 this regulatory year will probably have the most impact
36 on non-federally-qualified users in Unit 26B. The goal
37 of those reductions was to reduce the annual harvest
38 from approximately 930 or so to 680, which is
39 approximately three percent of the current population
40 estimate of 22,360 and reduce the cow harvest from
41 approximately 200 to 75.
42

43 Although the State harvest guidelines
44 for the Central Arctic caribou population has been five
45 percent, the reported harvest has been well below the
46 harvestable surplus, averaging less than two percent
47 since 2000, 2001. With the recent population decline,
48 the recommended harvest level is three percent of the
49 population.
50

1 Hunting by non-federally-qualified
2 subsistence users in Unit 26B is concentrated primarily
3 along the Dalton Highway, most of which is surrounded
4 by State managed land. There are also some areas in
5 the southwestern portion of Unit 26B that are part of
6 ANWR that are accessed by boats, including air boats.

7
8 The current harvest rates exceed the
9 sustainable harvest rates for the Teshekpuk Caribou
10 Herd and if the Western Arctic and the Central Arctic
11 population continues to decline, the harvest rate may
12 soon exceed the harvestable surplus for those
13 populations as well. These concerns were the main
14 reason for the more restrictive caribou regulations for
15 the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou populations in
16 the past few years. And the new more restrictive
17 regulations have just been implemented by the Board of
18 Game for the Central Arctic caribou regulations for
19 this 2017/2018 regulatory year.

20
21 Trying to understand the overlap of the
22 caribou harvest between local and non-local users is
23 complicated by the lack of the exact location, harvest
24 numbers, and which caribou is being targeted. So
25 that's -- we're going to have some proposals about
26 having registration permits for the folks that live
27 north of the Yukon. And so getting more accurate
28 harvest information will be useful to help ascertain
29 what the impact is on harvest on each of the different
30 herds.

31
32 Residents living north of the Yukon
33 River prior to 2017 were not required to obtain
34 harvest tickets, so most of the information on the
35 harvest from federally-qualified subsistence users
36 comes from community harvest surveys. Which are good,
37 but they often occur -- you know, there's large
38 intervals of like, you know, five to eight years
39 sometimes between surveys, so as a result they're often
40 not very current.

41
42 Harvest by Alaska residents living
43 south of the Yukon River is monitored by harvest
44 reports and there's much more accurate harvest
45 information from non-local residents. The hunters that
46 harvest south of the Yukon River and the non-residents.
47 And Ryan Klimstra mentioned that earlier. That we have
48 good harvest data for those folks, but not as good
49 harvest data for those that live north of the.....

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me.....

2
3 MR. EVANS: Okay. Go ahead.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me say something
6 here.

7
8 MR. EVANS: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said the quality
11 or the reliability of harvest records from non-local
12 residents that harvest is -- that's the higher
13 reliability and reporting procedures.

14
15 MR. EVANS: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Last May, when we had
18 some public testimony here, it seemed to contradict
19 that 100 percent. When we had these -- for one thing,
20 we had a dead caribou that publicly testified, which
21 was very awful I thought and actually probably a stolen
22 caribou from somebody's yard, that -- they missed it.

23
24 The other thing is the testimony of a
25 veteran that put his flag out and say that I'm one of
26 2,000.

27
28 MR. EVANS: Uh-huh.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's written
31 into -- not just written in the record, but tape
32 recorded.

33
34 How can you devise the reliability of
35 those things when the ADF&G says it's very little, but
36 an actual user says it's very high. You're
37 contradicting yourself here in making some of these
38 reports, which should be duly noted.

39
40 I mean I try to stay observant on these
41 things as well. And we should be very careful as to
42 how you say these things.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 MR. EVANS: Okay. I can answer that
47 question and pardon for the confusion.

48
49 So the harvest in Unit 26B is mostly by
50

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1 non-federally-qualified subsistence users. They're
2 required to get a harvest ticket. And non-resident is
3 required to get harvest tickets. So that information
4 is submitted. Because they have to have harvest
5 tickets, they have reporting requirements. And that
6 goes back to Fish and Game. So those records are
7 accurate because they have it -- they have record.

8
9 For prior to 2017 for the folks living
10 north of the Yukon River, they're required to report.
11 But the reporting -- they're required to consult Fish
12 and Game, but the -- what am I going to say. There
13 wasn't very -- it wasn't done -- I can't think of the
14 right word. It wasn't -- it wasn't followed through.
15 I guess the follow through wasn't as good. So the
16 reporting requirement was less. So we don't have as
17 good accurate information from those folks that
18 harvested north of the Yukon River because they didn't
19 have to have a harvest ticket.

20
21 So that's how those information comes
22 forth. So you have to kind of look at it with respect
23 to where the harvest is being done and who it's being
24 done by.

25
26 So basically the harvest in Unit 26B --
27 if you look at Unit 26B, with Nuiqsut up in the corner,
28 we have better records of the harvest from the non-
29 federally-qualified users in the southern portion of
30 Unit 26B that require harvest tickets from Nuiqsut.
31 Where we get that harvest information would be from
32 community harvest surveys. And that's reflective of
33 when the last time that the community harvest surveys
34 were done.

35
36 Now, we were fortunate to have a
37 community harvest survey done within the last couple --
38 last two or three years or couple of years for -- at
39 least for Barrow and for some of the northern
40 communities. So we do have some relatively recent
41 information from the community harvest survey from some
42 of the northern communities.

43
44 Okay. So I'll continue on if.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.
47 Continue.

48
49 MR. EVANS: So we looked at some other
50

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1 alternatives. One of the alternatives was to close the
2 Federal public lands in Unit 26B, which would include
3 the BLM lands on either side of the road of the
4 southern section of the Dalton Highway corridor and the
5 Fish and Wildlife Service lands, which include a
6 portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the
7 southeast corner of Unit 26B.

8
9 It is possible that closing the Federal
10 lands to non-federally-qualified subsistence users
11 would reduce the harvest, but it may also just shift
12 the hunting locations to adjacent State lands. This is
13 a concern around Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Lay. And I
14 think it is a real concern that if hunters can't
15 harvest on federally-qualified lands they will just
16 shift to adjacent State lands that are readily
17 available.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, I've got a
20 question here.

21
22 MR. EVANS: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The shift -- you're
25 talking about different shifts and hunting pressure
26 would shift to adjacent State lands or things like
27 that. When the Unit 23 area, of the same animals, that
28 are being questioned about changing from a liberal
29 management to a conservative management regime and was
30 adopted as a special action in Unit 23 based on the 38
31 communities that it served, this caribou herd of one
32 time 490,000 animals reduced down to 200,000 animals.
33 Missing 290,000 animals it was now time to look at
34 conservative management scheme. And one measure of
35 that was to look at rural subsistence priority.

36
37 And that was -- that's basically the
38 law on how management on Federal lands should look to.
39 And when you start to look at allocating for
40 communities in doing that. Weren't we part of the 38
41 communities in the Unit 23 that was calculated as part
42 of those communities subsisting off of the calculation
43 there? And there needed to be a mirroring special
44 action on Unit 26A to -- so that it -- the defeating of
45 the purpose because you switch the hunting pressure
46 from Unit 23 over to Unit 26.

47
48 And I think we're already seeing that.

49
50

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1 We've seen concerns raised from
2 Wainwright about small aircrafts with their tail
3 numbers all taped up and covered. And those aren't
4 being reported.

5
6 So I'm thinking we were part of that
7 calculation of 38 communities that the Western Arctic
8 Herd was servicing throughout its range. And in order
9 not to defeat the purpose of conservative management,
10 Unit 26A would need to be afforded the same protection
11 of the herd and reduce that to federally-qualified
12 users in Unit 26A. So that was the intent.

13
14 And I'm seeing and reading that -- that
15 dialogue you're not having. You're not projecting that
16 dialogue. You're projecting internal divisiveness
17 within only Unit 26A and B. So it's not putting into
18 full consideration of the effects of Unit 23 where we
19 were part of that calculation as well.

20
21 I just wanted to point that out.

22
23 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24
25 And I think -- you know, that's
26 obviously what the intent of your proposal was. But
27 Units 26A and 26B and the impact of non-federally-
28 qualified users in those units -- it's a little bit
29 different than it is in 23.

30
31 And obviously there have been some
32 measures in Unit 23. They were taking into account the
33 closures that you know about already that -- along some
34 of the major river drainages to help protect the
35 caribou herds and those populations for the subsistence
36 users.

37
38 So in doing the analysis, we have to
39 look at the impact of non-federally-qualified users,
40 the federally-qualified users, and we have to make an
41 evaluation of what the impact of the different groups
42 of hunters are on the different populations. And so we
43 basically focused this -- because this was focused
44 specifically on Unit 26A and 26B, we're not dealing
45 with Unit 23 at all in this proposal. It's just
46 focused on 26A and 26B.

47
48 And after the analysis, this is just
49 the conclusions that OSM came up with.

50

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1 And so if I can continue, I'll just go
2 ahead and.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead and
5 continue. I just wanted to make my observations known.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. EVANS: Okay. So I was talking
10 about the shift to State public lands just before the
11 question here.

12
13 So if you look in Unit 26B, there's a
14 relatively small proportion of Federal public lands in
15 Unit 26B. It's kind of in the southern portion of that
16 and along the highway. And so the thought is that the
17 non-federally-qualified users -- if they were
18 restricted from harvesting along the Dalton Highway
19 corridor and section of ANWR, they would just shift
20 over to the State lands that are there. A lot of them
21 already harvest on the State lands within that unit.

22
23 And the same thing could happen around
24 Point Lay and the same thing could happen around
25 Anaktuvuk Pass. Anaktuvuk Pass being in 26A and Point
26 Lay being in 26A.

27
28 It's been a relatively short period to
29 see the effects of the changes of the State and Federal
30 changes to the caribou regulations. They have been in
31 place since 2015 and the regulations for the Central
32 Arctic Caribou Herd are just in place for this
33 2017/2018 year.

34
35 So we'd like to -- so this would
36 suggest that additional time is needed to see how these
37 restrictions -- how it affects the hunting pressure on
38 these three populations that are involved.

39
40 If the request is approved, the caribou
41 hunting on the Federal public lands in Unit 26A and 26B
42 would be limited to federally-qualified users for the
43 2018/2020 regulatory period. The total harvest by the
44 non-federally-qualified users in Units 26A is
45 approximately one percent of the total harvest from the
46 Western Arctic caribou population. It's approximately
47 117 animals out of an annual harvest of 11 -- almost
48 12,000 animals.

49
50

1 Local people have voiced concern that
2 the closure would likely concentrate more people on
3 State lands in the proximity of communities, thus
4 increasing potential user conflicts. And again we're
5 -- this would be Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Lay. Total
6 harvest by non-federally-qualified users from the
7 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd which occurs primarily in Unit
8 26A is less than one percent of the total harvest.
9 It's an average of up to ten out of an estimated
10 harvest of about 4,000 from 2012 to 2013 to 2013/14.
11 So the two harvest years. Those two -- the 2012 and
12 2013 regulatory years.

13
14 Closing Federal public lands in Unit
15 26B to non-federally-qualified users would have the
16 greatest impact on non-federally-qualified users that
17 hunt from the Central Arctic Caribou Herd in Unit 26B.
18 The non-federally-qualified users account for 89
19 percent of the total harvest in Unit 26B and much of
20 this harvest already occurs on State lands.

21
22 In Unit 26B it's likely again that the
23 non-federally-qualified user harvest would not decline
24 much because those hunters would just shift to the
25 adjacent State lands. As I mentioned, the Federal
26 public lands in Unit 26B make up around 30 percent of
27 Unit 26B, so there's a lot of State land in Unit 26B.

28
29 Elimination of the caribou season for
30 non-federally-qualified users in Unit 26B on Federal
31 public lands may have little effect on reducing the
32 disturbance of the caribou migration across the Dalton
33 Highway because non-federally-qualified users would
34 still use the Dalton Highway corridor management area
35 to access State lands.

36
37 So OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
38 oppose Proposal WP18-57. It's due to the relatively
39 small cow harvest in Unit 26A, the need for adequate
40 time to see the newly enacted regulations. See if
41 they're effective at reducing the caribou harvest.

42
43 The newly enacted State regulations to
44 protect the Central Arctic Caribou Herd in Unit 26B for
45 residents is a reduction of the total harvest from five
46 caribou today to two bull caribou. One bull for non
47 residents and a total elimination of the cow harvest in
48 Unit 26B. And this is likely to have more effect than
49 the closure of Federal public lands to non-federally-

50

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1 qualified subsistence users.

2

3 Reduction of the caribou harvest in a
4 relatively small portion of the public lands in Unit
5 26B, along with Dalton Highway management corridor,
6 would likely just shift the hunting pressure to the
7 adjacent State lands within that unit. And reducing
8 hunting pressure along the Dalton Highway corridor
9 management area is unlikely to increase availability to
10 local residents living west of the highway.

11

12 And Mr. Chair, I know that was long,
13 but that summarized my presentation.

14

15 And I'll be open for questions.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions for Tom on
18 the analysis of Proposal WP18-57.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the initial
23 analysis is to oppose by OSM?

24

25 MR. EVANS: Correct.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: I'm interested in Unit
32 25A. I'm interested in the Central -- I'm looking at
33 the Federal lands in 26B and their marriage to the
34 south of 25A. And the over -- you know, that both
35 those areas are regions occupied by the Central Arctic
36 Herd. I'm a little concerned about the Central
37 Arctic's population is why I'm asking this question.

38

39 Unit 25A -- you know, it's kind of
40 outside of our jurisdiction on the North Slope. But
41 I'm looking in the game regs and they're allowed ten a
42 day -- ten caribou a day all year round, you know, in
43 Unit 25A. Not a lot of restrictions on hunting of the
44 Central Arctic Caribou Herd south of 26B Federal lands.

45

46 We're looking at closing 26B to non-
47 federally-qualified users when all a non-federally-
48 qualified user has to do is go a few miles south and
49 they're operating without restrictions and they're

50

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1 hunting the same caribou.

2

3 Give me an idea of what -- I know it's
4 probably a bad time to be asking this question. I wish
5 I would have been at the last meeting. You know, what
6 is the harvest characteristics of Unit 25A in the area
7 of State land that the west fork of the Chandler
8 primarily drains.

9

10 I think that would give me a good
11 overall picture if I knew how much harvest data we had
12 out of that region just to the south of 26B. How
13 influential our decision would be to close 26B to
14 Federal lands to non-qualified Federal users.

15

16 Sorry to drop this on you. I could
17 have asked this question a long time ago. And I don't
18 even know if the answer is going to be relevant to our
19 discussion.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have -- what's
22 your name again? Beth?

23

24 She had her hand up. And while Tom's
25 looking through the book there, I think she's got some
26 answers.

27

28 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Mr.
29 Shears, my name is Beth Lenart. I'm with the Alaska
30 Department of Fish and Game out of Fairbanks. And I'm
31 the area biologist for the northeast portion of Alaska.

32

33 You have a very good question here.
34 And at the Board of Game, when we debated whether or
35 not -- how we wanted to do regulations for 25A, we
36 looked at when caribou were present in that unit.

37

38 And so the Central Arctic Herd for many
39 years, except for the last two winters, were wintering
40 on the south side of the Brooks Range in 25A, between
41 the Haul Road and Arctic Village. At the same time in
42 most of those years they were mixed with the Porcupine
43 Caribou Herd.

44

45 So in general, right now the Unit 25A
46 regulations reflect the management of the Porcupine
47 Caribou Herd. When the Central Arctic Herd is in 25A,
48 harvest occurs sometimes in the spring. But most of
49 that hunting is -- are from folks coming off the Haul

50

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1 Road. They're either snowshoeing or dog mushing in, in
2 like April or March. And so the harvest is pretty low.
3 It's like 20 caribou. And based on our radio collars
4 the last few winters, probably a lot of those caribou
5 were actually Porcupine caribou.

6
7 So we weren't as concerned about what
8 harvest was taking place on the south side of the
9 Brooks Range for that Central Arctic because obviously
10 we made -- we recommended some pretty substantial
11 restrictions in 26B on the Central Arctic Herd. But
12 because the harvest was low on the south side of the
13 Brooks Range and those caribou are frequently mixed
14 with the Porcupine, which is doing fine right now, we
15 were comfortable with that ten caribou bag limit. And
16 it helped simplify the regulations.

17
18 MR. SHEARS: Interesting. Thank you,
19 Beth.

20
21 MR. EVANS: And if I might add, so it
22 took a little time to find it because actually some of
23 the information on 25A is actually in Proposal 32,
24 which is a proposal that's coming up.

25
26 But basically from doing my analysis
27 and looking at 25A as best that it's primary -- the
28 Porcupine Caribou Herd is the primary caribou herd for
29 subsistence users in that, those are -- there's a lack
30 of data on the caribou Central -- it's estimate -- lack
31 of data on the Central Arctic caribou harvest and
32 migration in Unit 25A, it's estimated that less than
33 ten percent of the harvest is from the Central Arctic
34 Caribou Herd.

35
36 So -- and the Porcupine Caribou Herd is
37 at an all time high, so we're not really concerned
38 about that at this point.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: I have to wonder, Mr.
41 Chair. You know, if the non-qualified Federal users of
42 26B are -- you know, are kind of -- is forming a fence.
43 A front line of battle against the caribou. Preventing
44 them from -- you know, the Central Herd from blending
45 further south into 25A.

46
47 But -- no. It's inconsequential to any
48 decision right now, but thank you for that, Tom.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
2 to Tom on the WP18-57.

3
4 MS. HUGO: I do.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ester, go ahead, from
7 Anaktuvuk.

8
9 MS. HUGO: The numbers in the
10 percentage, how would you number in the percentage for
11 our village if nothing was harvest? I mean I don't
12 think this is accurate numbers for us. It should be
13 zero percent.

14
15 MR. EVANS: You have to look at the
16 years at which the table went for. So the table -- the
17 Table 6 that Eva respond -- on page 193 you refer to.
18 That is actually data from the 2008/2009 regulatory
19 years. And the reason those years were picked was
20 because there was good separation of the herds during
21 those years and we had data from those years.

22
23 But 2008/2009 is not, you know, '15 and
24 '16. You know, so the idea of this table was just to
25 kind of show what the proportion of harvest from the
26 three populations by the communities from the North
27 Slope would have on a norm -- you know, back in
28 2008/2009. It doesn't reflect what's happening today.

29
30 So when these are averages -- so I know
31 in the last -- I mean I know we had some pre-meetings
32 with you, Ester, and that during that, you know -- you
33 know, you said you may harvest like -- for Anaktuvuk
34 Pass I think 500 caribou roughly would be -- in a good
35 year that would be what the community would harvest.
36 But obviously, within the last couple of years you've
37 done better than the previous couple of years, you
38 know, before that. But you still haven't gotten up to
39 that -- anywhere near those numbers.

40
41 And I think if when we were talking
42 before you -- you maybe have a quarter or less than a
43 quarter of the number of caribou that the residents of
44 Anaktuvuk Pass would normally harvest for subsistence
45 activities to carry them through the winter. So I
46 think you're correct.

47
48 This -- what it is you could -- in
49 fact, I think it would be good for you to let us know
50

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1 like what -- how many caribou have been harvested in
2 Anaktuvuk Pass like in the last couple of years and
3 give us an idea of what those harvest numbers are
4 because that will help inform the Council as showing
5 what the -- you know, showing the need for Anaktuvuk
6 Pass. So I think -- I think you have those numbers.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ester, did you want
9 to continue?

10
11 MS. HUGO: And that was -- God, 2008
12 and '09 is almost ten years ago. And you're using that
13 number for today? No?

14
15 MR. EVANS: No. I'm not using it for
16 today. That was just using an example of what in a
17 good year -- in a good year where herds are separated,
18 what the proportion of the harvest would be for the
19 communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Utqiagvik,
20 Nuiqsut, Point Lay, Point Hope, and Wainwright. Those
21 were -- 2008/2009 was obviously a better year. People
22 were able to harvest caribou during that regulatory
23 year. But it doesn't reflect what's happening today.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.
26 And it's going to be about harvestable surplus.

27
28 And how do you, as OSM, work with those
29 numbers? We know what the State does, right? And
30 we've heard the State make some very big numbers that
31 really should be challenged in terms of the Western
32 Arctic, Teshekpuk Herd, and having them coalesce as one
33 herd to derive a ANS that was artificially high and
34 creating a harvestable surplus that could include non-
35 resident hunts. But if you, as the biologist,
36 explained to us, you separate those individually to
37 their respective herds, both of those herds wouldn't be
38 able to support a non-resident hunt and should be
39 afforded conservative management.

40
41 And the other part of that is the
42 reliance on Unit 26B to look at the State's management
43 scheme to see if those methodologies will work to make
44 a geographical area determination, which to me is -- I
45 think there's some flaws there and some conflicts with
46 an area of influence afforded a community in
47 comprehensive planning where the area of influence is a
48 outline created to show the contemporary traditional
49 hunting use areas for the immediate use of a community.
50

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1 And then creating a geographical area and saying you'll
2 have a liberal hunting management scheme in that
3 geographic area, but invite the entire world to
4 participate in there, in a village area of influence
5 identified in a comprehensive plan.

6
7 Seems to me there's some contradictions
8 there and not a recognition of Alaska statutes in
9 creating comprehensive plans for each community. I
10 mean that to me is -- somebody's got to raise red flags
11 here. And I think there's issues there.

12
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
16 Rosemary.

17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is really
19 important to our community in Nuiqsut and we've brought
20 in many different layers of concerns around caribou
21 harvesting. I'm really concerned that we've got this
22 information laid out, but there's a variable that's
23 very important on harvesting in this area that is not
24 documented.

25
26 We know that the activity on the Dalton
27 Highway has greatly increased. There's a number of
28 activities that are occurring there, but it's also the
29 increased access with the various -- those fan boats
30 that are now starting to go up some of our tributaries.
31 Those are very disruptive to normal activities in this
32 area.

33
34 And I don't really see with everything
35 that's being presented that we have a good
36 understanding of how much harvest is occurring around
37 these areas by residents not from this Region. State
38 residents are going up there and doing these
39 activities.

40
41 We do have information from those that
42 are coming in non-resident, but that variable that's
43 being accepted as okay to go into these areas by some
44 of these management regimes are very concerning,
45 especially when our community is suffering some of the
46 reactions in these areas.

47
48 I really worry that the compounding
49 effect of everything that's happening is really
50

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1 stressing our animals out. And if we're not going to
2 get a handle on some of these other activities to try
3 to reduce those impacts, this area is being greatly
4 impacted by all the different traffic and activities
5 that are going into it.

6
7 And this is a big void that's not well
8 documented and that is really causing some tremendous
9 impact to this area.

10
11 MR. EVANS: I think as I mentioned
12 before, most of the area in Unit 26B that you're
13 referring to is State lands. And so maybe the State
14 would like to comment on that.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I don't see
17 the State running right up there.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 MS. LENART: Through the Chair.
22 Members of the Council. Beth Lenart, for the record.

23
24 We are documenting other resident
25 Alaskan harvest through the harvest ticket, as Mr.
26 Evans explained. So we feel like we do have a pretty
27 good idea of that harvest. We also have an idea of
28 where that harvest is taking place because most on that
29 harvest ticket we're asking for location of kill sites.
30 So we feel like we do have some good information.

31
32 That being said, I'm not trying to
33 dismiss your concerns about impacts of activities.
34 Whether they're -- it's -- are compounded impacts of
35 activities from hunters, oil field exploration,
36 tourism, I'm not trying to dismiss that. I just -- I
37 do feel that we do have some good harvest numbers.

38
39 And with the new regulations that we
40 just put into place, the preliminary data indicates
41 that that hunting pressure was significantly reduced
42 this year. And we've seen that in the past. It's a
43 long ways for those hunters from Fairbanks or Wasilla.
44 It's a long ways for them to go. And when they hear
45 that there aren't as many caribou or that they're not
46 accessible -- like the last couple of falls they've
47 been west of the Haul Road. They haven't been on the
48 east side. Then they don't always make that long trip.
49 And so some of -- I think we saw some of that this

50

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1 fall.

2
3 I also talked to the chairman of the
4 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, who lives
5 in Wiseman, because I'm not on the ground up there. So
6 I'm looking at harvest ticket numbers. I'm looking at
7 data that comes in that way. And my impression from
8 the chairman was he thought there was less hunters
9 going up the Haul Road into 26B this year also. And he
10 was instrumental in forming some of those regulations
11 on the Central Arctic last year, at the Board of Game
12 in March.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth.

15
16 Is there any follow up to that there,
17 Rosemary?

18
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. I really feel
20 that we didn't get a handle on some of those jet boats
21 and air boats that are going up some of our tributaries
22 past Wiseman. And those are big concerns for us.

23
24 I appreciate the intent to gather more
25 information to allow us to have better informed
26 decision, but I also feel that unless we get a better
27 handle on the process that's going up there -- getting
28 people to send in these tickets is one process of
29 gathering information, but having people on the ground
30 looking at what are the numbers that are actually going
31 up that road are a better way, as well as knowing how
32 many animals are coming back down that road, are really
33 instrumental in helping us manage this.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
36 to Tom Evans on the analysis for WP18-57.

37
38 We have a representative from the
39 Inupiaq community Arctic Slope, President George
40 Edwardson.

41
42 MR. EDWARDSON: Before I start, I have
43 a question for all of you. We're still following the
44 Statehood Act, aren't we. It has not been changed.
45 Alaska Statehood Act. It shows the northerly and the
46 westerly boundaries of the State of Alaska to be five
47 miles north of the Porcupine, Yukon, Kuskokwim.
48 Section 9A and B, Section 10A and B are the Statehood
49 Act. That's what's written. It hasn't been changed.

50

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1 And in 1982, Congress passed the Arctic
2 Policy, which recognized that Porcupine, Yukon,
3 Kuskokwim River boundary. How come we're dealing with
4 the State when they're out of their jurisdiction.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we can always,
7 you know, deal with throwing a wrench in there. So
8 that.....
9

10 (Laughter)
11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But in the meantime,
13 I think those are things to think about. And maybe
14 somebody really needs to explore that.
15

16 In order to think about what OSM is
17 saying, the Office of Subsistence Management, in
18 working with the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council,
19 which is -- there's some language giving more deference
20 to the Council. There was recent legislation about
21 that in giving additional deference to the Regional
22 Advisory Council to look at the rulemaking. And I
23 don't see here -- I don't see Staff giving us deference
24 in what we have thought about in a declining era of
25 caribou.
26

27 You don't have 490,000 animals anymore.
28 I mean you're -- you know, we're -- that's where
29 there's the State and the Feds and arguments throughout
30 the State about the trend -- the population trend. And
31 that trend has been in a decline for over a decade.
32

33 And I -- you know, it's scary to think
34 about in the '70s -- I think it was '76, '75 or '74.
35 One of those years where the Federal government said
36 caribou was completely off limits and we're going to
37 give you a pack of beef for the families to survive
38 off. And these management schemes really need to be
39 taken seriously with a sustain yield principle.
40

41 And I'm very alarmed and concerned
42 because OSM takes the position in crossing the line
43 over to the State side where there is no recognition of
44 this management scheme. There's no rural subsistence
45 priority in the State. That ended -- it was -- the
46 State ended that in 1992 in the Federal management on
47 sustained yield principle and adherence to -- was it --
48 is it ANILCA -- to adhere to that. They'd manage it in
49 a way that provided the management so that the
50

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1 communities -- rural subsistence priority would be the
2 land of the law.

3
4 And we really did enjoy a very really
5 liberal hunting management for decades. And we need to
6 think about giving deference to the communities.
7 Giving deference to the people that have to put food on
8 the table.

9
10 And I think your analysis might be shy
11 of that. To look at the schemes when the State's
12 saying hey, we're going to come to you and talk to you
13 about aligning our regulations and so that we can be
14 alike. And it's kind of scary when they don't make it
15 alike and change something and that you really don't
16 know what the reasoning behind it is.

17
18 So those are some of my observations.

19
20 I mean what would make it palatable for
21 OSM to look at this. Does that mean making it
22 palatable and amending our proposal to carve out Unit
23 26B. Is that going to be palatable for OSM to say hey,
24 let the State manage State. Let them manage their own
25 decline.

26
27 What I think our intent was Unit 26B
28 where there's a little bit -- a little sliver of
29 Federal land maybe that could afford some of that
30 protection in a very drastically declined Central
31 Arctic Herd from 67,000 peak a few years ago -- five
32 years ago 67,000. Today maybe less than 20,000 in that
33 herd. Something's going on in that herd. Either
34 you're doing a lot to promote a lot of hunting in that
35 area that's not being monitored. I don't know. I
36 don't know what the deal is with a drastic decline in
37 numbers in that area.

38
39 But I think we need to look at what
40 Unit 23 did. And we were part of that population
41 estimate of the 38 villages. And it would be prudent
42 and not to shift the hunting pressure on Unit 26A of
43 the same herd that was intended to be protected, to
44 provide food on the table to the 38 villages that it
45 blessed a rural subsistence priority.

46
47 And I think we need to think about it a
48 little bit. And maybe there is some palatable level
49 that you can give us deference on in moving forward.

50

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1 So -- and I could probably go on for
2 too long and everybody would die with the explanations
3 that get long-winded.

4
5 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chair, may I respond to
6 that?

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.

9
10 MR. EVANS: So one of our alternatives
11 was to close Federal public lands in Unit 26B. That
12 was one of our alternatives.

13
14 And remember this is just the OSM's
15 analysis. We're looking at the biology. We're looking
16 at the effects on federally-qualified and non-
17 federally-qualified users looking at the harvest by the
18 respective entities. But your recommendation is your
19 recommendation.

20
21 This is just one part of the
22 information that you use to make your decision. And
23 your decision, you know, oftentimes doesn't agree with
24 OSM's recommendation. So don't let that -- so, you
25 know, it's your decision and whatever you feel -- the
26 Council feels comfortable with, that's what you should
27 make the recommendation to the Board as to what you
28 think the best course of action is for this proposal.

29
30 So thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, Tom. And I
33 want to just give you a little example. Because I'm a
34 land manager myself and I have a planning commission to
35 advise. I see you as Staff. You're OSM. For me, I
36 would be in the same shoes as the planning department
37 to the planning commission in providing a
38 recommendation to enact some sort of legislation. And
39 it's routine.

40
41 And we're looking because OSM, Office
42 of Subsistence Management, is saying no. And devising
43 a way to say no with 58 pages of saying no. And are we
44 to be putting our hands in our pocket and going in
45 front of Federal Subsistence Board just with my hands
46 in my pocket like this and saying -- or are we putting
47 OSM in our back pocket and saying hey, give us
48 deference.

49
50

1 That legislation that was passed giving
2 more authority for the Regional Advisory Council to say
3 things and look at the needs of the communities. And
4 those are some of the things I sometimes think about.

5
6 And the need to look at the villages.

7
8 I mean there's a lot of food security
9 issues and hunger in our villages when -- let's just
10 put Anaktuvuk on the line for a second. And what do
11 they have. Maybe 400 residents. And then they have
12 maybe 50 jobs in the community. What does the
13 remaining 350 people do. And they subsist or they get
14 supplemental help from those that have jobs to go out
15 and hunt to get the resources home.

16
17 Far too often the success rate is not
18 there. And the periphery of the migration is starting
19 to impact them more and more. And going through other
20 passes and things like that.

21
22 So there's a need to give deference to
23 communities and looking at area of influence and
24 unobstructed migration issues and things like that,
25 that should -- there's policies in the North Slope
26 Borough that says subsistence -- there should not be
27 impacts to subsistence where resources are normally
28 found. There's language like that, that are geared to
29 provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence
30 activities.

31
32 And there should be things like you
33 look at the closure of bowhead whale periods. Our own
34 Title 19 says that through the Alaska's Eskimo Whaling
35 Commission we can stop oil drilling within our boundary
36 for a period of time. And seismic operations so that
37 the harvest of these resources could be at hand for the
38 communities and put a window of a quiet zone.

39
40 Maybe that's what we're lacking. Maybe
41 there's a period of time from July, August, and
42 September where there should be a quiet zone for the
43 regular, unobstructed movement of caribou that would
44 need to bless the communities with their migrations.

45
46 I mean you can say a lot of different
47 things and say it in a different way. Many different
48 organizations like the Borough or the State with
49 policies are intended to provide subsistence

50

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1 opportunities.

2

3

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Mr. President.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Roy

6

Nageak.

7

8

MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Thank you. Thank

9

you. I'm a tribal member and a subsistence hunter.

10

11

12

And when we grew up with issues and started to be regulated -- I was born in 1951. And I remember when the State of Alaska became being in 1959. And the rules and regulations and the laws -- that rules starting ruling our way of life from the State started then.

16

17

18

19

And what really gets me is that we as Native Americans -- and we are -- us being United States citizens and starting in 1959 as being State citizens. But at the same time, when they look at the history of how we -- how the Natives were being treated in the beginning of the -- or the making of America and the Doctrine of Discovery was the prominent law at that time.

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

And then Doctrine of Discovery stated that since the discovery of America that it stated since they're not good Christians and the owners of the land -- the owners of the land, since they were not good Christians, the people that went forward had through the Doctrine of Discovery to kill any humans -- or savages they called them at that time -- and take over their land.

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

What's disturbing is that in 1959, when Alaska became a State, the 1960s -- late '60s and 1970s, when the Native Claim Settlement Act was enacted. And the Doctrine of Discovery stated that since they were not good Christians that their lands could be taken over. But for us -- and like what my nephew, George, stated, it's -- their own laws were broken when they started taking lands away from the Natives in Alaska. Because we were good Christians. When you go down the road, right in front of our church, and it says established in 1899. We were good Christians, and how could they take all the land.

48

49

50

And you know what. They still utilize

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1 that law. They did that. They use -- still utilize
2 the Doctrine of Discovery law and they used it
3 recently. And what we see is laws broken on how to
4 deal with us. They don't follow their own laws. All
5 that land that we have subsistence and live on is still
6 our land. Because the laws were broken utilizing that.
7 Because we were good Christians. And as good
8 Christians we could own that land.
9

10 And one of the issues that I want to
11 point out, because we're good Christians and the law of
12 the land is man made laws, but in (Indiscernible) 12,
13 it states, from 7, but now ask the (indiscernible)
14 peace and they will teach you, and the birds of the
15 air, and they will tell you, or speak to the Earth and
16 it will teach you and the fish of the sea will explain
17 to you; who among all of these does not know that the
18 hand of the Lord has done this. In most
19 (indiscernible) in life of every living thing and the
20 birth of all mankind. Just not the air, just words,
21 and the mouth taste its food. Wisdom is with aged men
22 and with length of days understanding. With these our
23 wisdom and strength he has counsel and understanding.
24 If he breaks a thing down it cannot be rebuilt. If he
25 envisions it, a man, or can it be no release.
26

27 And with those words, when the Federal
28 government needs to do what it needs to do, especially
29 with NPR-A, they're doing the studies. They're doing
30 stuff for the peace with the caribou, with the fish and
31 with the birds. And there are limits to what could be
32 done.
33

34 What surprises me is the State of
35 Alaska and the legislations that were made didn't have
36 the wisdom and understanding of how to legislate. And
37 with that we see the State legislated to the advantage
38 of the oil industry that is on the North Slope. And
39 now it's impacting our citizens of the State as a whole
40 for the dividend check that comes from our country to
41 help everybody is cut in half. The last one we had --
42 where it was supposed to be 2,000. And everybody that
43 is from the rural area is impacted.
44

45 And then they come and state that they
46 could make us where if we hunt caribou it's going to
47 start being limited. So it's double jeopardy for us.
48

49 The State of Alaska's got to understand
50

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1 that when they legislate and make laws it's to the
2 disadvantage of the rural areas because they owe
3 billions of dollars now to an industry that's within
4 the North Slope. But at the same time they want to
5 decrease our ability to live off the land. It's double
6 jeopardy for the rural areas. And to me that is very
7 wrong.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have any other
12 questions for Tom Evans on WP18-57.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, I want to get
17 some -- in this discussion with Tom Evans, is it an
18 action item here? Or is this -- or what are we.....

19
20 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Yes, Council and
21 Chair. And I know we have some new folks that have
22 joined us this afternoon.

23
24 So we are on the presentation of
25 proposals and the procedures. These are all very
26 important action items for the Council.

27
28 This particular proposal was the
29 Council's own proposal and so we are looking for the
30 Council's recommendation to the Board and a discussion
31 of the reasoning and the justification so the Board can
32 better understand the Council's intent in submitting
33 this proposal and the importance.

34
35 So right now we're on number one of the
36 presentation procedure for the proposals. And again
37 we've got some new folks in the audience here. So we
38 start with an introduction. That's the opportunity for
39 the Council's discussion and questions.

40
41 And then we have a process so that, you
42 know, everyone has an opportunity to be heard. And
43 then we report on the tribal consultation. We have
44 agency comments and also Native and village tribal
45 comments. The AC. The Council.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So Eva, we're
48 -- we just finished item one, introduction and
49 presentation of the analysis.

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1 MS. PATTON: Right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And now questions to
4 Tom on his analysis from the Council.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then we will move on
9 to two and report on Board consultations on the tribe
10 and ANILCA, ANCSA corporations.

11

12 So we're still on item one with the
13 questioning of Mr. Evans and his analysis of WP18-57.

14

15 Is there any other concerns about Tom
16 Evans' analysis from OSM on our proposal, which I think
17 I've been slapping him around a little bit. But it's
18 all right.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other concerns
23 from the Council to Tom.

24

25 And we like you, Tom. I mean don't get
26 us wrong. You work really hard and make 54 pages of
27 stuff. So.....

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

32

33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In the analysis on
34 page 209, it states in addition to closing the Federal
35 lands to non-federally-qualified users, that it would
36 not see much reduction in competition and it would
37 increase the impact to Anaktuvuk Pass.

38

39 I feel like I'm stuck between a rock
40 and a hard spot. We're trying to put in some
41 recommendations to try to help with these concerns of
42 others that are coming in and changing our ability to
43 harvest. But in trying to do so, if we transpose that
44 increased risk and frustration on Anaktuvuk Pass,
45 that's also not acceptable.

46

47 What can we do in light of this as to
48 how we can better manage this if we cannot approve this
49 proposal with the concerns being pushed onto another

50

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1 village.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

4

5 I think we're not -- I think OSM is
6 just rendering an opinion.

7

8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And there's
11 deliberations to go on and to hear from tribes, the
12 village corporations, agency comments. And we're going
13 to go through all of this gamut here.

14

15 One thing I wanted to ask Tom in his
16 analysis. And because you used geographic area
17 descriptions, I think, about let the State regulation
18 play out and see if that helps. All the while I think
19 our proposal doesn't affect State land. Our proposal
20 would affect 26B of that little sliver of Federal land
21 that's in that area. And I think maybe you're mixing
22 apples and oranges a little bit there. And there's
23 some consternation here about State land and Federal
24 land.

25

26 And the reason I think we included Unit
27 26B was a sliver of land that was afforded at the --
28 looking at the major decline in the Central Arctic Herd
29 in that area. That Federal land should actually be
30 protected in that area and afforded only C&T type
31 federally-qualified users to use that Federal land in
32 these areas.

33

34 Is that observation your observation or
35 do you see that different? And if you could respond.

36

37 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 So we looked at the effect of your
40 proposals to close Federal public lands to non-
41 federally-qualified users. And what we came up with
42 was that closing the Federal public lands to non-
43 federally-qualified users wasn't going to have the
44 intended effect that was going to be really useful for
45 the communities that harvest caribou from these three
46 populations in Unit 26A and 26B.

47

48 As Rosemary mentioned, there are
49 potentially some side effects that it could increase

50

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1 non -- if we close federally-qualified lands that users
2 could go over to State lands. So now that would happen
3 in Unit 26B. There are already a lot of State lands.
4

5 So it's kind of a no brainer. If I was
6 a non-federally-qualified user and went up there and I
7 couldn't hunt in -- and/or where I normally hunted, but
8 I could hunt, you know, just outside of ANWR, then
9 that's probably what I would do.
10

11 On the same token, you know, we're
12 looking at the -- and this could affect Point Lay as
13 well. We don't mention Point Lay, but Point Lay has a
14 lot of State lands around it, too, so it could push
15 there.
16

17 So -- and as far as the federally-
18 qualified users within 26A, there's so little harvest
19 by non-federally-qualified users that restricting them
20 really doesn't impact the federally-qualified users.
21

22 This is our analysis.
23

24 And then as far as Nuiqsut, which is an
25 area in 26B.....
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe before.....
28

29 MR. EVANS: So let me finish, if I
30 could.
31

32 So in Nuiqsut, you know, we know that
33 the State gave liberal regulations for that area. And
34 I know Gordon had mentioned that other people from the
35 outside could come in and hunt in that area, but we
36 really don't -- we don't think that will happen due to
37 the things. But it could happen.
38

39 So our analysis was looking at the
40 whole big picture and looking at the impact of closing
41 Federal public lands. And then -- and that relates to
42 the interface of State and public -- State and Federal
43 lands within these two units.
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And just to
46 follow along. And I'm not going to belabor continuing
47 on this and -- and then allow for tribes and ANCSA
48 corporations to weigh in as well here.
49
50

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1 So when you look at this Region 10,
2 State land with Unit 26A controlled use areas around
3 the Point Lay -- and I'm pretty sure there's some
4 restrictions there already. And you're saying that it
5 will shift the hunting pressure to an area that's
6 already designated as control use area. And then there
7 is control use area north of Anaktuvuk Pass. There's
8 already some protection measures that you're maybe
9 overstating a little bit of the -- the shift in hunting
10 pressure into these areas where there's already control
11 use. Not exactly sure if I got that right.

12
13 The other part is that you're not
14 taking into account the little use on Unit 26A, but the
15 hunting pressure that shifts from Unit 23 with those
16 restrictions on Federal public lands that are on Unit
17 23 that occurred to shift to Unit 26A, which would
18 defeat the purpose of Unit 23 restrictions on Federal
19 -- to limit it to federally-qualified users.

20
21 You see where I'm getting here?

22
23 You're not taking into account because
24 you're saying there's so little use of Unit 26A by non-
25 federally-qualified users, but that shift is about to
26 occur. That shift you're not taking into account into
27 your analysis that Unit 26A will start to encounter.
28 And kind of defeats the purpose of protecting the herd,
29 to minimize -- to allow for the herd to get back to a
30 liberal management level.

31
32 And that was the intent. And maybe I
33 find your analysis to be flawed in that area. So.....

34
35 MR. EVANS: If I may respond, Mr.
36 Chair. So we did look at both of those things. And we
37 did find out that there was some increase of hunters
38 coming from Unit 23 into 26A. So that is documented in
39 the thing.

40
41 As far as the controlled use areas, the
42 controlled use areas were designed to protect areas and
43 allow for increased subsistence hunting and regulate
44 the non-federally-qualified users. But in recent years
45 what's happened in, in particular the Anaktuvuk Pass
46 controlled use area, the caribou haven't been going
47 there. So it hasn't been as effective as you would --
48 as it was sort of intended initially. So -- and so
49 that's -- so we did look at these things.

50

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1 Again, the influx into 26A was not
2 extensive, but that's certainly noticeable between the
3 time that we put regulations in to control the hunting
4 in Unit 23. So we did look at that.

5
6 And so just let you know that we didn't
7 miss those points.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
10 to Tom Evans before we move on to the presentation --
11 procedures for proposals to item 2.

12
13 Any more deliberations from the
14 Council.

15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I.....

17
18 MR. OOMITUK: Gordon, this is Steve.
19 And I got on about five minutes ago or so. Sorry I was
20 delayed. The meeting went a little longer than
21 planned.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Steve. You
24 have the floor.

25
26 MR. OOMITUK: But I am on line.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have the floor,
29 Steve.

30
31 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Yeah. So I just
32 got on and -- and I'm not sure where you are on the
33 agenda. But I am here. So like I said, I'm sorry for
34 being delayed. I was -- the meeting lasted a little
35 longer than was.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Steve. I'm
38 going to give you a really short where we're at. We're
39 on presentation of the analysis from OSM on WP18-57, a
40 proposal that came from North Slope Regional Advisory
41 Council to -- it's a special action to limit the Unit
42 26A and 26B to federally-qualified users. Meaning that
43 you need to be a rural resident to be able to
44 subsistence and hunt on these lands. That was the
45 proposal.

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Yes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's where
50

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1 we're at.

2

3 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. I got it. Okay.
4 Yes. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.....

7

8 MR. OOMITUK: And.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Steve. Were you
11 going to continue?

12

13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I just wanted to
14 see where we were at.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

17

18 MR. OOMITUK: And I've got a clearer
19 picture now. Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Definitely we're
24 very concerned on what's happening for our hunters and
25 caribous and this proposal weighs heavily on my
26 shoulders as I consider this.

27

28 I know our hunters are having hardships
29 in many different ways with the different
30 communications that are happening. These are going to
31 impact our families. These going to impact whether or
32 not we have the caribou to harvest and eat during the
33 winter months. And it is a very difficult situation to
34 sit and listen to both sides of this discussion.

35

36 There's a lot of concern from our
37 communities about what is happening in these areas and
38 the numbers that have decreased to available harvest.
39 And we are not taking these decisions lightly.

40

41 I have been stressing for the last many
42 weeks when I reviewed these proposals on how to
43 participate in this process going forward because I
44 know it is hardship that is going into our families.
45 And these hardships are a big concern when they go on
46 for more than a year. Like we've heard in Anaktuvuk
47 Pass this isn't something that has just come up, this
48 has been a process over a series of years and talking
49 about ways to protect the resource.

50

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1 It is a very difficult situation to sit
2 here and try to come up with the appropriate answers.
3 Families are going to have hardship no matter what
4 decision we make.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

7
8 Any other Council critiques of the
9 analysis from OSM.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. I'm
14 going to go down to item two, report on Board
15 consultations. A, tribes. So.....

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 The Federal Subsistence Board did hold tribal
19 consultation and ANCSA consultation for this proposal.

20
21 We had a couple of tribal
22 administrators that participated in that consultation.
23 (Indiscernible) from Anaktuvuk Pass. Listening in and
24 getting information for the Anaktuvuk Pass tribe and
25 community. We also had Lupita Henry from Point Lay
26 calling in.

27
28 We had just the tribal administrators
29 participation and they were working to relay
30 information back to the tribes, but we did not have any
31 specific recommendations from tribal council members.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just a formality
36 here, if we've got tribal entities or heads of tribes,
37 they're welcome to state their opinion on WP18-57
38 and.....

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and the
43 analysis; is that true?

44
45 MS. PATTON: Yes. And that is part of
46 our procedure process. And I'll just briefly go over
47 this.

48
49 So at the introduction and the
50

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1 analysis, that's opportunity for the Council to ask
2 questions on the analysis. When that concludes then we
3 report on the consultations with the Board that occur
4 before the Council meeting.

5
6 Then we have agency comments, which is
7 ADF&G, Federal agencies, and the Native tribal or
8 village agencies that are here and on teleconference.
9 So that's the opportunity for tribal representatives to
10 comment.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So we can have
13 tribal representatives say their peace on.....

14
15 MS. PATTON: Yes. When.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER:WP18-57?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Yeah. When we get to
20 agency comments.

21
22 And then we do have public comment
23 opportunity also. And there's.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I see it. I
26 see it.

27
28 MS. PATTON: There's a little blue
29 sheet.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's on my
32 description of items here.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we do have one
35 coming up here.

36
37 So just for the folks participating to
38 know that we have a time slot so that everybody has the
39 opportunity to make recommendations on this proposal.
40 So we'll follow through those procedures so everyone
41 has an opportunity.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We heard
46 from Eva on two. So we did get a couple of those
47 consultations.

48
49 And so we -- I propose that we to item
50

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1 three, agency comments. A is ADF&G.

2

3 MR. GORN: Hello, Mr. Chairman. For
4 the record, my name is Tony Gorn. I'm the regional
5 supervisor, based in Nome, for Western and Northwestern
6 Alaska.

7

8 The Department's recommendation for
9 Wildlife Proposal 18-57 is to not support this proposal
10 at this time because restriction is not currently
11 needed.

12

13 As stated earlier, biological evidence
14 indicates the decline has stabilized and the Teshekpuk
15 Caribou Herd may be getting too increased.

16

17 Additionally, the Board of Game
18 recently changed caribou hunting regulations for the
19 Central Arctic Herd, significantly reducing caribou
20 hunting opportunity in Unit 26B. We believe these
21 modifications should be assessed before making
22 additional restrictions. Eliminating non-local harvest
23 will have no biological impact on the recovery of these
24 caribou herds and is not warranted at this time.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, ADF&G,
29 from Nome.

30

31 And do we extend any other ADF&G
32 comments or is that the one?

33

34 MS. PATTON: I believe that's it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll go to B,
37 Federal agencies.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
42 You may want to just check on line to see if we have
43 anyone who has joined us on line.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there anyone on
46 line that's a Federal agency that wants to comment on
47 WP18-57.

48

49 (No comments)

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Federal agencies.

2
3 (No comments)

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't hear any.

5
6 Is it the next one?

7
8 MS. PATTON: Yep.

9
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I feel like I'm a
12 little baby sometimes. I'm looking to Eva because it's
13 my first year being a chairman. And Harry's been the
14 chairman for 20 years. You know, it's hard to fill in
15 big shoes. So -- all right.

16
17 We'll go to agency comments. C is the
18 Native, tribal, village, and other. So do we have
19 those on line that are Native, tribal, village or other
20 to comment on WP18-57.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I'm
25 going to extend the opportunity for comments from the
26 floor from Native, tribal, village, and others.

27
28 We have George Edwardson, Inupiaq
29 community of the Arctic Slope, Tribal Chief or
30 President, I think.

31
32 MR. EDWARDSON: I just wanted to
33 comment again on Alaska Statehood Act. Section 4 of
34 the Alaska Statehood Act says the State of Alaska has
35 absolutely no jurisdiction in regulating our
36 subsistence hunting.

37
38 Nixon, when he came through out of
39 China, stopped over in Fairbanks to fuel up. And he
40 told the Alaska legislature you have five more years to
41 change your Act. You know, the Statehood Act. And if
42 you don't, you're going to be stuck with it. And the
43 State of Alaska never did change it.

44
45 And also I heard a comment about Point
46 -- Native Village of Point Lay. Obama, on his last
47 tribal meeting, notified the country that there were
48 three communities that the land was put in trust. And
49 Native Village of Point Lay was one of them. Point Lay
50

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1 now has Federal title to a 30-mile radius of their town
2 as land in trust. This was passed by the Federal
3 government on the last round of Obama's control.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other Native,
6 tribal, village, and other to comment on WP18-57.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't see anyone
11 raising their hand. So maybe last call. Agency
12 comments. Native, tribal, village, other.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We're going to
17 D. 3D, which is InterAgency Staff Committee.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 That was the one thing that got eliminated from the
21 list as the ISC no longer.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It buried itself.

24
25 MS. PATTON:well, they never have
26 provided comments to the Council.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So you
29 forgot to erase it right here?

30
31 MS. PATTON: We did create a new form
32 that eliminates those but -- but we do have advisory
33 group comments.

34
35 This proposal was relevant to the
36 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council. As you
37 know, their community's along the hunt area in Unit 26B
38 here. The Western Interior Federal Subsistence
39 Regional Advisory Council discussed WP18-57 and the
40 Council -- I'm sorry. And the Council voted to oppose
41 the proposal, noting that low non-local harvest in Unit
42 26A and the minimal Federal lands in Unit 26B. It was
43 noted that the proposal would not reduce the number of
44 people hunting the affected herds. Just concentrate
45 them in particular areas.

46
47 It was also noted that the harvestable
48 surplus is high enough to support non-subsistence
49 hunting while providing a subsistence priority. The

50

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1 Council felt adoption would violate Section 8-15 of
2 ANILCA.

3
4 Again, that was the Western Interior
5 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council opposed
6 this proposal.

7
8 We do have -- the Gates of the Arctic
9 Federal Subsistence SRC did not take action on this
10 proposal. And we did not get any written comments from
11 Fish and Game Advisory Committees as well, unless
12 there's someone representing the local AC here today.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MS. PATTON: And that concludes the
17 advisory group comments.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's another one
20 there which is the Subsistence Resource Commission.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes. So the
23 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission,
24 which Ester was elected to, they took up the Federal
25 subsistence proposals in their summer meeting and then
26 revisited them again at their recent meeting.

27
28 They did not take action on this
29 particular proposal, so they didn't have any comments
30 that were provided to us.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Moving
33 down to summary of written public comments.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
36 There were no written public comments submitted.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Item 6,
39 public testimony.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, we did get a
42 request for public.....

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Joe.

47
48 MS. PATTON:testimony.....

49
50

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1 MR. LEAVITT: Joseph Leavitt, from
2 Barrow. I'm just.....

3
4 MS. PATTON:from Joe Leavitt.

5
6 MR. LEAVITT: Mr. Chair. Joseph
7 Leavitt, from Barrow. I'm just -- I've got my own
8 views. I got a question for Tom here.

9
10 On the non-federally-qualified users,
11 what is the quota for a day? Is it five a day, three a
12 day? Or.....

13
14 MR. EVANS: Which area?

15
16 MR. LEAVITT: On to close the hunt to
17 non-federally-qualified users on 57.

18
19 MR. EVANS: So for this proposal, it
20 was Unit 26A and it was 26B. And Unit 26B, under the
21 new State regulations the harvest has been reduced from
22 five caribou to two caribou per day. And then for non-
23 residents it's one caribou -- one bull caribou -- I'm
24 sorry. And then there's no cow harvest at all in 26B
25 for.....

26
27 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. So that people
28 from Fairbanks can actually get two caribou a day? Is
29 that the way I understand it or am I wrong?

30
31 MR. EVANS: Hang on. Two caribou
32 total. Not per day.

33
34 MR. LEAVITT: Oh, okay. Okay. Okay.

35
36 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Yeah.

37
38 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Okay. And maybe
39 if they brought that down to one, you know, that would
40 give the people a chance at Nuiqsut to get their
41 caribou until their numbers go up and the people are
42 getting what they need for their subsistence.

43
44 You know, if they bring it down to one
45 for -- and take out the non-residents and bring one
46 caribou to the rule people, I think that would, you
47 know, bring it down at least. And then Nuiqsut might
48 have a chance to catch their caribou.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Leavitt, I think
2 on the WP18-57 it's not limited to Nuiqsut. It's also
3 Barrow, Wainwright, Atqasuk. In these areas that WP18-
4 57.....

5
6 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Okay.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we did see the
9 State after this proposal was submitted, is to my
10 understanding, made some changes in 26B to seriously
11 limit the -- by geographic area on the Haul Road down
12 to just total two. But created an additional
13 geographic area by Nuiqsut to have a liberal
14 management. To allow Nuiqsut residents to have a
15 liberal harvest. But didn't limit it to Nuiqsut, but
16 to Alaska residents, is to my understanding. Even
17 probably non-residents. I'm not too sure.

18
19 MR. LEAVITT: Okay.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's my
22 understanding.

23
24 MR. LEAVITT: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's kind of
27 complicated, but WP18-57 is a proposal that came from
28 this Board to limit the hunt in Unit 26A and 26B to
29 federally-qualified users, which mean you must be a
30 resident of the community.

31
32 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Okay. I
33 understand. I think I understand that part right
34 there.

35
36 And I think the big problem right here
37 is why I came to the meeting here is I wanted to see
38 numbers from the latest counts. For three years I
39 still haven't seen the numbers. I haven't gotten the
40 count. And then even up to this day. They say they're
41 going to be done in December.

42
43 We need to see the numbers -- the good
44 numbers. That's why I came to the meeting. I thought
45 I was going to get the good numbers. I still haven't
46 gotten the good numbers.

47
48 Remember the State guy was here and he
49 showed us that graph. Last two years there was no
50

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1 numbers. There was no count. Because of bad weather,
2 bad insect year.

3
4 That's why I came to the meeting is I
5 was sure I was going to get the good numbers, and to
6 this day I still haven't gotten the good numbers.

7
8 And that's going to be my opinion.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe.

13
14 Any other public testimony. The floor
15 is open on WP18-57 proposal to -- for Unit 26A, Unit
16 26B. To change that to federally-qualified users,
17 meaning you must be a resident of the communities.
18 That's the proposal and the analysis given by Tom
19 Evans, from OSM. We're taking public testimony.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I take my hand up
24 and provide my own public testimony as just an
25 individual hunter.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 Each of your testimony and your own experience as a
31 hunter as it relates to this proposal to help inform
32 the Board from your experience is really critical. So
33 when you are speaking from your experience, you are
34 representing an important part of why this Council is
35 here.

36
37 So your comments and -- and we're
38 coming to the -- you know, the Council's motion and
39 justification and support. And so as much as you can
40 share from your experience -- each of you -- in regards
41 to this proposal would be very helpful.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. With that
46 I'm going to take my hat off as the Chair and pass it
47 over to Lee. If he could recognize me as an individual
48 person so I can make a couple of rants, I guess.

49
50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay, Gordon.
4 Proceed at this time for this agenda item 18-57.

5

6 MR. BROWER: Yeah. And this is Gordon
7 Brower, for the record. I'm a resident of Barrow.

8

9 I've been living here all my life. I
10 subsist in Federal public lands all my life. And I am
11 alarmed at the trend in population for Western Arctic
12 Herd. Ten years ago there were 490,000 caribou in that
13 herd. Today we're possibly looking at less than
14 200,000. Hovering at 200,000. 290,000 animal decline
15 in one decade.

16

17 Also, the Teshekpuk Herd -- I know that
18 herd was much bigger about ten years ago. Somewhere
19 around there they were about maybe 50 or 60,000. And
20 that declined. Is about 30,000. Maybe less than
21 30,000.

22

23 So I speak from the heart about
24 maintaining the ability to provide food on the table
25 for my family, for our relatives. And knowing the
26 hardships that once came here in the '70s when caribou
27 was not available. I could remember that. The Federal
28 government providing a block of beef to every
29 household. Said you guys can't hunt caribou because of
30 the drastic decline.

31

32 We have enjoyed over a decade of
33 liberal management. Liberal hunting practices on these
34 herds. And I've heard and asked questions in 2014 when
35 these questions -- when the issues started to surface
36 on the decline over this trend. 2014 to me was an eye
37 opener. The decline had already ensued. And ADF&G,
38 the State of Alaska's -- Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game was playing with numbers. Was playing with
40 numbers. And that is proven. It's on record. It was
41 stated, recorded.

42

43 When the State acronym creates the
44 amount necessary for subsistence, the acronym is ANS.
45 And to calculate an ANS and to derive a harvestable
46 surplus, the use of Teshekpuk Herd and the Western
47 Arctic Herd as one herd. And to derive an artificial
48 ANS to have a liberal management scheme. That was out
49 there. And they've since looked at that.

50

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1 And I asked the questions to the
2 biologists -- if you have an ANS independent for
3 Teshekpuk Herd, an ANS independent for the Western
4 Arctic Herd, could they support other than subsistence
5 activities. And they said no. They could not support
6 other hunts because of their drastic decline over time.

7
8 Having understood all these things --
9 and I had to educate myself as quickly as I can to see
10 what was at hand. And I continue to advocate that we
11 do our best. We've seen Unit 23 in the Nana Region all
12 the way into the Nome area, these herd services 38
13 communities -- 38 communities. Big or small, they're
14 38 communities in its path. That included Barrow.

15
16 Unit 23 was passed by the Federal
17 Subsistence Board last year to restrict Unit 23 to
18 federally-qualified users. Meaning you must be a
19 resident of the communities to harvest caribou in these
20 areas. You can't be from Anchorage. You can't be from
21 Juneau. You've got to live in those communities in
22 order to harvest these resources because of the
23 decline. That's conservative and sustain yield
24 principle to work for the benefit of I would say food
25 security for our communities.

26
27 If we're not doing the same thing --
28 and the Federal Subsistence Board said yes. And they
29 said yes in Unit 23. If we're not doing the same thing
30 in the actual range of Western Arctic Herd over the
31 Brooks Range to Unit 26, it is defeating the purpose of
32 protecting these. Because the hunting pressure will
33 shift over the Brooks Range and on this side. And it's
34 under-estimated by OSM in my view.

35
36 And as a logical person, to think about
37 these kinds of things, I think it's important that we
38 express these views to the Federal Subsistence Board to
39 enact WP18-57.

40
41 And that's my testimony.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other public
46 testimony.

47
48 (No comments)

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry, Lee. You're
2 supposed to give me back the Chair.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 hand the Chair back over to you.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Thank
12 you, Lee.

13
14 Any other public testimony on WP18-57
15 and the analysis from OSM.

16
17 Roy.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

20
21 MR. NAGEAK, SR.: Roy Nageak, for the
22 record. The biggest.....

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

25
26 MR. NAGEAK, SR.:detriment to the
27 caribou herds are the airplanes and the helicopters.
28 And to me, that's always been.....

29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I.....

31
32 MR. NAGEAK, SR.:the case in all
33 the subsistence meetings that they have across the
34 North Slope.

35
36 And we hear it every summer. We hear
37 it down the -- up and down the Chipp River. And there
38 is no way to regulate that. All the agencies say in
39 front of us has no control over the airlines, airplanes
40 that fly, Anaktuvuk Pass, I've seen them fly all over.
41 And they've been flying all over ever since hunting
42 started in Alaska, especially big game hunting.

43
44 And you see that on TV. They love to
45 go to Alaska. We see it on channel 40, with Jim
46 Shockey moose, caribou, sheep, anything. And they
47 could fly all over and drop off hunters. And there's
48 no way -- like airplanes are now making money flying
49 tourists to look at the big herds. Because I've seen
50

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1 them. And they ask where can we hire a plane in Barrow
2 that could take us to the big herds so we could watch
3 them.
4

5 Airplanes to me have always been a
6 detriment. But sometimes there are caribou -- they get
7 used to the planes. But the big herds when they're
8 migrating, they tend to get away from their pattern. I
9 just want to point that out.
10

11 And somehow hunting with planes
12 especially during the summertime and people landing in
13 the lakes all over the North Slope. There are so many
14 lakes, nobody knows where they land. And somehow it's
15 wide open and we don't know. Nobody knows. I will try
16 to ask. Because it's so easy to track with a GPS. And
17 I think somebody does, but they don't want to stop
18 that.
19

20 The plane -- it's like the train in the
21 earlier days of America. Because the train decimated
22 the buffalo herds. We don't want that to happen with
23 our caribou.
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other public
26 testimony on WP18-57.
27

28 Joe.
29

30 MR. LEAVITT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. After listening to you talk, I would be in
32 favor of closing the hunt for non-federally-qualified
33 users. I would be in favor of that.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe. That
38 was Joe Leavitt.
39

40 MR. OOMITUK: Just for the record, this
41 is Steve. I -- you know.....
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
44

45 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. We have a delay on
46 the -- you know, being on the teleconference -- on the
47 cell phone. But yeah, I -- you know, I feel that, you
48 know, federally recognized -- you know, our local
49 people -- yes and close it to non-residents, yes, I
50

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1 would agree with all that. You know, since we did it
2 for Unit 23, you know, we seen a big change on Federal
3 lands, to have non-residents, you know, we seen in the
4 last two years a big difference, that our caribou have
5 finally came back even though the numbers are low, you
6 know, the loss of over 290,000 but, you know, just this
7 year alone, you know, we seen the animals even though
8 they are a low number but they're actually staying in
9 our area. You know, because people that used to hunt
10 on Federal lands and go in a boat and -- and changing
11 the route of the herd, especially sporthunters that
12 drop people off at drains in front of the herd and, you
13 know, for years and years they've done that and it
14 changes the migration route and made, you know, the
15 local people -- gave them hardship for, you know, for
16 having to go further to hunt, you know, to put food on
17 the table when they have no money and gas is so
18 expensive in our communities.

19
20 You know, subsistence way of life, you
21 know, is very important for our communities, especially
22 that depend on the caribou. You know, we're very
23 fortunate that people that live on the coast line, you
24 know, we have other sources, you know, the seal, the
25 walrus, the whale.

26
27 But I would just be in support.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve, for
32 your public testimony.

33
34 The mic is open for the public to
35 provide public testimony on WP18-57 for Unit 26A, 26B,
36 to limit the caribou hunts to federally-qualified
37 users.

38
39 And also we talked about the analysis
40 given by OSM Tom Evans.

41
42 So the floor is open for public
43 testimony.

44
45 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Ester Hugo.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Ester Hugo.

48
49 MS. HUGO: I'm a resident and I was

50

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1 born in Anaktuvuk Pass. It's been 40 plus years my
2 leaders have wrote letters to State regarding this
3 matter. And I'm getting older and we're still in the
4 same issue.

5
6 And I can say over again in front of
7 you, this is very sensitive for me. I don't want you
8 to feel sorry for me. This is how we feel. Because
9 that's our only main diet and food for our children and
10 our elders.

11
12 The State failed us. So have the Feds.
13 So have BLM.

14
15 Our people, our mayors -- a lot of them
16 are gone. And I ran into a whole bunch of letters and
17 every letter was the same issue. Why don't you listen
18 to us.

19
20 Our old folks tell us yeah, they're
21 going to come. We've got to be patient. Sure. When I
22 was growing up, they were coming. Until the pipeline,
23 which was supposed to be open only for industrial. And
24 then later on it was opened to the public.

25
26 That's 40 years of hollering and crying
27 and my people hurting to eat. Right now we're sharing
28 a little bit of the moose that they catch.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 And realizing that there was no -- it's
33 late migration, we had to at least catch two or three
34 moose. That way we can share among everybody. That's
35 400 plus residents.

36
37 I just feel that the system had failed
38 us being the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass. Also ASRC
39 shareholders.

40
41 And how would you like it if a lot of
42 sporthunters come to your home and land that plane with
43 nothing but the racks taped up for some meat. All
44 these years.

45
46 It got to a point where we start going
47 to the airplane and the PSO starts to watch us so we
48 won't argue or maybe this guy -- I piss him off and
49 he'll go -- you know, maybe go get -- you know, I don't

50

1 know. But he's usually there.

2

3 It's a way of our lives. The tuttu.
4 It's always been that way. My mom and them -- they
5 roamed with the caribou. I wish it was those days now
6 instead of today. My mom had cancer and you know what?
7 Her last request she asked for tuttu meat to eat. And
8 she had three little pieces. That's all she wanted.
9 And she got unconscious after.

10

11 Unfortunately, my father passed on in a
12 plane crash in 1976 right in John River there. And my
13 mom had to raise up my brother and me and my sisters so
14 we could learn how to hunt, learn how to preserve and
15 put the caribou away.

16

17 And I see a lot of those guide hunters
18 making a film. And we watch that up there at home.
19 And they're just down in the foothills State land. And
20 this guy goes I can just about do anything up here
21 because it's State land. But hey, my grandpa and my
22 great-grandpa, they roamed with the caribou up there.
23 And like I always say, it's just a piece of paper that
24 it's State land. And it's ours. The Nunimiut people's
25 land. No matter how much you look at it, it will
26 always be our land, our home. And our main diet is the
27 tuttu.

28

29 So we need to come up with some
30 positive things to help us. Instead of us bashing and
31 hollering at you. Because you guys wouldn't want
32 anything what we went through. You guys would have
33 sued maybe. But us, we don't do that. Maybe I could
34 have sued the State or any North Slope or ASRC for not
35 taking care of us. But no. We're not like that. We
36 know our caribou will always be there as long as they
37 don't die out.

38

39 But it's getting hard every year. It
40 got to a point one time when I was up north in first
41 week of August and here's this Piper Cub. I just got
42 my gun out and I was pointing until he couldn't see me
43 anymore. And my mom says put it away. I wasn't going
44 to shoot it. I just wanted to scare the guy.

45

46 And it's frustrating. It's hurt.

47

48 Right now, as I speak, we've got I
49 think the Teshekpuk Herd that comes around and hang

50

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1 around all year. So we're going to be going out and do
2 our best to get some food for our Thanksgiving and
3 Christmas holidays.

4
5 Yes. The State or Board -- they send
6 us turkeys, ham. But you know we'd rather eat what we
7 were so used to eating. And maybe one day, too, we can
8 all hunt together. The sporthunters and us. We take
9 them out. We show them the biggest racks. Oh, yeah.
10 They're over here. We wait for them. Instead of them
11 going up there in virtual waiting.

12
13 But this is real.

14
15 And I'm just happy that we still got
16 tuttu around and hopefully before the New Year we'll be
17 catching some.

18
19 My son-in-law just got home and, you
20 know, without greeting him -- without saying welcome
21 home, I said there's caribou out there, you need to go
22 catch -- that was before I came. A day before I came.
23 He was pretty happy. He said yeah? I said you've got
24 to get going. So hopefully if I get home they'll have
25 some caribou.

26
27 Because unfortunately my husband don't
28 go out and hunt because of his health issues. And I
29 depend on my grandson and my sons.

30
31 So I'm sorry. But thank you for
32 listening.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Ester.
35 Thank you for your public testimony.

36
37 Any other public testimony on WP18-57.

38
39 MS. LEAVITT: Nancy Leavitt. I support
40 the federally recognized hunters.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Nancy
43 Leavitt.

44
45 George Edwardson.

46
47 MR. EDWARDSON: Mr. Chair. I just
48 passed 70. Right now I'm just a little over 70. When
49 I was in my mid-20s I went to Wainwright and couldn't

50

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1 figure out why I brought 700 rounds of 243 with me.
2 And when I got there, there was caribou all across the
3 runway, all over, out along the edge of town. And I
4 started hearing from people there that they were going
5 hungry because the Fish and Game was there keeping them
6 from hunting.

7
8 So during the daytime I would go out,
9 load my sled up with caribou, take it back into town,
10 and then leave it there. Next morning it would be
11 empty. So I kept on doing this until one of my uncles
12 got mad. And he said he's not going to be scared to
13 feed his family. He's going to start feeding his own
14 family and start going out. I was in my mid-20s that
15 time.

16
17 But almost 30 years ago, ran into the
18 same situation, except this time it was with Point Lay.
19 They were going hungry. The caribou was out there and
20 Fish and Game was keeping them from going out. So as
21 the president of Inupiat Community, I authorized them
22 to ignore the State and Federal laws and go out and go
23 hunting. And he gave that letter to the Fish and Game
24 and then they left.

25
26 Now the same thing is happening again.
27 And I'm just barely past 70. And how long is this
28 going to go on. I've been with the tribe for over 24
29 years and that has always been our problem.

30
31 I think it's time we all grow up and
32 let people eat.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.

35
36 At this time I'm going to see about
37 entertaining a motion to adopt.....

38
39 Oh, Nancy.

40
41 MS. LEAVITT: I used the wrong words
42 awhile ago, I'm with Ester 100 percent.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Me, too.

45
46 I think we've had public testimony on
47 WP18-57. I think it might be appropriate to move on to
48 item 7, is the Regional Council's recommendation and
49 motion to adopt and get into discussion.

50

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1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair, I'd like
2 to make a motion to adopt Wildlife Proposal 18-57.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
5 the floor by Rosemary, from Nuiqsut, to adopt WP18-57.

6
7 MR. OOMITUK: Second.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Steve,
10 from Point Hope.

11
12 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No, we're under
15 discussion.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're under
18 discussion.

19
20 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
21 discuss this. But I would like to cede the floor to my
22 elders first.

23
24 Steve, do you want to take this up
25 first before I do?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, you have an
28 opportunity for Council member.....

29
30 MR. OOMITUK: No, you can go ahead.

31
32 MR. SHEARS: Ester, did you want to
33 talk some more on this subject?

34
35 MS. HUGO: (Shakes head negatively)

36
37 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

38
39 Mr. Chair, may I have the floor to
40 discuss this for a minute?

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

43
44 MR. SHEARS: Thank you for the pep
45 talk, Mr. Chair, through this. You put a lot of effort
46 into this. I know you did a lot of thought about this.
47 This has been on our minds for over a year.

48
49 Wildlife Proposal -- this is a follow

50

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1 up to our special action, which is only good for one
2 year. Over a year ago we envisioned the possibility
3 that the caribou -- the Western Arctic Caribou Herd was
4 going to go south of the 200,000 threshold into a
5 preservation arena where we would have to have dramatic
6 more restrictions on hunting and hunting permits -- or
7 on hunting regulations.

8
9 We -- you know, I think the imposition
10 in 23 and 26 -- Units 23 and 26 to restrict non-
11 federally-qualified users from hunting back in 2015/16
12 showed good, positive results. I think the outcome of
13 that was that the subsistence uses of the wildlife
14 population were more available to federally-qualified
15 subsistence users. And I think we achieved our
16 objective in that first round of special proposals.

17
18 The next round -- the next year of
19 special proposals, we're just in -- we're in right now.
20 23 is still out for analysis to see if it's been
21 successful. I see the Federal Subsistence Board denied
22 our request for Unit 26, but they did approve Unit 23.
23 And we should know soon.

24
25 We're hearing positive information from
26 the State on the count of the animals. That we're
27 going to go north of 200,000. And so we're in a
28 conservation mode and that therefore no further -- you
29 know, we don't have to further -- make any further
30 impositions or we don't have to rein in a great more
31 regulations to deny non-federally-qualified users.

32
33 But let's face it. NFQ, non-federally-
34 qualified user, to me in symbology is a propeller
35 spinning at 2,300 rotations per minute, with a prop tip
36 speed of about 500 miles an hour. Nearly breaking the
37 sound barrier. Creating sounds in a decibel range of
38 110 to 140 decibels, which when properly feathered can
39 divert a caribou migration. With 600 NFQs last year in
40 Unit 26B, that's -- to me, in my mind, that's 600
41 propellers.

42
43 That's significant consequence.

44
45 I've seen Anaktuvuk Pass being denied
46 the usual migration -- the assurances of the usual
47 migration -- and I'm almost certain it's because of
48 propellers -- NFQs. We've tried to use -- we tried to
49 weaponize the decline of the population of the Western
50

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1 Arctic Herd below the 200,000 limit. Using a wildlife
2 proposal to deny Federal lands to the NFQs -- to the
3 propellers. And the State has got in between us.

4
5 It's like a game of Chess.

6
7 They've got a bunch of State land that
8 they can work with, too. Every propeller to them is
9 the same as revenue. It's part of the gross national
10 product of the State of Alaska. We are not going --
11 especially in the state of the State's budget problems,
12 they are not going to let us easily limit the amount of
13 propellers on Federal lands.

14
15 And so they denied us access to the
16 caribou count until after we meet and consider this
17 proposal. I think Tom Evans' analysis of the proposal
18 and his recommendations are spot on. Tom, you played
19 this game well. You can see right -- you can see
20 through it.

21
22 Sun Tzu wrote The Art of War over 2,000
23 years ago. And one of the number one things I remember
24 about that is -- is pick your battle that you can win.
25 Do not go to war -- do not enter a battle that you know
26 you will not win. And this is one of those cases. We
27 will not be able to take this wildlife proposal forward
28 through the Federal Subsistence Board with any chance
29 of success.

30
31 They won again.

32
33 All we can do is keep coming at them
34 with more special action proposals. We'll hear what
35 the caribou count is. Look for another way to defeat
36 this. But really what our problem is -- is exactly how
37 one commenter said. Is this is a -- the weaponization
38 of the propellers, NFQs, the aircraft and the air boats
39 is a real problem.

40
41 There are plenty of caribou out there
42 for all of us. The NFQs and the subsistence users.
43 It's the way the NFQs access the caribou that is
44 hurting us. And we just can't get to that without an
45 act of Congress. The Department of the Interior has no
46 authority over the Department of Commerce and the FAA.

47
48
49 We've got to add our State
50

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1 constituents, our Congressional delegation. Murkowski
2 and the rest of them are not going to take something to
3 Congress that is going to limit the State of Alaska's
4 ability to generate revenue. And it's going to reduce
5 its gross national product. This is an economic war
6 that we're fighting.

7
8 Sorry, Mr. Chair. We've invested a lot
9 of time in this -- and the rest of the Board members,
10 but I'm going to have to support the Office of
11 Subsistence Management's recommendation on this that we
12 let this proposal die and we continue the fight
13 elsewhere.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
16 Shears.

17
18 Any other discussions from the Regional
19 Council and recommendation.

20
21 Rosemary.

22
23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair, there are
24 efforts and promise in looking at some of our concerns
25 in this process; however, this is one of those
26 situations where the State and the Feds do not align.
27 We're not going to align on this one.

28
29 But our communities recognize that
30 we're having a tremendous amount of impact. And we
31 feel the next step is to close to non-federally-
32 qualified users. We've looked at other efforts to try
33 to impact the harvestability with other units. But
34 this is our unit and we are still seeing tremendous
35 impacts in our unit.

36
37 And I have listened to the comments
38 that have gone both ways and I -- I feel very strongly
39 to support this. We know there's oppositions and
40 there's areas that we're not going to agree, but we
41 must stand strong on the reality that we're trying to
42 protect our unit and our hunters and our process. And
43 this is the avenue that's before us.

44
45 And I support opposing -- I support
46 approving this to non-federally-qualified users.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

49
50

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1 Any other discussions, justifications,
2 dialogue from the Regional Council on WP18-57.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'd like to take
7 my hat off for a second and say my peace as a Council
8 member. And, you know, I look at these bullets and I
9 want to say something about these bullets here.

10
11 Is there a conservation concern.

12
13 Sure there is. Unit 23 -- the Federal
14 Subsistence Board on Federal public lands enacted that
15 law to limit and restrict Unit 23 to federally-
16 qualified users in Unit 23 because there is a
17 conservation concern. By golly. This herd feeds 38
18 communities. 38 communities.

19
20 And I'll try to calculate the need for
21 each community and the growth of those communities.
22 The growth of those communities. The needs to -- for
23 these communities that are not on road systems. That
24 are not on -- that live on a very high economically
25 depressed areas of the State. Many of our communities
26 on the North Slope -- there's no economic engine other
27 than the oil and gas industry and the services that the
28 North Slope Borough provides. The jobs in the
29 community -- in a community of 400 people, there's
30 probably 50 jobs in that community. The rest of the
31 people need to have a way to provide food on the table.

32
33 And that hunting pressure -- because of
34 Unit 23 that the Federal Subsistence Board enacted that
35 you must be a rural resident of a community to harvest
36 caribou in the path of the Western Arctic Herd -- all
37 those -- that hunting pressure from those propellers
38 that Bob is mentioning that can feather and do this are
39 about to make a transition to Unit 26A. We're going to
40 hear more of this.

41
42 And I think it defeats the purpose
43 because it's one in the same herd. The Western Arctic
44 Herd on the south side Unit 23 is enjoying some
45 protection over there. And you go onto the Brooks
46 Range side, on the north side Unit 26A, the
47 conservation measure not being there is wide open.

48
49 And so I think there is a conservation
50

1 concern when you look at the population trend. And
2 you're not going to turn that over overnight. The
3 biologist already said you separate the harvestable
4 surplus for these two herds -- Teshekpuk and Western
5 Arctic Herd -- they do not support other hunts other
6 than subsistence right now.

7
8 There is a conservation concern
9 already. You need to be about 300,000 animals to start
10 to think about a liberal hunting regime for this herd.
11 To where what Ester said. Maybe we're going to find
12 the time to hunt together again.

13
14 There is a conservation concern.

15
16 And how will these recommendation
17 address the concern.

18
19 I think is speaks for itself. It's
20 going to limit the harvest of the Western Arctic Herd
21 in Unit 26A to federally-qualified users. And we're
22 going to hear the argument that okay. We do this, it's
23 going to concentrate all these hunters on State land
24 right here.

25
26 And it's not to say that if we get the
27 Federal Subsistence Board to say okay. Let's limit it
28 to federally-qualified users that the caribou are going
29 to listen to that language and automatically stay only
30 on State land. They're not going to concentrate right
31 here. That's their migration where they come through.
32 So I think they would enjoy some concentration
33 protection because they move around.

34
35 And I think it's alarming and being an
36 alarmist to say that the hunters are going to
37 concentrate over here. Yeah. Maybe they are. But
38 that's -- to me that's still being alarmist. One day
39 we will find the need to hunt together again.

40
41 So the other bullet is a recommended
42 supported by substantial evidence based on biological
43 and traditional ecological knowledge.

44
45 I say it is. There was 490,000
46 animals. We're down to 200, boys. That's a big
47 difference. And when you look at the animal blessing
48 the communities -- 38 communities and the amount of
49 subsistence harvestable surplus doesn't meet the need
50

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1 for 38 communities right now. It doesn't meet it.
2 That's the truth.

3
4 The State right now is aggregating
5 Teshekpuk Herd and Western Arctic Herd. Putting them
6 together and saying the amount necessary for
7 subsistence is these number based on these two herds.
8 You can't do that. You can't do that. You're going to
9 over-harvest the Teshekpuk Herd that way and decimate
10 that population faster than what you're going to be
11 harvesting over on this. It's a way to manipulate and
12 keep a higher harvestable surplus to keep a liberal
13 management scheme alive.

14
15 It's detrimental. And I think these
16 bullets here when you -- when you talk about in them
17 traditional ecological knowledge, biological -- I think
18 the biologist said it already. They've told us.

19
20 Will the recommendation be beneficial
21 or detrimental to subsistence needs and users.

22
23 It's going to be beneficial to
24 subsistence users. It's going to limit the harvest in
25 Federal public lands to federally-qualified users.
26 It's going to help increase the population decline.
27 It's going to help to stabilize that population so the
28 hunting pressure can be minimized. All the while being
29 probably on State land. Have a firing line though,
30 according to our OSM. That we'll create a firing line
31 there.

32
33 So will the recommendation
34 unnecessarily restrict other users.

35
36 Yes. It's going to tell them that you
37 can't hunt over here because the decline and it's a
38 conservation mode.

39
40 Yeah. There's a need to go out there
41 as a guide and do these things and come in from
42 Fairbanks or Anchorage and enjoy these resources. And
43 I don't know if I phrased it right, but it's going to
44 restrict those. Because if you've got an airplane and
45 you've got all of these resources, I think you could
46 buy out Walmart. You're rich. You have your own
47 aircraft. And you're competing for food on the table
48 with people that have an economically depressed area of
49 living condition.

50

1 And I think that's where it's at.
2 You're competing to put food on the table. You're
3 competing with food security issues. Those are the
4 very things that.....
5

6 The other thing I want to just mention
7 is the area of influence for communities. They are
8 depicted and created by contemporary traditional
9 subsistence activities to sustain a community. Created
10 by the hunters of that community. I don't see OSM. I
11 don't see ADF&G. Looking at the area of influence for
12 a community and the definition why it's created. That
13 area of influence. You should give due deference to
14 the residents on those resources to provide food
15 security for the community.
16

17 Don't put a conflict in their path.
18 I've been saying this for a couple of years. I don't
19 know if it falls on deaf ears. Food security. Area of
20 influence. You're competing for food with those that
21 need it the most. And there is a conservation measure
22 needing to be created.
23

24 With that I will finish my things of
25 discussion that I think are justifiable for WP18-57.
26 And I hope I could sway the opinion of Mr. Shears big
27 time. And that's how come I go into a big rant.
28

29 (Laughter)
30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Because I want Mr.
32 Shears on my side.
33

34 (Laughter)
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But with that, any
37 other discussions on WP18-57 from the Regional Council.
38

39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to
40 modify your discussion.
41

42 That I believe that we are taking this
43 recommendation because we feel that it is necessary to
44 restrict other uses. All of the testimony and
45 information that's been provided. We're not taking an
46 arbitrary decision before us. We're listening to
47 everything that's being presented, recognizing our
48 concerns are validated, and we're taking a necessary
49 action to restrict other uses.
50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other
4 discussions.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would just like to
9 say we did our best, I think. You know, whatever
10 Federal Subsistence Board does -- and I hope we have
11 the opportunity to sit in front of them and say these
12 very things or play the recording or something and have
13 Eva express everything.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Right there,
18 that statement alone has convinced me to join your
19 side.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussions
22 from the Regional Council on justifications.

23

24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I.....

25

26 MR. OOMITUK: This is Steve. I call
27 for the question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We've got one
30 more here.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: No. We just needed to
33 follow the record and restate the final motion.

34

35 I put the motion before us to support
36 Wildlife Proposal 18-57.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
39 the floor to support WP18-57.

40

41 MR. SHEARS: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question has been
44 called for.

45

46 All those in favor of voting for WP18-
47 57, signify by saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
2 signify by saying no.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. The
7 Council passes WP18-57.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
14 I'd like to know on our agenda if we're going to
15 continue or are we going to recess till tomorrow or
16 what's our deal here.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
19 have still five more proposals that the Council will
20 need to take action on and make recommendations. We
21 have FRMP proposals and we also have our ANSEP students
22 that have come today.

23
24 And Karen, if you could remind me when
25 the flights are going tomorrow.

26
27 (Off record comments)

28
29 MS. PATTON: And so what I'm wondering
30 -- and maybe we can have a discussion here. So as the
31 Council was discussing yesterday and today, we've had
32 to juggle the agenda to accommodate having both you and
33 our Council Member Steve Oomituk on.

34
35 The Council had offered to meet till
36 later tonight to be able to cover more of the wildlife
37 regulatory proposals while we have Steve and you on
38 board.

39
40 We have our students, which we want to
41 ensure that we get their presentations before they go.
42 They also were going to do a community event tonight,
43 so maybe we can just touch base.

44
45 If it would work to continue with the
46 wildlife proposals this evening while we have Steve and
47 the Council.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.....

50

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1 MS. PATTON: If it would work for our
2 students in the morning.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

5
6 Mr. Shears.

7
8 MR. SHEARS: I need to ask to be
9 excused. I have a midterm exam out at NARL in 25
10 minutes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

13
14 Will we continue to have a quorum?

15
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Yes, we will
17 still have a quorum.

18
19 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a quorum
22 still?

23
24 Go ahead, Lee.

25
26 MR. KAYOTUK: So you said you wanted to
27 continue with the proposals?

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 Yes. Given the juggling that we've done. We've taken
31 up some non-agenda items -- or non-action items earlier
32 and the critical work of the Council is to complete the
33 wildlife proposals.

34
35 We do have some time tomorrow, but
36 there are still five wildlife proposals to cover and
37 action items with the FRMP. And we have our students.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If we can
40 see what the ANSEP folks wants to do -- the students.
41 And if it's the -- maybe we give them an opportunity
42 because it sounds like they're going to be taking off,
43 too. And.....

44
45 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we just wanted
46 to check in.

47
48 (Off record comments)

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and
2 Council. Thank you. And we wanted to ensure --
3 because these are our special guests -- for our ANSEP
4 students to present and the FRMP. And so they will be
5 here if we're able to have them first thing tomorrow
6 morning at 9:00 a.m. And that would allow the Council
7 to continue to work on the wildlife proposals while we
8 have Steve and the Council here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just make it
11 simple. We'll see.....

12
13 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. I will be able to
14 call in at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay, good.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're
19 going to continue with wildlife proposals while we've
20 got you, Steve.

21
22 MR. OOMITUK: Okay.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think there's
25 some crossover proposals that affect you.

26
27 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. All right. Yeah.
28 I don't have a -- I've got to be going at around 6:00.
29 But I can continue till 6:00. I don't know how long
30 these will take, but.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Sounds like a
33 plan. Let's get our first -- are we going into
34 crossover proposals now. Hold on. Let's see what.....

35
36 Okay. Let's take a five minute break.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve. We're
43 about ready to start. We're going to get with it.

44
45 And I'm going to ask Eva to reorient us
46 on the agenda and to start getting some proposals.

47
48 MR. OOMITUK: Okay. All right.

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
2 were going to continue on caribou proposals.

3
4 So we had re-ordered -- at the top,
5 under regional proposals. We just took up WP18-57.
6 And then we'll address these next two caribou
7 proposals.

8
9 And we have Tom and Josh.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if could find the
12 pages so we can just follow along on our book. It
13 seems to be maybe 27 -- page 27 for.....

14
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We're doing 18-32?

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 18-32 is on page 27,
18 it looks like.

19
20 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 That's correct. I did have that page number, but I
22 don't have page numbers for each of the sections. And
23 Josh is going to help me look for those pages, so when
24 I get to those.

25
26 (Laughter)

27
28 MR. EVANS: The one good thing is that
29 we already discussed the biology and the harvest
30 history and some of the cultural background under
31 Proposal 18-57, so I'm going to add a little bit of
32 stuff that's specific to this proposal, but it won't be
33 -- I won't repeat what I said before because you guys
34 already heard it. So.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

37
38 MR. EVANS: All right. Starting.

39
40 Proposal 18-32, like I said, can be
41 found on page 27 of your Council book. That was
42 submitted by the Western Interior Subsistence Regional
43 Advisory Council and it requests changes to the caribou
44 season dates on Federal public lands in Units 21D, 22,
45 23, 24, 25A (West), 26A, and 26B.

46
47 The proponent requested the changes to
48 the season dates to prevent deflection of the lead cows
49 from the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk Herd, and Central

50

1 Arctic Caribou Herd from activities associated with
2 hunting during the spring and fall migration. The
3 proponent also requested changes to the bull caribou
4 season to protect the bulls during the rut.

5
6 The biological background, cultural
7 background, and harvest history are similar to the
8 information I just presented, so I will not repeat it.
9 I will, however, have a little bit of biological
10 information on the migration patterns of these three
11 herds since this proposal is dealing with migration.

12
13 Caribou migratory pathways often shift
14 with population expansion and/or contraction,
15 anthropogenic disturbances, as human disturbances such
16 as hunting activity, industrial development, habitat
17 suitability, and climatic conditions. The caribou
18 migration routes timing and number of caribou migrating
19 on a particular group vary each year. The Western
20 Arctic, Teshekpuk, and Central Arctic Caribou Herds
21 have different migrations routes and patterns and
22 timing.

23
24 User conflicts, including interference
25 with caribou migration, was the impetus for closing
26 Federal public lands to non-federally-qualified users
27 in certain areas in Unit 23 during the 2016/2017
28 regulatory year.

29
30 Specific to the Central Arctic Caribou
31 Herd -- I'm going to go through some of the seasonal
32 movements and migratory patterns. The seasonal
33 movements and migratory patterns of the Central Arctic
34 Caribou Herd are well known from radio telemetry. The
35 migratory patterns are oriented primarily north to
36 south from the calving areas and summer range wintering
37 areas.

38
39 The spring migration to the calving
40 areas on the tundra-dominated Arctic coastal plain is
41 typically led by pregnant females. After calving,
42 large groups form and may go to the windy areas along
43 the Beaufort Sea coast to seek insect relief or to
44 areas with persistent snow patches.

45
46 The fall migration, which starts in
47 August, to the wintering areas in the northern -- and
48 it goes to the northern and southern foothills of the
49 Brooks Range and it occurs from September to November.

50

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1 The migration pass that consistently have had high
2 concentrations of caribou during the spring and fall
3 migration are along the Dalton Highway between
4 Galbraith Lake and Ribdon River. And that Ribdon River
5 is north of Galbraith and south of Pump Station 3, and
6 intersects with the SAG.

7
8 For the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, the
9 spring migration occurs during May to June to the
10 calving areas around Teshekpuk Lake from late June to
11 July. The herd moves to the Beaufort Sea coast river
12 corridors to seek insect relief. And the fall and
13 winter movements are more variable, though most of them
14 winter on the coastal plain around Atqasuk, south of
15 Teshekpuk Lake. But sometimes have wintered as far
16 south as the Anaktuvuk Pass. And Ester has already
17 mentioned to us that some of the caribou they're
18 harvesting out by Anaktuvuk Pass are probably from the
19 Teshekpuk Herd.

20
21 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd -- you
22 might want to look at map 2, page 32. The spring
23 migration of the Western Arctic adult females move
24 north to the calving grounds in the Utakok Hills, while
25 the bulls and immature cows move.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. We don't have
28 a map on page 32.

29
30 MR. EVANS: All right. Well, let's
31 see. What page is it on then. 55 then.

32
33 Yeah. When I originally did this I had
34 page numbers. When it gets put in the book it gets
35 different page numbers. So I apologize for that.

36
37 The spring migration of the Western
38 Arctic adult females -- they move north to the calving
39 grounds, to the Utakok Hills, while the bulls and
40 immature cows move to the summer range in the Wulik
41 Peaks and the Lisburne Hills area. The spring
42 migration occurs during April and May.

43
44 During summer the herd moves rapidly to
45 the Brooks Range. The fall migration to the wintering
46 grounds occurs in the northern portion of the Noatak
47 Hills and occurs in September and October.

48
49 The proportion of caribou using certain
50

1 migration paths varies each year and the start of the
2 fall migration can be different by up to a month
3 depending on the year. By October 1st, during the fall
4 migration, many of the cow caribou will have already
5 migrated through Units 26A and 26B in the northern
6 portion of Unit 23.

7
8 So that was just a little bit of
9 information on the migratory patterns of the three
10 herds.

11
12 Some Alaska residents particularly in
13 Units 23, 24, and 26 have suggested that non-federally-
14 qualified users have deflected caribou from their
15 normal migration patterns. Testimony frequently
16 centers on aircraft activity which can affect caribou
17 migration by directly disturbing the lead caribou or by
18 positioning hunters ahead of the caribou herd and then
19 not letting the lead animals pass.

20
21 The long held Inupiaq tradition
22 suggests that allowing the lead caribou to pass
23 undisturbed results in established migration routes.
24 Once these established routes are created, then other
25 caribou will follow, regardless of hunting and other
26 disturbances.

27
28 As with harvest information, the lack
29 of or incomplete information on the location and use of
30 camps associated with the commercial operators and
31 clients has prevented a definitive analysis of the
32 caribou displacement associated with these activities.

33
34
35 User conflict concerns regarding
36 caribou and recreation in Unit 26 have most frequently
37 been reported in the vicinity of Anaktuvuk Pass and
38 along the Dalton Highway corridor. Concerns also exist
39 regarding herd migration deflections primarily for the
40 Central Arctic Caribou Herd due to non-local hunting
41 activity concentration along the Dalton Highway
42 corridor and in various river drainages in ANWR
43 accessible by boat and road.

44
45 In Unit 23, where most of the user
46 conflicts concerning caribou migration have been
47 reported, are on the Noatak, Squirrel, Upper Kobuk,
48 Kelly, Eli, and Aggie River drainages. Those will be
49 discussed in detail when we discuss Wildlife Proposal
50

1 WP18-46/47.

2
3 If this proposal is adopted, it would
4 result in less opportunity for federally-qualified
5 subsistence users to harvest caribou due to the shorter
6 harvest seasons for cows and bulls. The peak harvest
7 period from the three caribou herds in Units 23, 24,
8 25A (West), 26A, and 26B occur during the late summer
9 and fall, from mid-August to early October.

10
11 Starting the cow hunt on October 1st,
12 as recommended by this proposal, would eliminate
13 September, which has typically been a high harvest
14 month. Shortening the cow seasons during the fall
15 doesn't outweigh the impact of eliminating prime
16 hunting months for federally-qualified subsistence
17 users during the fall.

18
19 Shortening the start dates for the bull
20 season by a few days to a week is likely to have little
21 impact on federally-qualified subsistence users as most
22 will not hunt bull caribou during the rut.

23
24 In Unit 22, limiting the bull harvest
25 season from July 1st to October 10th will limit the
26 hunt primarily to those caribou that reside there year
27 round and would reduce flexibility for federally-
28 qualified subsistence users in Unit 22 to hunt caribou
29 when they are present.

30
31 The North Slope RAC discussed the start
32 date for harvesting bulls and were adamant that by
33 December 6th -- that the December 6th to 10th time
34 frame bulls would be good to eat versus the February 1
35 start date, as requested by the proponent.

36
37 Ending the caribou season February 1st
38 -- the cow caribous on February 1st, which is
39 approximately two months prior to the start of the
40 spring migration, does nothing to prevent a deflection
41 of the herd, but may help reduce the overall cow
42 harvest. It reduces the changes for federally-
43 qualified subsistence users to take caribou by one to
44 two months. And that's variable depending on the
45 units.

46
47 Proposed changes to the cow harvest
48 seasons would have little effect in reducing
49 deflections of the caribou herds due to the variability

50

1 of the timing and location of the migration patterns
2 between the calving summer and winter areas of the
3 three caribou herds, traditional hunting patterns, and
4 the overlap with the current regulations that are
5 already in place to correct caribou in each unit.

6
7 Caribou may be responding to other
8 factors as well as human disturbance and may change
9 their migration patterns in response to loss of lichen;
10 i.e., through forest fires, overgrazing, habitat loss,
11 habitat fragmentation, climate change, and expanding
12 human populations.

13
14 The potential benefits of delaying the
15 start of the cow season would allow the cows to
16 establish their preferred migration rates undisturbed
17 and thus may benefit local hunters if the established
18 migration routes are closer to communities. This
19 assumes of course that the primary cause for the
20 changes in the caribou migration patterns have been due
21 to the sporthunting activities by non-federally-
22 qualified users.

23
24 Even if the start date for the cow
25 harvest was changed to October 1st, caribou will still
26 be migrating. And thus there is still potential for
27 disturbance to the migration after October 1st. Thus,
28 migrating caribou could be still disturbed during the
29 bull hunting season.

30
31 To be fully effective, similar changes
32 would need to be made to State regulations. Otherwise
33 Federal regulations would end up being more restrictive
34 than State regulations, eliminating the subsistence
35 priority.

36
37 Trying to make changes to the season
38 dates while trying to unify regulations is admirable.
39 One size fits all kind of approach. But a more
40 effective approach may be to allow local, Federal, and
41 State land managers to enact short term hunting
42 restrictions when needed in real time to allow lead
43 animals to migrate through key areas.

44
45 It is important to give the current
46 changes to the State and Federal caribou regulations
47 time to see if they are effective. And keeping as much
48 consistency between the caribou regulations between the
49 Federal and State lands is desirable.

50

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1 Unit-specific regulations are also
2 provided since the proposed changes cover such a large
3 area and of all three separate caribou herds in each
4 different -- each with different migration patterns.
5 And I will not go into the individual justifications by
6 unit, but just to let you know that they are in that
7 proposal and you can look at those by unit.

8
9 So OSM's preliminary conclusion is --
10 conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP18-32.

11
12 And now I would be glad to open it for
13 questions.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

18
19 And questions for Tom on WP18-32.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question.
24 This proposal kind of looks like some changes to
25 harvest patterns in 26A. And I recall a couple of
26 years ago we were working trying to front the declining
27 caribou to look at ways to conserve animals. And one
28 of them was using traditional activities that we did
29 already. Like we're not going to hunt big bulls
30 because they go into rut. And it's not common to hunt
31 them to eat them because they stink. And so we made
32 that into a law as a conservation tool.

33
34 And I see that that would change --
35 that would be changing some of our thought pattern in
36 conservation; am I correct?

37
38 MR. EVANS: So if you're referring to
39 -- so the proponent here requested that in Unit 26A
40 that bulls may be harvested between July 1st and
41 October 14th and December -- no, sorry. Sorry. I've
42 got to get the right proposal. I was looking at
43 Proposal 57.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Don't get
48 mixed up or we'll get you bigger glasses.

49
50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. EVANS: I was going what? What?
4 That's not right.

5

6 So I can answer just off the cuff here.
7 So anyhow, the season for the bulls in 26A -- the
8 proposed -- from the proponent was to have a season
9 that went from July 1st to October 10th. And this is a
10 bull season. And February 1 to June 30th.

11

12 And obviously you guys from your last
13 -- from studying the caribou regulations we went
14 through the last RAC meeting, you said well, December
15 6th and 10th they're good to eat. There's no reason to
16 wait so long to be able to harvest them.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

19

20 MR. EVANS: And that was partly in
21 response to like what you said. You wouldn't harvest
22 big bulls during the rut because they wouldn't taste
23 good. But you also didn't need to wait. You know, at
24 that time they were looking at January 31st.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. They wanted to
27 extend it to -- more conservation on into the next
28 year.

29

30 MR. EVANS: Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: When actually, the
33 bulls are -- after they drop their antlers they get
34 good again about the first week in December. You could
35 make (In Inupiaq). You can eat them. They're good.

36

37 And I learned that and I thought that
38 was the more appropriate timeline.

39

40 Who is proposing these changes again?

41

42 MR. EVANS: So this was proposed by the
43 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, with Jack
44 Reakoff, was the primarily probably proponent of this.

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And he wants to
48 extend and keep conserving the bull all the way until
49 January?

50

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1 MR. EVANS: Yeah. It could be putting
2 the cart a little bit ahead of the horse here, but the
3 Western Interior actually has rejected their own
4 proposal. So.....

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, that tells us
9 something. You know, if they're rejecting their own
10 proposal.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
15 questions to Mr. Evans on WP18-32.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we'll go down to
20 item two, report on Board consultation, tribes, and
21 ANCSA corporations.

22
23 Eva.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
26 Again we hold consultation on this and other proposals
27 and there were no comments from either tribes or ANCSA
28 corporations.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, on
33 that one.

34
35 Item three, agency comments, ADF&G.

36
37 MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 This is Beth Lenart, from the Alaska Department of Fish
39 and Game.

40
41 The Department does not support this
42 proposal because the current regulations are
43 appropriate to manage the four North Slope caribou
44 herds, which have different management objectives, ANS
45 numbers, population trends, hunting pressure, and
46 conservation concerns.

47
48 The proposal does not take into account
49 the broad sweeping effect across the landscape, making
50

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1 it difficult to specifically manage conservation
2 concerns at smaller scales in specific areas, and while
3 also providing a hunting opportunity near communities
4 when caribou are present.

5
6 For example, some differences between
7 herds including, you know, currently the Porcupine
8 population is high and can have liberal seasons. There
9 are also four small resident herds in Units 21, 24, and
10 25A that would be affected by this proposal and would
11 not result in the best conservation measure for these
12 herds.

13
14 And as we've talked about, the Central
15 Arctic Herd, the Board of Game significantly reduced
16 hunting opportunity in areas where non-locals hunt.
17 And so we would like to see what the effect of this
18 reduced hunting has on the population.

19
20 And similarly we would like to see the
21 State and Federal regulations align. And so State and
22 Federal biologists working together to align their
23 seasons for the Western Arctic Herd and Teshekpuk Herd
24 specifically to make it less confusing for local
25 hunters.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, ADF&G.

28
29 Federal agencies. Any Federal agencies
30 on line that wish to comment on WP18-32.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any Federal agencies
35 present here to comment on WP18-32.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Native, tribe, and
40 village, other.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And -- all right.
45 We've got George Edwardson, ICAS President.

46
47 MR. EDWARDSON: Mr. Chair. Instead of
48 going to December, why not take July 1 and move it to
49 June 1. That way you will still have some fat on the
50

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1 animals and still be able to harvest them and don't
2 wait until they get skinny.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Mister -- I
5 just wanted to say that I think we weighed in on this a
6 couple of years ago and from another Regional Advisory
7 Council's affecting our unit over here on our
8 management approach. I guess we have a management
9 approach and a philosophy already.

10
11 You know, we do hunt the bulls from
12 July, August, September, right up until about October
13 10, when they start to -- you know, they turn. In
14 fact, I remember my dad let me go skin one. And I said
15 oh, (In Inupiaq). And then he said go skin it and tell
16 me about it. And it was pretty -- pretty terrible.
17 And it was just -- he just wanted to laugh at me, I
18 think, to skin it. So.....

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
23 Native, tribal, village comments on WP18-32.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I guess we don't
28 have an InterAgency Staff Committee anymore, right?

29
30 (Off record comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
33 going to go down the line.

34
35 Advisory group comments. Any Re.....

36
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. Mr. Chair and
42 Council. So this was submitted by the Western Interior
43 Council; however, on review of the details of their
44 proposal and the analysis, the Council voted to oppose
45 the proposal. It was noted that the proposal was
46 premature. That it may have some viability someday if
47 the herd continues to decline, but there needs to be a
48 longer period to allow recent regulatory actions to
49 take effect and to see how it affects the populations.

50

1 The discussion included recent changes
2 by the Alaska Board of Game on how co-harvest and
3 caribou lead the migration, so shooting bulls does not
4 affect the caribou migration, was noted by the Council.
5 It was also noted need to better understand the caribou
6 -- overcome mis-perceptions that drive regulatory
7 management decisions.

8
9 So they were stressing future emphasis
10 needs to be on protecting cows. But again the Western
11 Interior RAC voted to oppose their own proposal.

12
13 The Northwest Arctic Council also took
14 this up, as it was across the entire Region. And the
15 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council also voted
16 unanimously to oppose the proposal.

17
18 The Seward Pen Council also took up
19 this proposal. And they voted to oppose the proposal
20 as well. They noted that while the dates may be good
21 for Kotzebue, they weren't appropriate for the Seward
22 Peninsula in their case. And for some of the dates
23 it's not a good time to travel.

24
25 It was also noted that the caribou were
26 in the Region for the winter and no longer migrating
27 during some of the modified dates. And it would
28 eliminate dates that the locals in their area currently
29 use for hunting caribou. And that, you know, would
30 criminalize them for their current hunting practices.
31 So again the Seward Peninsula voted to oppose the
32 proposal.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.

35
36 I would like to make a comment here. I
37 mean, you know, an advisory group -- and this is the
38 Western Interior Advisory Group -- effectuating change
39 in another advisory group's domain, right? Like our
40 domain is 26 and some of 23. A little bit of 24 maybe.
41 26B and C. And I just have a little problem because we
42 usually stay away from another Region's unit to -- so
43 that they can manage effectively their timing.

44
45 And I can't purport to know the timing
46 of another Region's hunting patterns because we know
47 the hunting patterns in 26A and the Region on the north
48 -- in Region 10 area.

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1 So I'm just a little alarmed at how
2 this is playing out. So.....

3
4 Carl.

5
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Carl Johnson, OSM, for the record.

8
9 So just a couple of quick observations
10 on that. One of the things we often hear when the
11 Councils are talking about salmon and the concerns over
12 State versus Federal jurisdiction, they say salmon
13 don't know boundaries. So I guess you could say
14 caribou don't know boundaries, which would be one
15 reason why a proposal might be submitted from another
16 Region that includes your Region.

17
18 But in response more so to that latter
19 point about the differences between the different
20 Regions, about what dates might be good for one Region
21 and not for the other, that's one of the reasons why
22 the four Councils have now voted to establish the
23 Northern Caribou Working Group, so that these four
24 Councils can talk together to resolve regional
25 differences and issues before they get to the proposal
26 stage rather than as part of the proposal discussion.

27
28 So we are hoping that this new working
29 group will help you and those other Councils coordinate
30 better to have better regional communication in the
31 future.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Carl. Just
36 before you leave, so when that Northern Council was --
37 like a group was formed, we would have sat together
38 before WP18-32 was submitted for approval and say hey,
39 I don't think you should be looking at the North
40 Slope's decisions already which were very hard to come
41 up with because we thought the agencies were going to
42 slash harvest levels based on the population trend
43 estimates that we decided to front that by doing
44 conservation measures on our own that were traditional
45 in nature. We were already conservationists. We just
46 enact them into law.

47
48 And for -- I think that would reflect
49 it good on their proposal, so they would put the right
50

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1 dates that we thought would be good for us. Is that
2 what that -- you're talking about a working group that
3 would do just that?
4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. That's a
6 perfect example. And plus that working group could get
7 an opportunity to have Staff from OSM get recent
8 updates from, you know, Fish and Game on their
9 population counts or briefings on recent Board of Game
10 action. So they could have that as part of their
11 discussion.
12

13 So when you're looking at your next
14 wildlife cycle two years from now, you know, you're --
15 that working group could be having those discussions in
16 preparation for that and be better briefed and become
17 kind of caribou experts for the benefit of your
18 Councils and resolve those regional issues.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
21 you. Very good information. And I think it would have
22 alleviated some of this. And everybody rejecting it
23 maybe. Who knows.
24

25 Thank you.
26

27 MR. JOHNSON: Or at the very least
28 foster understanding so you don't have to ask why is
29 this Council doing this. Well, you would have a better
30 understanding.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I could
33 recall, you know, other crossover proposals where we
34 refrained. Where we refrained from advising them or
35 voting on it because we didn't know what their hunting
36 pattern was. And the same species might be a different
37 timing for us over here. And I could recall sometimes
38 we elected not to take it up and left it alone.
39

40 Summary of written public comments.
41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
43 And just a note that there were several Fish and Game
44 advisory committees and also subsistence resource
45 commission.
46

47 So Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
48 Resource Commission opposed this proposal. And there
49 were several other SRCs. The Cape Krusenstern SRC
50

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1 voted to oppose. The Kobuk Valley SRC voted to oppose.
2 And then again we noted the Gates of the Arctic SRC
3 opposed this proposal as well.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh. That's
8 widespread opposition to that one.
9

10 So public testimony. Do we have -- the
11 floor and mics open for public testimony on WP18-32.
12

13 MR. LEAVITT: Joe Leavitt, for the
14 record, Mr. Chair.
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.
17

18 MR. LEAVITT: Council Members.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Joe.
21

22 MR. LEAVITT: The way we worked hard
23 with the State with -- I remember working on this
24 before, you know, with the State Advisory Committee --
25 Council. We put the bulls into July is because we were
26 watching -- we were watching, you know, in June they're
27 still -- they're still dropping their hair and they're
28 super skinny yet.
29

30 And then we would stop in October for
31 the bulls because they go into rut, right? In October.
32 And then for the females, we tried to put it to -- when
33 the caribou are migrating up here and their fetuses are
34 super big, that's when the closed season for the cows
35 would be. So instead of, you know, we try stagger them
36 around according to our season. Because, you know, in
37 -- down south there a season might be closed.
38

39 That's -- I remember working on
40 something like that. And, you know, there's a season
41 for caribou, too. As a hunter, you would know this.
42 You learn the season. And I remember working on this
43 proposal with the State and that's how we -- and there
44 was no hunting with cows -- cows with calves all year
45 round. No hunting with that. No hunting them.
46

47 I hope that makes sense, Mr. Chair.
48

49 (In Inupiaq)
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Joe. Yeah.
2 That -- you recall very good because that's what the
3 current law is right now. We don't hunt those.
4

5 MR. LEAVITT: And then one more thing I
6 remember, Mr. Chair, is when you catch a bull, if you
7 catch it in May or June the bone marrow is still very
8 bloody. Because I eat a lot of bone marrow. And
9 around June, middle of July it started getting good.
10 And they're starting to get fat around July. You've
11 got to remember the bone marrow, too.
12

13 That -- you know, that -- to me, that
14 makes a lot of sense when you watch the bone marrow.
15 That's what I -- that's what that -- because a lot of
16 the hunters up here, they know the season. They've
17 done it so long, they learn the season. Especially if
18 you grow up inland, you learn the season about the
19 animals.
20

21 And thank you.
22

23 (In Inupiaq)
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe.
26 That's well put. And thank you.
27

28 Any other public testimony on WP18-32.
29

30
31 (No comments)
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this is a
34 proposal from the Western Interior Advisory Council,
35 right? Is that the Wiseman area? No?
36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
38 That's where the chair lives, is in Wiseman.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.
41

42 MS. PATTON: But it's quite a broad
43 Region also. Some of the Gates of the Arctic SRC are
44 from the Western Interior Region community. So they're
45 quite large, but Jack Reakoff, the Chair, is in
46 Wiseman.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. He's a
49 good friend. I say hi to him on Facebook.
50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
4 public testimony on WP18-32.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll move on to
9 Regional Council's recommendation and a motion to adopt
10 to get into discussion.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adopt
13 Wildlife Proposal 18-32 for discussion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
16 the floor to adopt WP18-32. Can we get a second.

17

18 MR. KAYOTUK: Second.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Been
21 seconded to discussion.

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. We have
24 had extensive community on our concerns around caribou.
25 We have taken actions to try to protect our herd and
26 the population that we're depending upon to feed our
27 families. We've looked at recommendations on previous
28 proposals in support of them.

29

30 I feel that this proposal is -- we
31 should oppose at this time. There has been actions
32 taken in our Region to try to address some of our
33 concerns. We need to see what happens with the
34 recommendations that we have put forward.

35

36 This proposal puts a lot more
37 restrictions on our hunters that is not traditional to
38 our area and the timelines that we have. There is some
39 crossover that prevents us from harvesting when we
40 could be harvesting.

41

42 I oppose this proposal.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussion
45 from the Regional Council on this recommendation.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I'm going to

50

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1 take my hat off and as a Council member. And I'd just
2 like to follow this little dialogue. And it really
3 helps, I think, when it eventually has to be considered
4 I mean by the Federal Subsistence Board.

5
6 Is there a conservation concern. Yeah.
7 I think there's conservation concern. But I think
8 we've already looked at the measures to express and --
9 and that would be sufficient conservation measures that
10 are more traditional in nature. That have taken
11 traditional knowledge within our Region 10 and take
12 those into account.

13
14 And is there evidence such as
15 biological and traditional ecological knowledge at work
16 here. I'm not exactly sure. Because it's -- this
17 proposal crosses many different Regions and timing
18 issues. When there's rut and when there's calving and
19 when there's fetuses and there's all these different
20 things that we've already taken into account with our
21 conservation measures that we try to look for and
22 enacted. And that we're -- they're our current law
23 right. They're tradit -- and they're new. There are
24 conservation measures new and designed to be
25 traditional in nature -- traditional in nature.

26
27 So I would think that in my view in
28 looking at this and some of the long, hard
29 deliberations we had to effectuate change in our
30 harvest patterns, I would rise in opposition to WP18-32
31 if it came up to a vote.

32
33 So that would be my position.

34
35 Any other discussions from the Regional
36 Council members.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So no other
41 discussions.

42
43 Maybe we could -- there's a motion on
44 the floor to adopt WP18-32. It was seconded for
45 discussion.

46
47 What's the wish of the Council.

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair, in light

50

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1 of the discussion and the communications that we have,
2 I propose that we oppose this Proposal 18-32.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a -- well, I
5 think, Rosemary, there's a motion on the floor to
6 approve, seconded. I think we just call for the
7 question and vote on the matter.

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. Call for the
10 question.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Question's
13 been called for.

14
15 All those in favor of WP18-32, signify
16 by saying aye.

17
18 (No aye votes)

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
21 signify by saying no.

22
23 IN UNISON: No.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The nos have it. The
26 Council didn't pass WP18-32.

27
28 Eva.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
31 have another caribou proposal, which is WP18-48/49,
32 which is caribou in Unit 22, 23, and 26. And this is
33 addressing establishing a registration permit hunt
34 under the Federal subsistence regulations.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, if you want to
37 read your analysis and position of OSM.

38
39 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
40 Members of the Council. Again my name is Tom Evans,
41 wildlife biologist with OSM.

42
43 Proposal WP18-48/49 can be found on
44 page 112 of your Council book. Proposal WP18-48 was
45 submitted by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
46 Group and Proposal WP18-49 was submitted by Louis
47 Cusack. These proposals request the same thing. That
48 the Federal reporting requirements for caribou in Units
49 22, 23, and 26A be aligned with the State's

50

1 registration permit requirements.

2

3 The proponents believe that the use of
4 the registration permits will provide more accurate
5 assessment of the total harvest and the composition of
6 the harvest.

7

8 Accurate harvest information would
9 provide managers with much needed information to
10 determine the impact of the harvest and the
11 effectiveness of the State and Federal regulations. In
12 addition, having similar State and Federal regulations
13 would make it easier for hunters.

14

15 In 2016, the Alaska Board of Game
16 adopted Proposal 40 to establish the registration
17 permit hunt in Unit 22. It set an animal harvest limit
18 of 20 caribou total and lengthened the seasons in
19 several hunt areas.

20

21 Prior to 2017/2017 Alaska residents who
22 lived north of Yukon River were not required to obtain
23 harvest tickets, though they were required to register
24 with the Department of Fish and Game or an authorized
25 vendor. Compliance with the registration requirement
26 was low and not enforced. Residents who live south of
27 the Yukon River and non-residents were monitored using
28 harvest tickets and harvest reports.

29

30 Household surveys are good, but there
31 are often periods of time elapse between surveys due to
32 funding, staffing, and less often aren't current. In
33 January 2017, the Board of Game adopted Proposal 2,
34 requiring registration permits in Units 23 and 26 in
35 order to better monitor the harvest and improve
36 management flexibility.

37

38 And then once again there are other
39 proposals that might affect the outcome of this
40 proposal. And we've talked about those before.

41

42 And the biology, same thing. I will
43 not repeat the biology, but feel free to ask questions.
44 If you have any questions about the biology or anything
45 comes up that you have a question, feel free to ask.

46

47 Caribou of course have been a vital
48 nutritional, cultural resource for the Inupiat of the
49 Seward Peninsula and Northwest Arctic and North Slope

50

1 Region for thousands of years and continue to dominate
2 the subsistence harvest across most of the Region.

3
4 Harvest from the Western Arctic Caribou
5 Herd approximates the estimated harvestable surplus for
6 this herd; however, there are substantial uncertainties
7 in the harvestable surplus estimates. In 2016, the
8 harvest surplus was about 12,000 caribou. The long
9 term estimated annual harvest also estimates is close
10 to the 12,000 caribou. And that goes -- the long term
11 -- I'm talking about 2000 to 2014, so roughly 14 years.

12
13 On average, local hunters within the
14 range of the Western Arctic Caribou population account
15 for 95 percent of the W -- so the Western Arctic
16 harvest. All non-local hunters account for about five
17 percent.

18
19 Local harvest is often derived from
20 models which accurately reflect the harvest trends, but
21 may not reflect the actual harvest numbers. Most of
22 the Western Arctic Caribou are harvested in Unit 23.

23
24 For the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, harvest
25 -- we've mentioned this before, but harvest from the
26 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd may already exceed the estimated
27 harvestable surplus of this herd; however, estimating
28 harvest from the Teshekpuk Herd is difficult due to the
29 lack of some harvest data and the overlap between the
30 herds.

31
32 Currently, the harvestable surplus for
33 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is approximately 2,500
34 caribou; however, the estimated total harvest is
35 approximately 3,000 caribou. And again that's from
36 2002 to 2014, so a period of about 12 years. On
37 average, local hunters account for 99.7 percent of the
38 Teshekpuk harvest, while non-local harvest only account
39 for about .3 percent of the harvest. A vast majority
40 of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd are harvested in Unit
41 26A.

42
43 State regulation permits would be
44 required to hunt caribou on Federal public lands in
45 Units 22, 23, and 26A. The State realizes that it
46 would take some time before the permit system is fully
47 functional for these additional units, so this is a
48 work in progress to get this permit system up and
49 running. It would align Federal and State reporting

50

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1 requirements, making it easier for the hunters and
2 users. It would improve harvest data that is essential
3 for monitoring and management decisions; however, it
4 would need concurrence from the State to allow
5 federally-qualified users to use a State management
6 permit.

7
8 The requirement for registration
9 permits may be burdensome for local residents in
10 communities where there's no local vendors to obtain
11 registration permits. But as Ryan mentioned earlier,
12 it looks like they were making good progress to getting
13 permits -- getting the permits out there.

14
15 There's no biological impacts expected
16 from this proposal. Rather the registration permits
17 would provide better harvest data benefitting the
18 caribou resource and the subsistence users through a
19 more informed herd management and hunting regulations.

20
21 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
22 support Proposal WP18-48 and take no action on WP18-49.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 And open to questions.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

29
30 And questions on the introduction and
31 presentation of the analysis for WP18-48/49.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And what's the
36 difference between 48 and 49? Are those two different
37 actions or is it 48 and 49?

38
39 MR. EVANS: 48 and 49 are basically the
40 same proposal submitted by two different entities. The
41 first one was submitted by the Western Interior. The
42 second one was presented by Louis Cusack. But they
43 basically say the same thing, so they were analyzed
44 together as one proposal.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So take action -- the
47 advice is to take action on the one that submitted it
48 first?

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1 MR. EVANS: (Nods affirmatively)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

4

5 Any questions to Tom on WP18-48.

6

7 Rosemary.

8

9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Requiring our
10 hunters to go out and take an additional step to
11 provide this information, when are we going to get out
12 of this effort to do this permit that will give us
13 information that will better guide our decision-making
14 process?

15

16 MR. EVANS: So one thing that's obvious
17 to me up front is that by having accurate harvest
18 information, knowing where the caribou were harvested,
19 knowing which herd they're probably harvested from --
20 and you can maybe determine that by the time of year,
21 where they're harvested and what the caribou are doing
22 in terms of migration and whatnot -- would provide more
23 -- you would understand more of what the impact of the
24 harvest is on -- the regulations are on the harvest.
25 And then you would have a better idea of whether
26 regulations were reducing the overall hunting impact on
27 the different herds and whether that was having. And
28 that in turn would determine whether maybe the herds
29 could have a chance to increase or not.

30

31 The regulations in themselves don't
32 necessarily guarantee that, but that's the idea behind
33 it. The more accurate information on location,
34 population, and also the composition, so you'd know
35 some information about how many males and females were
36 being taken. And that's important because the adult
37 females are probably the most important segment of
38 almost any wildlife population.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Tom. I've got
41 a.....

42

43 Do you have a follow up?

44

45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. I also wanted
46 to know in areas that have had to go through these
47 permit processes, what are the increased repercussions
48 for violations for the users?

49

50

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1 MR. EVANS: Obviously, if there's a
2 permit requirement and there's seasons -- you know,
3 those still exist. And there is the potential if you
4 hunt out of a season then you could get a law
5 enforcement action.

6
7 I think though with the beginning of
8 this process -- this is a new process going on right
9 now -- that I am guessing that the State will probably
10 be pretty lenient on people that, you know, mess up on
11 the first go around or whatever until it gets
12 customary, you know, what -- what's going on.

13
14 In Unit 22 I know they've been very
15 supportive of having the registration permits and it's
16 worked fairly well. We heard that at the last Western
17 Arctic Caribou Working Group meeting last December.
18 And, you know, I would encourage any of you if you have
19 a chance and you're down in Anchorage that you -- to go
20 to that. Because that's a really good meeting to look
21 at all the parameters associated with the Western
22 Arctic Caribou Herd.

23
24 So -- yeah.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I do have a
27 question. And I've heard that there's already a
28 registration program going on here. And is that
29 voluntary or is that the law? Because my son went out
30 hunting, I said hey, you better go get a permit -- and
31 so we can -- we don't have to worry about being
32 illegal.

33
34 So I want to know if -- I tell my son
35 these things. And I tell him what to do. I say don't
36 shoot any fawns. Don't shoot a mother and calf. You
37 can shoot a female when it's all by itself and up to
38 right now. And don't shoot any bulls. They're crazy
39 right now anyway.

40
41 So I give him some advice when he went
42 to go hunt caribou so that we can be on the up and up.
43 Because I -- you know, I want to try to make sure I
44 foster good, law abiding hunting going on. Because he
45 hunts with quite a few other boys. And I want to make
46 sure that it's -- you know.

47
48 And I want to know if we're telling
49 them the right thing to -- if it's a voluntary action

50

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1 or if it's the law right now on Federal public land.

2

3 MR. EVANS: So to answer your question.
4 So on State lands it is a law. So you have to get a
5 permit. Now, on Federal public lands it's not yet a
6 law. So that's what this proposal does. This is good
7 for the 2018 to 2020 regulations.

8

9 So what we're talking about on this
10 regulation is doing the same thing for hunting caribou
11 on Federal public lands in the units that we're looking
12 at.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And just
15 a follow-up question on enforcement. Who's the
16 enforcement agents going to be on Federal public land?
17 Is it going to be State agents or Federal agents?

18

19 MR. EVANS: Well, as you know, there
20 aren't very many agents up here in the northern
21 country, but the agents often will have dual kind of
22 management. So the State and the Federals can actually
23 enforce laws in each -- like the Federal can enforce --
24 often will enforce laws on the State lands and again
25 the State law enforcement people can enforce laws on
26 Federal lands. So that's just dependent upon the law
27 enforcement agencies in question and how they do it.

28

29 Now, there's also -- you know, so --
30 and, you know, we have different land management of the
31 agencies. We have the Park Service. We have BLM. We
32 have Fish and Wildlife. We have the Alaska Department
33 of -- you know, the brown shirts. The troopers and
34 stuff. So there's a variety of law enforcement people
35 that can be used, but I do know that up in the north
36 here that the number of law enforcement actions is not
37 -- it's not usually very excessive because it's a huge
38 area to cover and they haven't been able to do it.

39

40 But that doesn't mean that they won't
41 be out there checking and doing stuff. I know they got
42 somebody over at Wainwright for harvesting muskox and
43 not utilizing the meat.

44

45 So they are around.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
48 from the Council on WP18-48.

49

50

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1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If there are none,
4 item two is report on Board consultation.

5

6 Eva.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
9 Again we did hold tribal consultation with all the
10 tribes within the North Slope Region. And we had
11 Anaktuvuk Pass and Point Lay that participated in
12 informational -- to provide this information back to
13 their communities. But we didn't get any specific
14 comments from either tribe or ANCSA corporation on this
15 proposal.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

18

19 Item three, agency comments. ADF&G.

20

21 MR. KLIMSTRA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Ryan Klimstra, of Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
23 for the record.

24

25 Yeah. Just to kind of follow up on a
26 couple of things Tom said, too. You know, we recognize
27 that this is something that is required on State lands
28 that the Board of Game, you know, came through with.
29 And it has -- you know, the start date was July 1st of
30 this year. And I've presented it a couple of times at
31 this particular meeting. The past two, I guess,
32 talking about this permit and what that means and all.

33

34 And I think, you know, we're hearing a
35 lot of -- from you guys like requests on better harvest
36 data and things like that and that's -- honestly,
37 that's one of the main reasons why the Department
38 supports this proposal.

39

40 You know, we do recognize that this
41 registration permit is a significant change to
42 historical hunt administration. You know, the recent
43 actions by the Board of Game to require this caribou
44 registration permit for all resident hunters in Units
45 22, 23, and 26A has been through an extensive public
46 process with advisory committees. Also the Western
47 Arctic Herd Working Group, the Council, and the Board
48 of Game.

49

50

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1 Adopting this proposal will align
2 hunting seasons and bag limits on Federal and State
3 managed lands and should be a useful to monitor harvest
4 and provide data for herd management. You know, we
5 need broad public support for this registration permit
6 hunt type to be effective for management. The
7 Department will need to engage in education and
8 outreach to implement this registration permit and the
9 hunt structure by building awareness and support.
10 Household surveys will continue to be a necessary
11 estimate -- excuse me. Will continue to be necessary
12 to estimate total harvest and the context for those
13 harvests.

14
15 And so we think we have a -- like I had
16 mentioned in my presentation yesterday, we think we're
17 at a good start for this permit and we -- and we just
18 want to make it clear that we recognize that it is a
19 new thing. You know, so we realize we have to step up
20 there, too, you know, with the outreach and education.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Ryan. Before
25 you leave, just a little question. What's the cost of
26 an individual person and is there an exemption?

27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA: There is absolutely no
29 cost for this permit. And this does not -- first off,
30 there's no cost. This doesn't change your season or
31 bag limits that are already in place at all.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

34
35 MR. KLIMSTRA: So no cost.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's important to
38 know that.

39
40 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Yeah.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Is there
45 going to be any support given to the communities to
46 allow our communities to work with educating our
47 hunters? Is this going to be relied upon to you all
48 who don't have offices in our community to provide this
49 education or are we going to work with our communities

50

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1 to help education our hunters?

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes. Thank you,
4 Rosemary. That's an excellent question. And, you
5 know, we have started that outreach effort.

6

7 Nuiqsut, unfortunately, we missed a
8 couple of visits there due to weather. You know, I
9 know that's a sorry excuse and we do apologize for
10 that. But we have every intention of making sure that
11 we get to -- we have actually visited all the villages
12 on the North Slope over two times a piece since this
13 permit went into effect.

14

15 In the effort of educating folks and
16 distributing permits, we've also established a vendor
17 for license sales in almost every single village on the
18 North Slope. I think we're only lacking one at this
19 point.

20

21 So we're really trying hard because we
22 understand it's new and we want to make sure that, you
23 know, the right resources are available to the people.
24 You know, if this thing is going to be something that
25 is out there, you have to have the resources. And so
26 we're trying to do our part.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just one more
29 question before you scurry off here. You said you're
30 going to have a license vendor in every community. Is
31 getting a registration permit contingent upon having a
32 license?

33

34 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes. Thanks for that,
35 Gordon. Yes. In order to fill out a registration
36 permit, just as RC900, which was in place before this,
37 having a license was a requirement.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So here's the follow-
40 up question. Is there an exemption for licensees by
41 age or something to that or.....

42

43 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's a great
44 question also. All those that are 60 years or older
45 get a free license -- lifetime license. So that's a
46 great incentive. You know, for the rest of their time.

47

48 And also there's -- for folks that
49 maybe have trouble financially, there's a low income

50

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1 license. It only costs \$5. That we can work with
2 folks there.

3
4 So there are ways to work with folks.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And lastly, is there
7 an age limit for the license? And if you're too young,
8 but you're a harvester, can you get the -- just the
9 permit?

10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: Okay. Yeah. That's 18
12 years or older is when you're required to have a
13 license. Under that age we, you know, require or ask
14 folks to hunt with somebody -- like a licensed adult.
15 That's at least what's in the regulations there.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So a young person
18 that's 15 years old -- can he come up to you and get a
19 permit that's free because he's too young to have a
20 license, but wants to participate in making sure your
21 harvest information is helpful?

22
23 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's a good
24 question. And the permit should be assigned to a
25 licensed adult.

26
27 So let's say your son is 15 years old
28 and he wants, you know, to hunt caribou. The way the
29 State is set up to do that is you would act as the
30 licensed adult and then the permit would be assigned to
31 your license number. And your son, when he hunts
32 caribou with you, would then record -- you know, he
33 could record on that permit.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And last question
36 from me anyway, is -- is it required to have a State
37 hunting license to hunt on Federal land?

38
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yes. That is a
40 requirement.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I don't see Tom
43 saying no or anything.

44
45 MR. EVANS: I was agreeing.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. You know,
2 we've got to field all of these -- all the
3 possibilities. Just five more years and I'll get one
4 for free for my lifetime.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. KLIMSTRA: I'll be waiting.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The information
13 that's collected from this permit process, who's going
14 to have access to those reports?

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: That's a great question,
17 Rosemary. And as of right now, the way this is set up,
18 you know, the State has the -- that information, you
19 know, is incoming to the State. And then the State
20 provides, you know, analysis of what this information
21 is. And it can be shared, you know, with the Feds at
22 certain times.

23
24 And Tom, did you -- were you going to
25 add something on that? No.

26
27 Yeah. So it's -- it's something that
28 is certainly going to be used for everyone. It's not
29 something that we're bringing in just to hide away. So
30 believe me. As soon as we have information from this,
31 we -- you know, once harvest starts coming in and
32 things like that, we are going to be more than excited
33 to come present that to you. You know, to share that
34 information with you.

35
36 That is our every intention and goal
37 with this permit, is to give that information back to
38 you guys in one form or another.

39
40 And, again, like Tom said, you know, to
41 help record these things. You know, that's important
42 to have a record of harvest up here for the
43 communities.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And also how do we
46 protect our sensitive hunting areas if you're going to
47 have this information available to others? That we are
48 very concerned about some of these conflicts that are
49 already in existence and have demonstrated that

50

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1 failures to protect our special hunting areas have
2 increased the conflicts in our communities.

3
4 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. That's a good
5 question. And none of the specific loc -- you know,
6 information on this permit is shared with anyone.
7 That's not -- we don't share specific location of
8 hunters or anything like that. That's not what the
9 State does.

10
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That has been
12 demonstrated that you've -- the State has had interest
13 in trying to obtain some of this information, but we
14 also have had the repercussions in our community.

15
16 Anaktuvuk has dealt with a lot of this
17 communication, but we still have increased
18 concentration with other hunters flying into these
19 areas that are creating some of this conflict. So I
20 have a lot of hesitation around this information and
21 the failures for the State and Federal government to
22 protect our special hunting areas and allow increased
23 conflict by other users to come into this process.

24
25 I'm also very concerned because it is
26 very common for us to have our young hunters to go out
27 and do hunting around our communities without an older
28 hunter with them. There are sometimes we would do
29 those kinds of things. So already we're putting our
30 community younger hunters at risk with regulatory
31 enforcements when our traditional practices don't meet
32 the State's documentation and requirements for this
33 process.

34
35 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair. This is Tony
36 Gorn, in Nome.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead. Who
39 was that?

40
41 MR. GORN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
42 the record, this is Tony Gorn, in Nome. I'm the
43 regional supervisor for Western and Northwestern
44 Alaska.

45
46 I just wanted to clarify a couple of
47 things related to youth hunting. So this permit that
48 is being discussed -- that Ryan's discussing, which is
49 a State permit, hunters that are ten years of age and
50

1 older are allowed to have their own caribou permit.
2 And adult supervision is not a requirement for hunters
3 that have their own permits.
4

5 So that's -- I just wanted to clarify
6 the legality component of this permit in your area of
7 the State.
8

9 And I also just wanted to take a
10 moment, if I could, to expand a little bit about these
11 types of permits in rural portions of Alaska. Before I
12 was the regional supervisor, I was an area biologist in
13 Nome for 15 years. And I had the opportunity to work
14 with members of the public that lived in Unit 18, down
15 in the Kuskokwim southwest portion of the State. I had
16 the opportunity to work on the Seward Peninsula around
17 Nome. And I also had an opportunity to work in Unit 23
18 -- with Unit 23 residents. And in all those areas, we
19 transitioned into permit hunts as you're discussing
20 right now related to muskox, moose, and caribou
21 hunting.
22

23 And I'm really pleased to report that
24 over time Fish and Game recognizes that when a change
25 like this is made, it doesn't happen in a year. And
26 quite frankly it doesn't happen in two or three years.
27 But over time these types of hunts with registration
28 permits have proven to be very successful.
29

30 And examples of that would include
31 moose hunting in Unit 23. I believe this year -- I
32 don't get this right exactly, but it was something like
33 570 moose permits were issued to residents that lived
34 in Unit 23. And all of those but only one were
35 reported. And it really gives our Kotzebue based moose
36 manager very useful information for hunting moose hunts
37 into the future. And that same type of trend has
38 persisted from Bethel to Nome to Kotzebue.
39

40 And I think one of the very important
41 things to mention related to these types of permits,
42 just how the Council today -- listening to the -- your
43 Council's deliberations on these different proposals,
44 I've heard several different Council members very
45 eloquently describe that you would be able to make
46 better informed decisions if you had better harvest
47 data.
48

49 And biologists are the same way. We're
50

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1 in the same spot. And quite frankly, I think what you
2 see wildlife biologists do in the absence of good data
3 -- more times than not they most likely yield to making
4 sure they're very conservative. Because conservation
5 is of utmost importance to what we do.

6
7 So this type of information -- harvest
8 information is very valuable for how we do our work.
9 And we are very excited to share that harvest
10 information with the public.

11
12 The last thing I'll say is that we are
13 very sensitive to where subsistence hunters harvest
14 their animals. And those types of locations are not
15 shared at all with the public. When we discuss harvest
16 patterns, we discuss it at very large scales. So for
17 example, we might talk about a 5,000 square mile area.
18 You know, a very large drainage. But we're certainly
19 sensitive to not giving out specific locations.

20
21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're welcome.

24
25 So we're at -- I think we were on
26 agency comments. ADF&G.

27
28 And we're ready to go to Federal
29 comments. Federal agencies. Anybody on line from
30 Federal agencies prepared to comment on WP18-48.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Any
35 Federal agencies here present to make comments on WP18-
36 48.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

41
42 Native and tribal, village and other.
43 Do we have comments from the tribes.

44
45 And we have one. George Edwardson,
46 ICAS President.

47
48 Mr. Edwardson.

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1 MR. EDWARDSON: Mr. Chair. I see the
2 Feds and the State's having trouble if they're going to
3 be enforcing each other's laws. You get a State
4 official to enforce Federal laws in some of these
5 parks. They probably do not have authorization to do
6 enforcing when the Feds have it. I see that kind of
7 trouble coming out of it.

8
9 And also if you're under 18 -- 18 or
10 under, you need an adult's license number to go with
11 your license. There are -- we have a lot of kids that
12 are younger than that that are -- live like adults and
13 live on their own. And maybe their parents are gone.
14 What do they do if they need an adult's signature to
15 co-sign them?

16
17 You see the situation we're going to be
18 heading into?

19
20 Just wanted to bring those out.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.

23
24 And maybe that is a question for the
25 State. And that should at least try to get here. I
26 think you heard the question, right?

27
28 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. I want to --
29 first off, this is Ryan Klimstra again. I just wanted
30 to apologize. I was totally wrong in what I had said.
31 And Tony was correct there with the age of ten. And,
32 you know, to get the license. Or excuse me, the
33 permit. So that was correct. I was wrong. Please
34 disregard that. You have to have the.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What does ten year
37 old mean?

38
39 MR. KLIMSTRA: A ten year old.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That he needs a -- a
42 hunting license?

43
44 MR. KLIMSTRA: He can get the permit
45 himself.

46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: He can get the
48 permit without the license?

49
50

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1 MR. KLIMSTRA: Here. I'll read --
2 yeah. Alaska -- children under ten years old are not
3 allowed to have their own harvest tickets or permits.
4 Excuse me. Are -- yeah. Under ten years old are not
5 allowed to have their own harvest tickets or permits.
6 So over the age of ten.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So if he's 12 years
9 old, he can get a permit to report his harvest.

10
11 MR. KLIMSTRA: That is correct.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But he doesn't need a
14 license to accompany it, right?

15
16 MR. KLIMSTRA: Correct.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

19
20 MR. KLIMSTRA: So I apologize for that
21 confusion. That was totally my mistake there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I think that
24 would take care of some of the concerns that Mr.
25 Edwardson raised on enforcement. Because it's only a
26 permit at this point. And.....

27
28 MR. EDWARDSON: So if you're under ten,
29 you can't legally hunt.

30
31 MR. EVANS: Correct.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, you know, my
34 son was hunting at five years old.

35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Exactly.

37
38 (Laughter)

39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: According to what
41 was presented, if they're under ten they can hunt with
42 a licensed hunter.

43
44 Correct?

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth.

47
48 MS. LENART: Through the Chair. Beth
49 Lenart, for the record.

50

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1 That's correct, Rosemary. They can
2 hunt with a licensed hunter. And what it is, is if
3 that five year old shot the animal, then it counts on
4 the bag limit of the adult license holder.

5
6 So for example, for moose, if it's a
7 bag limit of one moose, then the adult could not shoot
8 a moose. Because that child has taken that adult's bag
9 limit.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. How about if
12 he's 11 years old?

13
14 MS. LENART: Then he's good. And then
15 they each get a moose.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right on.

18
19 (Laughter)

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That
22 sounds better.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In our village we
25 had an incident this year where a parent took his child
26 out. She was over ten. And they -- one got a moose on
27 one hunting event and the other got a moose on the
28 other hunting event. And they both got fined in that
29 process.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we have these
32 mishaps, too. So it's unfortunate, but that's how it
33 is sometimes.

34
35 But I think we've got some good
36 explanations here. That we can put in our back pockets
37 easily. You know, because if I've got a 12 year old,
38 he should be able to get a permit and catch a caribou
39 without a license. And that's good.

40
41 All right. We're on -- we don't have
42 InterAgency Staff Committee, so I'm going to go on to
43 number four, advisory group comments.

44
45 Madame Coordinator.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
48 The Western Interior Regional Advisory Council took up
49 this Proposal WP18-48/49. The Council voted to support

50

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1 the OSM preliminary conclusion to support 18-48 and
2 take no action on WP18-49. And the Council supported
3 because providing the harvest data through the
4 registration permit ensures that managers have the
5 useful information and to protect the allocation of
6 resource to subsistence users in the future.

7
8 The Western -- I'm sorry -- Northwest
9 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council also took
10 up this proposal. And the Council voted to opposed
11 WP18-48. And -- yes. Okay. So they took action and
12 the Council voted to oppose the proposal. It was
13 48/49. I guess they took action on both.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

16
17 MS. PATTON: And the Seward Peninsula
18 Council also took action on this. I lost my little
19 summary sheet in the mix here. Let me just pull it up
20 here quick.

21
22 Okay. So the Seward Peninsula Council
23 voted to -- the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory
24 Council voted to support, as modified by OSM. And the
25 Council noted support for the proposal by the Western
26 Interior Council, but otherwise did not have additional
27 comments.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva. In
30 support as modified. What was the modification?

31
32 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl.

35
36 MR. JOHNSON: Carl Johnson, for the
37 record. So that's actually just an error on how that
38 summary was written. They supported the OSM
39 conclusion, which was support on the first and take no
40 action on the other.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that
43 clarification.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Eva.

46
47 MS. PATTON: And that was it for the
48 Regional Advisory Councils, but several subsistence
49 resource commissions also took up this proposal.

50

1 The Cape Krusenstern Subsistence
2 Resource Commission supported WP18-44 and took no
3 action on WP18-49.
4

5 The Kobuk Valley SRC supported the
6 proposal as there should be accurate harvest
7 information available for management.
8

9 And the Gates of the Arctic SRC was not
10 in support of WP18-48/49 as local harvest surveys would
11 be more accurate and reliable than via registration
12 permit system.
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the SRC is in
15 opposition to it? That's from the Gates of the Arctic?
16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 Two of the SRCs within the Region were in support of
19 the proposal. So the Western Arctic Parklands SRCs
20 that participated and the Cape Krusenstern SRC as well.
21

22 But the Gates of the Arctic SRC in
23 general was not in favor of supporting this regulatory
24 change. And the discussion that they had was the main
25 reason they felt was harvest information could be
26 collected more accurately through harvest surveys
27 conducted either through the North Slope Department of
28 Wildlife Management and were wanting to make sure that
29 communities were informed of the new State regulation
30 in place.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Is that the
33 summary of the Regional Councils?
34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes. That was the summary
36 of the three Regional Advisory Councils that took
37 action on this, as well as the SRCs within the region
38 of the proposal.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And maybe just
41 a question to Tom.
42

43 Let's say, you know, the Northwest
44 Arctic opposes it -- that Region and all of these
45 different Regional Advisory Councils -- Western
46 Interior says yes. Seward Pen support. North Arctic
47 is opposition to it. And then all of this information
48 goes to the Federal Subsistence Board to take up to
49 enact it. And in looking at all of this, do they
50

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1 differentiate what Region says yes and no? And cut it
2 off at their -- at different Regions? Or they just
3 consider the yes and no of each and make their decision
4 as to the application of that proposal?

5
6 MR. EVANS: I think it's the latter.

7
8 They basically take into consideration
9 all the information provided to them and then they make
10 the decision. I think, you know, for home Regions, you
11 know, they might have that at a little bit higher
12 weight, you know, to the home Region as to where a
13 proposal was originally submitted. But in general,
14 they take all the information and then they make a
15 decision based on everyone's recommendations.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I just
18 wanted to find that out.

19
20 Rosemary.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If we were to oppose
23 this and continue to support our North Slope Borough's
24 Wildlife Department collecting information, would it
25 affect the funding that we get to try to obtain this
26 information?

27
28 MR. EVANS: I don't know that we
29 provide funding for anything. So what funding are you
30 referring to?

31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The North Slope
33 Borough has been working to gather information on
34 harvest for a long time. If we oppose this and we now
35 wanted to do this permit process, is that going to
36 conflict with our Region still getting our own harvest
37 information?

38
39 Are we still going to be able to
40 receive funds or are we now going to put the Federal
41 collection of this permit process information over the
42 funding that the local Region would get?

43
44 MR. EVANS: I don't know the answer to
45 that, Rosemary.

46
47 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee.

50

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1 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. That's a question
2 I was going to bring up. You know, the North Slope
3 Borough does the wildlife harvest monthly. And I think
4 going in effect with a permit like this would -- could
5 be some really twisted, different numbers when it comes
6 down to population of caribou or any other household
7 catch that each person or, you know, try to harvest for
8 their family.

9
10 And, you know, I think in the run of
11 the permits there are going to be situations. Okay.
12 Who's going to be right and wrong about population
13 estimates of animals.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Did you want
18 to respond to that? It looks like we have Carl coming
19 down.

20
21 I have a similar question along that
22 line as well.

23
24 MR. JOHNSON: I was coming up
25 originally also to just co-jointly respond to both
26 Rosemary and Lee.

27
28 I think it's safe to say that the
29 Federal regulatory process and what the Borough does --
30 there's no connection between the two.

31
32 Essentially, this -- if this goes into
33 place, it's just going to have more data coming into
34 the State Department of Fish and Game and to their
35 existing system. They already collect harvest data on
36 State lands from registration permits, so this would
37 just add additional lands.

38
39 And I'd say it's probably -- under the
40 existing Borough permitting system or collection
41 information system that Rosemary was talking about,
42 that the State's registration permit doesn't affect
43 that. So they operate independently.

44
45 Because the Borough has its own
46 planning needs for having that process in place and
47 what kind of information it's collecting. And that
48 would be separate from what this program would do.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it's something
2 that comes around and, you know, when the Feds do
3 meetings and the State does meetings and the Borough
4 does meetings, there's this duplication of effort
5 issues and also meeting burnout. And it seems to me
6 the folks that are collecting information from
7 individuals already and then -- and they do it again
8 under permit registration.
9

10 And I'm just trying to think about, you
11 know, the duplication of effort. Or maybe it's just
12 complimenting and maybe corroborates what's going on
13 with the individual or something like that.
14

15 Those are just some of the things that
16 kind of makes you think a little bit.
17

18 And it looks like my girlfriend just
19 came in -- Sharon. And I think she was going to bring
20 me a soda pop.
21

22 (Laughter)
23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Everyone, that's
25 Sharon.
26

27 (Laughter)
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if you have phone
30 problems, she's the phone manager.
31

32 (Laughter)
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
35

36 MR. EVANS: If I may, Mr. Chair. I
37 think unless you're a -- if you're a hunter in this
38 area, unless you only hunt on Federal lands and never
39 hunt on State lands, there's not going to be any new
40 effort required. Because as the State was saying, if
41 you're hunting on State lands you already have to have
42 a registration permit. So if you're a hunter who both
43 State and Federal lands, you already have a
44 registration permit. This would just have you be
45 submitting that harvest information from when you hunt
46 on Federal lands, as well as State lands.
47

48 So I don't know if it's really a
49 duplication of effort so much as it is a duplication of
50

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1 data. We're now going to get information on who's
2 harvesting on Federal lands, as well as State lands.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, maybe I beg to
5 differ a little bit. Because I do get calls from
6 either ICAS or from North Slope Borough to participate
7 in, you know, harvest information. And 99.9 percent of
8 the time I'm on Federal public lands and conducting
9 that harvest either for fish or for caribou or other
10 resources.

11
12 So it seems to me that I would have to
13 repeat doing that under the permit system that we're
14 talking about under WP18-48.

15
16 I don't know. I mean it could just be
17 duplication or it could be corroborating what was
18 already taken. Who knows. Maybe a thing like that.

19
20 Rosemary.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. I just am
23 very concerned on the way that we've had to deal with
24 fragmentation of the way that information has been
25 presented. This gives me a lot of cause for concern.

26
27 I know that when we're working with the
28 North Slope Borough we have a better process within the
29 North Slope Borough and trying to assess information
30 and trying to look at variables that are important to
31 our Region and to look at the various issues. As we go
32 into different regulatory regimes, moving into the
33 State we have not had the same luxury at that process.
34 And when we go into the Federal we're reacting to the
35 process within the State and the failures to give us
36 our subsistence priorities.

37
38 So for me it is very important to try
39 to gather information, but it is also very important
40 that we support our resources information that we have
41 a better control of the process. This is very
42 important information. What the Borough does with
43 information versus what the State does with information
44 versus what the Federal government may not always meet
45 our needs.

46
47 But I know when I'm working with North
48 Slope Borough I have a different process than I do with
49 the State.

50

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1 MR. EVANS: So Mr. Chair, could I ask a
2 question here?

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Tom. Go
5 ahead.

6
7 MR. EVANS: So for Rosemary -- so if
8 you collect data -- I mean we've not asked you for
9 data. Now we get data from the State. We get data
10 from the Federal database. And I try to get the most
11 accurate data. I think that's the goal of everyone.
12 But I have not asked data from the Borough on harvest
13 information.

14
15 I know they used to do some harvest
16 reports and those are fairly dated right now. In some
17 communities they didn't do them. But I know when I
18 worked with marine mammals, you know, I mean sometimes
19 we would get -- you know, we -- you were meant to tag
20 walruses and sometimes the tagging wouldn't occur. And
21 the local information -- I know back then when I did
22 get some of that, you know, you guys had records of 200
23 walrus being taken and we had records of 6.

24
25 And so I guess my question to you is
26 can we ask you for harvest data. And it all depends on
27 how it's taken and how it's -- and what the questions
28 are. So maybe or maybe not it would be useful for what
29 we're doing.

30
31 But, you know, I think it would be
32 ideal if we could all share the information that we
33 have and be open and transparent about it so that we
34 know -- I mean we all meet our own goals from it.
35 Obviously, we'll all have our own objectives to some
36 degree.

37
38 But I just wanted to put that forward.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I understand that we
43 all have our own goals. And that's why I'm much more
44 protective. Because I've had to suffer through goals
45 that are not important to us. And the reality is the
46 hardships that are put upon our villages are real
47 hardships that are put forward. And it's because our
48 priorities are not staying engaged in some of this
49 process.

50

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1 So for me, I know that this is an
2 important process to gather information and try to be
3 up front about where this information is going. But
4 unfortunately, we have not had that seat at the table
5 where we have been effectively engaging in control of
6 this information.

7
8 When others take information and put it
9 in various ways, they can greatly impact the decisions
10 in our lands and waters, and I have to be as protective
11 as I can. And this process has given me great serious
12 reason for concern.

13
14 To me, the strongest information would
15 be controlled by our local Region. And that is very
16 important in this process going forward because others
17 do not have the same priorities as we do from our lands
18 and waters.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

21
22 All right. We went to -- where was I
23 there, Madame Coordinator. Was it Regional Councils?
24 We did that. Advisory Committees. I think we went
25 through that.

26
27 So summary of written public comments.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 There were no public comments -- written public
31 comments submitted for this proposal.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Item six,
34 public testimony.

35
36 The mic is open for public testimony on
37 WP18-48.

38
39 MR. LEAVITT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Joe Leavitt, for the record.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Joe.

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: I just want to ask if I
45 got a State license and a -- to do my permit -- what do
46 you call it? A ticket. When do I need to get a -- do
47 I have to have two of them? The Federal and the State
48 to do my count or is the State going to take care of
49 it?

50

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1 MR. EVANS: Joe, under this -- Mr.
2 Leavitt, under this syst -- the proposal -- this
3 proposal that we're considering, we would use a State
4 registration permit for Federal public lands. So it
5 would be just one.

6
7 It would be just one permit and you
8 would have to have just one license.

9
10 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. So that will cover
11 me through the whole North Slope, right?

12
13 MR. EVANS: Yeah. Uh-huh.

14
15 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joe.

18
19 The mic is open for public testimony.

20
21 Hollis.

22
23 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
24 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. But I'm going to
25 speak outside of that because this proposal is way, way
26 out of our area of influence.

27
28 But I will speak about my experiences
29 that I have had with the registration programs. And at
30 three years assistant manager at Yukon Delta National
31 Wildlife Refuge we issued 100 Federal registration
32 permits up and down the Kuskokwim from Bethel all the
33 way up to Crooked Creek. So we got involved pretty
34 heavily with quite a number of these permits.

35
36 And the biggest challenges were there
37 were a lot of people who were drawn that for whatever
38 reason weren't able to go out and do their hunt
39 themselves. And so they requested the designated
40 hunter permits, which is good that that program exists.
41 It's cumbersome in the fact that, you know, both
42 individuals -- the hunter and the person drawn needed
43 to be there to show their licenses and go through the
44 signatures and receive the permit.

45
46 So when you're dealing with a large
47 number of permits, it takes a lot more effort on
48 manager's parts and people's involvement parts to go
49 through that permitting process. So that's the

50

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1 challenge. Just make sure that agencies and people are
2 prepared to take on that level of work.

3
4 It is a bit of an imposition on the
5 traditional Native way of harvesting. And that is a
6 bit of an issue. I know when I was out in Lake Clark
7 the State did a program for Lime Village, which was a
8 community harvest quota, which also had reporting
9 requirements as well. So I know there's other
10 methodologies out there to work with and that's just an
11 example of a Native community that -- very traditional
12 and had a lot more direct involvement themselves on not
13 only the number of animals they can take, but also the
14 responsibility of managing their use and reporting it
15 to the appropriate State entities.

16
17 My current position, Arctic Refuge, we
18 do the registration permits, Red Sheep Creek. And also
19 as we heard today, for the North Slope for the Native
20 Village of Kaktovik on moose hunting. The numbers of
21 permits we deal with are pretty small and so it's not
22 an issue to deal with the drawings. The applicant
23 getting their paperwork in order and getting a
24 designated hunter.

25
26 So if the communities are small and
27 their permits are not too large in number, it's not too
28 onerous. But when you're dealing with hundreds of
29 permits, that can be a challenge for some of the
30 communities that haven't worked with this program
31 before. And it's a lot more workload on top -- on the
32 part of the representative agencies going through that.

33
34 So I don't want to influence you one
35 way or the other. That's just my personal experience.

36
37 And you can take it or leave it as you
38 may.

39
40 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hollis.

43
44 Go ahead, Wanda, from Atkasuk.

45
46 MS. KIPPI: I have a concern about
47 catching -- I know when you catch a caribou you have to
48 -- you have a -- you have to use your permit with your
49 family if you have to. Like the -- with the children

50

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1 and the age thing. But what are going to do when we
2 catch reindeer? We do not have to add that to the
3 count; is that correct? Because I've been asking this
4 for what, a year or so now.

5
6 Because we are catching reindeer. And
7 I told my family and I'm telling the people we don't
8 have to count our reindeer that we catch because
9 they're only asking for caribou count on the permit.

10
11 So I'd like to straighten that out now.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think that's
14 important because we do see them and we do catch them.

15
16 MS. KIPPI: And there's mixed breeds.
17 Do we count the mixed breeds? I want an answer.
18 Because we do catch them.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

21
22 MR. EVANS: Well, so.....

23
24 MS. KIPPI: It got quickly quiet.

25
26 MR. EVANS: It's very quiet. Yes.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MS. KIPPI: Gotcha.

31
32 MR. EVANS: Under the Federal
33 regulations we do not separate out caribou and
34 reindeer.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Pardon?

37
38 MR. EVANS: We don't separate out
39 caribou and reindeer, so they would be considered the
40 same under the Federal regulations. It's my
41 understanding that.....

42
43 MS. KIPPI: Why isn't it in there with
44 the book? Why doesn't it say caribou/reindeer?

45
46 It's not in your book.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl, it sounds like
49 you've got something up your sleeve.

50

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.

2
3 At the risk of muddying the waters, I
4 believe in the past -- in the last wildlife cycle there
5 was a proposal that was submitted related to caribou on
6 the Seward Peninsula. And the intent of the proposal
7 was to avoid conflicts with reindeer herders.

8
9 And if I remember the analysis
10 correctly, ANILCA governs only the management of wild,
11 renewable resources. And since reindeer are not wild,
12 they are owned by private individuals, they are
13 domesticated animals, they are not considered under the
14 jurisdiction of the Federal subsistence management
15 program.

16
17 They're not wild. They're domestic.
18 So we only deal with wild, renewable resources.

19
20 I'm thinking that was the position in
21 the analysis, but hopefully somebody in this room can
22 correct me on that if I'm wrong.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
25 might jump in there.

26
27 So that was in the Seward Peninsula,
28 where those are actively herded reindeer. And I think
29 what Wanda is speaking to in this situation is they see
30 mixed herds of free roaming reindeer and then mixed
31 herds from her observations.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, maybe we
34 can elaborate a little bit about that. Because ten
35 some years ago, around the Kotzebue, Nana Region and
36 some of those areas where the Western Arctic Herd
37 frequented, a whole bunch of reindeer took off with the
38 Western Arctic Herd and brought them up to the North
39 Slope. The reindeer will follow. And that's
40 traditional knowledge.

41
42 My dad was a reindeer herder. And they
43 protected the reindeer very hard against caribou
44 because they're followers. And there's lots of stories
45 about you have to be on your guard when the caribou are
46 coming if you're managing reindeer because they will
47 take off with the caribou.

48
49 And that's what's happened. And we
50

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1 know the difference in the size that these animals are.
2 And there's some on the Slope that are kind of lost and
3 standing around.

4
5 Easy catch. Yeah.

6
7 MR. JOHNSON: And it's very possible
8 under those circumstances they're now considered wild.
9 But I think that there's somebody from the State who's
10 itching to step in. So I'm going to let them do that.

11
12 MR. BRUNING: Mr. Chairman and Members
13 of the Council. I just -- Darren Bruning.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please state your
16 name, please.

17
18 MR. BRUNING: Alaska Department of Fish
19 and Game. Regional Supervisor for Division of Wildlife
20 Conservation. And.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And what was your
23 name again?

24
25 MR. BRUNING: Darren Bruning.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah. Darren.
28 Yeah.

29
30 MR. BRUNING: Yes.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sorry. I got cobwebs
33 sometimes.

34
35 MR. BRUNING: That's okay, Mr.
36 Chairman. You've been working hard today.

37
38 So I really don't have anything to
39 clarify. But I just wanted to acknowledge the
40 question. I don't know the answer either. It would be
41 very difficult to distinguish between the two for the
42 purposes of how the hunting regulations are
43 established. But, you know, we can look into that to
44 see if there's an official, technical answer.

45
46 Yeah. But I don't know officially what
47 that technical answer is.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Darren. I

50

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1 would suggest you guys do that because there's some
2 talk about our local village corporation to wanting to
3 get back into reindeer and bring a herd from somewhere
4 and bring it and reestablish it up here.

5
6 And they probably might run away and
7 we'll be shooting them.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So just think about
12 that, and I think that it should have an answer.

13
14 MR. BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15
16 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

17
18 MR. GORN: Mr. Chair, this is Tony
19 Gorn, in Nome.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead. Is
22 that Tony?

23
24 MR. GORN: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. I want to proceed very carefully here because
26 reindeer are considered private -- a private resource
27 and are not managed under State law by the Department.
28 But I can speak and just share some experiences which
29 might be helpful without having to cite the detail of
30 the law.

31
32 And Mr. Chair, you were correct with
33 the history -- some of the history that you shared. Of
34 course the Seward Peninsula has a very rich history of
35 reindeer herding and in the early 2000s unfortunately
36 for local herders nearly a quarter million Western
37 Arctic Herd caribou migrated onto the Seward Peninsula
38 and were found more west than they were ever found
39 before. And as part of that migration to the caribou
40 wintering grounds, some of the caribou did move into
41 historically occupied reindeer ranges.

42
43 So what happened was the caribou
44 wintered on the Seward Peninsula that year and then of
45 course in the springtime caribou do as caribou do and
46 they began their northward migration. And as they left
47 the Seward Peninsula to move north they took many
48 reindeer with them. And that single event really was
49 problematic and in a lot of ways catastrophic for the
50

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1 reindeer industry on the Seward Peninsula. However,
2 after those animals were not being herded and were for
3 the lack of a better term wild and free ranging, they
4 did become eligible for harvest.

5
6 So the concern of harvesting an animal
7 -- and I will also say that I understand that there are
8 some very skilled hunters out there who have the
9 ability to detect a reindeer out of a very large number
10 of caribou, from my experience on the Seward Peninsula
11 most hunters do not fall into that category.
12 Certainly, some of those reindeer have been harvested
13 and that is not a illegal event.

14
15 So again I hesitate to speak to
16 specific law related to the private ownership of
17 reindeer, but I can tell you based on what we
18 experienced on the Seward Peninsula I am not aware of
19 any citations at all related to harvesting reindeer
20 that emigrated off of their ranges and were trying to
21 keep up with caribou herds.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tony. I
26 think the question was whether or not they were
27 reportable on the permit. And that Wanda wanted that
28 question answered.

29
30 Because, you know, we're able to
31 differentiate what is a reindeer and what is a caribou.
32 And from the descriptions you have from the western
33 most migration that ever took on the Western Arctic
34 Herd took a whole bunch of reindeer and brought them up
35 here I think is what has happened. And we see them
36 from time to time and actually I think we try to target
37 those when we can.

38
39 MS. KIPPI: We see them more around the
40 Atqasuk area.

41
42 MR. GORN: Thank you for the
43 clarification, Mr. Chair.

44
45 And so what we have observed in Unit 22
46 and Unit 23 to a lesser extent is that hunters would
47 report those animals. Whether they knew they were
48 reindeer or caribou or, you know, whatever they were,
49 they would report them as caribou harvest on their
50

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1 regularly obtained permit.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tony.

4

5

6

And I would just advise Wanda if you catch a reindeer just report it just to be on the safe side on your permit, I would think.

7

8

9

10

11

12

MS. KIPPI: I think they should add that on there if they're just going to have caribou. Nobody else -- probably the rest of the Region doesn't even know about that now that we have that.

13

14

15

16

17

Now that we have spoken about it and the answer has come on, the rest of the Region needs to know that they need to add the reindeer if they harvest the reindeer onto the harvest report.

18

19

20

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

21

22

23

24

25

MS. KIPPI: All right.

26

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think -- are we down to summary of written public comments?

30

31

32

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. There were no written public comments for this proposal.

33

34

35

36

37

MS. PATTON: And we had heard from Joe Leavitt. We had heard from Joe Leavitt.

38

39

40

41

42

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Regional Advisory.....

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. LEAVITT: I already talked.

MS. PATTON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Regional Council recommendation. Is there a motion to act on this. We need a motion to get going.

MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Lee.

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1 MR. KAYOTUK: I'd like to make a motion
2 on this proposal on this taking place.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
5 the floor to adopt WP18-48.

6
7 Is there a second.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or discussion.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing no second
16 means that we're not taking any action on the item.
17 And I would think that's no action.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. Of
20 course it is up to the Council if you want to take
21 action or not. I would suggest there was a lot of
22 really good testimony and justification both one way
23 and the other and that would be the avenue to help
24 convey that to the Federal Subsistence Board.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right.
27 Then go through all the motions and vote yea or nay on
28 it.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Yes. And to provide the
31 Council's justification for why that would help inform
32 greatly the understanding of some of the concerns that
33 were raised here.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

36
37 Carl, do you want to add something?

38
39 MR. JOHNSON: I just want to reiterate
40 Eva's point, Mr. Chair. All the great discussion
41 you've been having would essentially be lost to the
42 record for the Board without a second and then a
43 discussion and a vote.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

46
47 There's a motion on the floor that.....

48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing that, I'll
50

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1 second for discussion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The motion has been
4 seconded. And discussions, deliberations,
5 justifications from the Board.

6

7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've had a
8 tremendous amount of discussion on caribou issues and
9 we're very strong in our Region in understanding what
10 we want to do.

11

12 I recognize that the Federal government
13 could use more information and the reality is that I'm
14 not willing to give up local control of our
15 information. Working with the North Slope Borough has
16 been a better process for us.

17

18 I feel that we can negotiate those
19 relationships that allow the Borough and the Federal
20 government to work together on some of this information
21 and that this process is important for them to receive
22 information, but it gives more demands on our hunters
23 in the process that goes forward, as well as even
24 though it does take into account the younger hunters up
25 to age ten, many of us have hunters that are younger
26 than that. And that's very concerning when we have
27 requirements to be documentation that will show that
28 we're illegal or legal.

29

30 And we don't have the increasing
31 resources in our communities to deal with our own
32 information needs and desires.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

35

36 Any other Regional Council discussions
37 on WP18-48.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to take my
42 hat off as the Chair and express my views on WP18-48.

43

44 And I think, you know, we're in a
45 conservation climate. I think we really are in a
46 conservation climate for Western Arctic Herd, for
47 Teshekpuk Herd, for Central Arctic Herd. The only herd
48 that goes on the North Slope that hasn't expressed any
49 conservation issues is the Porcupine. And that

50

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1 Porcupine is very strong and seems to be doing well.
2 But all the other herds are -- they're asking for help.
3 They can't talk. We have to be able to talk for them,
4 too.

5
6 And I think even though there are
7 resources available to the local government to gather
8 information, it might be for other uses. And I don't
9 know what kind of relationship and sharing arrangements
10 the Borough has with the Federal agency or the State
11 agency that are managing the herd. That have the
12 responsibility to manage the herds. I think they need
13 these types of information as well.

14
15 Whether it's from a ten year old or
16 whether it's from a 60-plus year old that has a free
17 permit, I think it's important to let the animals talk
18 somehow. If it's duplication, I think it's okay.
19 Because it's going to only corroborate the story. And
20 I think there's a need to -- there's a need to do this,
21 this time.

22
23 That's my own personal view.

24
25 Like somebody said, the animals don't
26 talk and we've got to speak for them sometimes, and I
27 think it might be that time.

28
29 The permit is free. And it's just a
30 harvest permit. I think it's a harvest ticket. And
31 although you might need to have a license and stuff
32 like that to obtain one. So a lot of people that don't
33 have licenses, I don't think they'll come and get one.
34 And so there's certain enforcement issues out there.

35
36 But nevertheless, I think what we've
37 been doing over the course of three or four years now
38 trying to do conservation measures, enacting
39 traditional-type activities into laws to try to be
40 conservationists at our best, this only helps reinforce
41 the needed help of our great herds on that range. On
42 the North Slope and these areas.

43
44 So any other discussions from the
45 Regional Council.

46
47 Lee.

48
49 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Chair, for

50

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1 that report. And I think it's very clear that, you
2 know, issuing a permit, and I would, you know, if they
3 do come out -- you know, out -- you know, clearly
4 specified how this permit, it's going to work, who is
5 going to get it. And, you know, you might have some
6 boundaries. Okay. I'll go on State or Federal lands,
7 you know, and who is of age to handle these permits and
8 things like that.

9
10 And I think clearly that, you know, it
11 takes a very important consideration when it comes down
12 to permits and handling of this permit. I know it's
13 going to take into consideration the effect of, you
14 know, who do we go see or what do we do now. I mean,
15 you know, we're going to have -- there's some issues
16 like that, but anyway I think it's very important to
17 how this permit is going to work.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

22
23 Any other discussions from the Regional
24 Council.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
31 called for, for the adoption of WP18-48.

32
33 So question's been called for for that.
34 All those in.....

35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We need to.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pardon?

39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We need to also
41 include by supporting 48, we're taking no action on 49.
42 Just to clarify.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I was thinking
45 we'd do that separately, but I guess we would do that
46 all in one swoop.

47
48 So all in favor of adopting WP18-48 and
49 taking no action on 49, signify by saying aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
4 signify by saying no.

5

6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
9 Majority rules here. I think it's four to one. And
10 WP18-48 passes the North Slope Regional Advisory
11 Council for the permit.

12

13 Madame Coordinator.

14

15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
16 will look to the Council as to your needs and interests
17 at this time. We have several other wildlife
18 proposals, but Steve did indicate he would be able to
19 join us tomorrow again.

20

21 Remaining for the wildlife proposals
22 were the two Unit 23 proposals. One addressing the
23 closure in Unit 23 to non-federally-qualified users and
24 the other to decrease harvest limit from five to three
25 caribou in Unit 23.

26

27 And then we have a crossover proposal
28 as well. WP18-56, which is the sheep management Unit
29 25A. It's the Arctic Village sheep management unit.
30 And there's a proposal to open the Arctic Village sheep
31 management unit area to harvest by non-federally-
32 qualified users. Currently it is closed.

33

34 So those are the three main proposals
35 remaining for the Council to take up.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So WP18-56, sheep.

38

39 MS. PATTON: Yes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: WP18- oh, I'm sorry.

42

43 WP18-56, Arctic Village. WP18-46/46,
44 Unit 23? Is that the other one?

45

46 MS. PATTON: Yes. And WP18-45, which
47 is Unit 23, requests to decrease the Federal
48 subsistence harvest limit from five to three caribou.

49

50

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1 So there's three remaining proposals.
2 Two are addressing caribou in Unit 23 and one the Red
3 Sheep Creek area in Unit 25A, Arctic National Wildlife
4 Refuge.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Being that some
7 of this affects in Unit 23 -- may be impacting our
8 Point Hope representative, maybe we could delay till
9 tomorrow morning to have -- I think Steve indicated he
10 would re-join us in the morning.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yeah. So Steve
13 said he could join us back again in order to take up
14 those Unit 23 proposals tomorrow.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

17
18 What's the wish of the Council. I know
19 we're past 5:00 o'clock all right. We were supposed to
20 end at 5:00.

21
22 MS. PATTON: And maybe we could just
23 touch base quickly, Mr. Chair and Council. Because we
24 have Hollis Twitchell here and also Staff from the
25 State, just to get an indication in terms of your
26 availability. Both of them were able to provide some
27 more information on the Red Sheep Creek proposal.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you guys want to
30 do go ahead and do WP18-56.

31
32 Is that the one you're talking about?

33
34 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
37 the Council. One more before we go na-na.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. We're going
42 to run short of time tomorrow and what we can get done,
43 we should try to get done.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

46
47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I know we're tired,
48 but we only have this time.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's go
2 ahead and take up WP18-56, sheep, Unit 25A, open Arctic
3 Village Sheep Management Area to harvest by non-
4 federally-qualified user.

5
6 And is that you, Joshua, are you going
7 to present that?

8
9 MR. REAM: Yes, sir.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
12 let's get with it.

13
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Lee.

17
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. I think, you know,
19 these proposals, you know, are taking up too much time.
20 You know, and -- you know, it's -- you know, we could
21 handle a proposal if it's a timely manner, you know.
22 But, you know, I would, you know, follow up on this.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So just
27 limit our discussions. Is that your indication?

28
29 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

32
33 MR. KAYOTUK: I mean, you know, it's
34 7:30 at night, you know. And, you know, sitting here
35 all day and all night, you know, it's back breaking,
36 you know. And it doesn't.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

39
40 MR. KAYOTUK: It doesn't sit really
41 well when you're brainstorming all day until the wee
42 hours of the night.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Note taken well
47 there, Lee. And I'm tired, too.

48
49 And I -- but I think looking at the --

50

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1 some of the Staff that might be catching airplanes in
2 the -- and I think it would be prudent to try and at
3 least get one more out of the way and allow Joshua to
4 -- and express in good detail so that it's very
5 understandable. That might limit dialogue.

6
7 So Joshua, go ahead.

8
9 MR. REAM: I have page numbers in here
10 for you, too.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
15 Members of the Council. Again, for the record, this is
16 Joshua Ream, anthropologist with OSM.

17
18 The analysis for Proposal 18-56 begins
19 on page 405 of your Council books. Proposal 18-56 was
20 submitted by Richard Bishop of Fairbanks, Alaska. And
21 it requests that Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
22 in Unit 25A be open to the harvest of sheep by non-
23 federally-qualified users.

24
25 For the rest of this presentation I'll
26 refer to the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area as
27 just the management area or the sheep management area.

28
29 The proponent states that the
30 restriction of sheep hunting to only residents of a few
31 communities -- Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon,
32 Kaktovik, and Venetie is not necessary to accommodate
33 local subsistence uses and that residents of these
34 communities do not hunt sheep in the sheep management
35 area.

36
37 The proponent also states that sheep
38 hunting opportunity on Federal public lands in the
39 management area should be open to the public under
40 State hunting regulations because there is no
41 biological or subsistence-related reasons to preclude
42 sheep hunting opportunities by the public.

43
44 Federal closures to the harvest of
45 sheep in the management area by non-federally-qualified
46 users have been in effect since 1991. The closure was
47 expanded in 1995 to include Cane Creek and Red Sheep
48 Creek drainages, but was rescinded in these drainages
49 for the 2006 to 2011 regulatory years between August

50

1 10th and September 30th each year.

2
3 Federal public lands comprise
4 approximately 99 percent of the sheep management area
5 in Unit 25 and consists of the Arctic National Wildlife
6 Refuge. Federally-qualified subsistence users are
7 those with a customary and traditional use
8 determination for sheep in the management area and they
9 are the residents of Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Fort
10 Yukon, Kaktovik, and Venetie.

11
12 The management area was traditionally
13 occupied by Netsi Gwich'in, who occupied the northern
14 reaches of the East Fork Chandalar, Koness, and
15 Sheenjek Rivers. But the 1930s most Netsi Gwich'in
16 were living in three semi-permanent settlements of
17 Arctic Village, Christian Village, and Venetie, and
18 traditional land use remained largely intact.

19
20 In the past, Netsi Gwich'in relied upon
21 sheep as a food source primarily in late summer or
22 whenever caribou were scarce. Researcher Hadleigh-
23 West, in the 1960s, identified four very specific sheep
24 hunting areas used by Arctic Village residents along
25 the Junjik River, East Fork Chandalar River, Cane
26 Creek, and Red Sheep Creek.

27
28 The customary and traditional use
29 determination for sheep in Unit 25A, including the
30 management area, consists of five communities with a
31 total population of roughly 1,200 people, according to
32 the 2010 U.S. census shown in table 1, on page 411 of
33 your Council books.

34
35 Of the five communities with recognized
36 customary and traditional uses of sheep in Unit 25A,
37 the residents of Arctic Village have the strongest ties
38 to and are the primary users of the Red Sheep and Cane
39 Creek drainages.

40
41 The trip from Arctic Village to Red
42 Sheep Creek is over 100 miles and residents use great
43 effort both physically and economically to hunt sheep
44 in these drainages. Traditionally, Arctic Village
45 residents have harvested sheep in early fall, August
46 through early September, or in early winter, November.
47 Residents generally travel to hunt sheep by boat, then
48 by foot from hunting camps in the fall or by
49 snowmachine in late fall, but not in winter given the

50

1 dangerous terrain and winter weather.

2

3 The harvest history. Federal closures
4 to the take of sheep in the management area by non-
5 federally-qualified users have been in effect since
6 1991. In 1995 the management area was expanded to
7 include the area north of Cane Creek and Red Sheep
8 Creek. The closure to the take of sheep in the area
9 north of Cane Creek and Red Sheep drainage August 10th
10 to September 30th by non-federally-qualified users was
11 rescinded between 2006 and 2011.

12

13 Since 1995, federally-qualified
14 subsistence users have been required to get a Federal
15 registration permit to hunt for sheep in the management
16 area. Permit reports kept by the U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife Service show that residents of Arctic Village
18 have requested 25 permits to hunt sheep in the
19 management area. Seven hunters reported attempting to
20 harvest sheep and a total of five sheep harvests were
21 reported.

22

23 Residents of Fort Yukon have requested
24 five permits to hunt sheep in the management area.
25 Four hunters reported attempting to harvest sheep and a
26 total of two sheep harvests were reported.

27

28 The majority of permits were issued
29 after 2005. The location of the harvest for the
30 majority of sheep taken was not reported. One hunter
31 reported taking a sheep in the area north of Cane Creek
32 and the Red Sheep Creek drainage.

33

34 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
35 maintains a harvest reporting database where hunters
36 using State harvest tickets or State permits report
37 their hunting efforts. Complete records were not kept
38 until the mid-1980s and it likely that many Gwich'in
39 hunters have not reported their harvest efforts or have
40 reported their harvest efforts on Federal permits.
41 From 1983 to 1990 regulatory years, approximately 61
42 sheep harvests -- about eight sheep annually -- were
43 reported in the management area, including the area
44 north of Cane Creek and the Red Sheep Creek drainage.

45

46 Before most of the area was closed to
47 the harvest of sheep by non-federally-qualified users
48 in 1991, 4 of the 61 sheep harvests were reported by
49 federally-qualified subsistence users. Using State

50

1 harvest tickets or permits from 2006 to 2010 regulatory
2 years, approximately 22 sheep harvests -- 4 sheep
3 annually -- were reported in the area north of Cane
4 Creek and in the Red Sheep Creek drainage while it was
5 open to the harvest of sheep by non-federally-qualified
6 users from August 10th to September 30th each year.
7

8 The management area can be divided into
9 two areas regarding habitat. One habitat is the area
10 south of Cane Creek. Sheep densities in this area have
11 generally been low compared to other areas of the
12 Brooks Range, which is likely due to poor habitat
13 quality. In 1991, when the management area was adopted
14 by the Board, portions of the area did not appear to be
15 able to support more sheep than were present. Sheep
16 populations in this part of the management area
17 situated south of Cane Creek continue to exist at low
18 densities.
19

20 Concerning the part of the management
21 area situated north of Cane Creek, the last time a
22 proposal came before Councils requesting to open the
23 area to the harvest of sheep by non-federally-qualified
24 subsistence users, the Eastern Interior Council
25 recommended the Board oppose the proposal. The
26 Council's justification is on page 499 of your Council
27 book.
28

29 The Eastern Interior Council said it
30 had heard extensive testimony from tribal and community
31 members from Arctic Village and Venetie expressing the
32 importance of sheep in this area to their culture and
33 to their communities. The Council said that the public
34 testimony also noted that air traffic disturbance and
35 hunter activity was pushing sheep further away and to
36 higher altitudes. The Council said that the cultural
37 importance of the sheep and the area to Arctic Village
38 and other residents for this hunt area was their
39 overriding concern.
40

41 The North Slope Council recommended the
42 Board oppose the proposal. The Council said deflection
43 or disturbance of sheep by sporthunters and aircraft
44 flights made it difficult for Arctic Village residents
45 to reach sheep for subsistence hunting. The Council
46 said these sheep were a very important subsistence
47 resource that was shared in the community and even if
48 local harvest numbers were not high, effort to reach
49 the animals was considerable and the sharing of meat
50

1 and organs was widespread and important.

2

3 The Council said these sheep and this
4 location had special cultural and medicinal value. Due
5 to the history and relationship of the community, as
6 well the mineral licks that the sheep frequented in
7 this area which made their meat contain unique
8 qualities, and the Board rejected the proposal.

9

10 The Office of Subsistence Management's
11 preliminary conclusion is to oppose Proposal 18-56.
12 Federal public lands in the Arctic Village sheep
13 management area should remain closed to the harvest of
14 sheep, except by federally-qualified subsistence users.
15 Sheep populations in the management area situated south
16 of Cane Creek continue to exist at low densities and
17 should remain closed to non-subsistence uses in order
18 to protect healthy populations of sheep, as mandated in
19 ANILCA Section 8.15.3.

20

21 Since 1995, the Board had continued to
22 hear substantial testimony and ethnographic evidence
23 demonstrating the importance of Cane Creek and Red
24 Sheep drainages to federally-qualified subsistence
25 users, especially Netsi Gwich'in who occupied the area
26 historically and continue to occupy the area today.

27

28 In 2012, the Board reiterated that the
29 closure was needed to ensure the continuation of
30 traditional subsistence uses of sheep by Arctic Village
31 hunters and again in 2014. There have been no
32 indications that this phenomenon has changed.

33

34 This area should therefore remain
35 closed to non-subsistence uses in order to protect
36 subsistence uses as mandated in ANILCA.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua,
41 for the introduction and presentation of analysis for
42 WP18-56 and the OSM preliminary conclusion to oppose
43 with justification.

44

45 And any questions to Joshua from the
46 Council.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I had one. The
2 population in this area for the sheep, it remains low
3 for many, many, many years. Is there any adjacent
4 areas where non-federally-qualified users are maybe
5 preventing recruitment or in an adjacent hunt area is
6 there -- I know we had issues like with the moose when
7 we thought in the Unit 26A that transient moose were
8 not allowed to become more populated in that area by
9 the hunts that were just going across -- happening on
10 the other side. And that's where the moose transited
11 from. And there was some truth to that by some
12 biologists saying that these moose are transient in
13 nature. And even if they were harvested, all other
14 moose would come.

15
16 So I'm just thinking along the same
17 line. Is why this area for the last seems like 20 plus
18 years hasn't fluctuated much and remains low and
19 protected all the time. It's not to say that's a good
20 thing or a bad thing. It's just -- and we still -- I
21 think we should oppose opening this, in my view.

22
23 But I have that question lingering in
24 my mind.

25
26 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. I would
27 respectfully defer that question to our biologist or
28 perhaps the Refuge Staff that would have a better idea
29 of what's happening with those populations.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Beth.

34
35 And I apologize, Lee. I don't really
36 want to belabor and let this drag on.

37
38 Go ahead, Beth.

39
40 MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 Sheep populations and caribou
43 populations in the 1980s and moose populations in the
44 Eastern Brooks Range in on the North Slope were kind of
45 at a high. And then in the early 1990s all species
46 declined and sheep were one of them. That was really
47 due to weather events and possibly related to -- during
48 the '60s, when we had predator control, some
49 populations were able to increase. And then we didn't

50

1 have predator control anymore.

2

3 So after the '80s sheep populations in
4 general across the Brooks Range declined. And then in
5 the '90s, when some of them started to increase again,
6 they never recovered to the populations that they were
7 in the '80s. And then recently, in the middle or
8 around 2013, we had declines across the Brooks Range
9 again.

10

11 They were more severe in the Western
12 Brooks Range and then less severe in the central and
13 eastern, but there were certainly declines. We had,
14 you know, phone calls from hunters and reports from
15 guides and transporters. And that was related to
16 weather events. And that's really what drives sheep
17 populations are these weather events.

18

19 For the Eastern Brooks Range, generally
20 what we've seen over time is the density of sheep from
21 like the Dalton Highway to the Canadian border, the
22 density of sheep is higher closer to the Dalton
23 Highway. And then as you go towards the east, they get
24 lower. So the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area is
25 kind of in the middle of that.

26

27 And then on the north side it's the
28 opposite. The closer you are to the Dalton Highway,
29 densities are lower. And then they seem to get higher
30 as you get towards the Canadian border and the
31 Kongakut. And that's all related to habitat.

32

33 So that's kind of what we think is
34 going on with the sheep right now. And we've seen some
35 stabilization in the Eastern Brooks Range. The
36 Department does sheep surveys over in that Chandalar
37 country between the Dalton Highway and the east fork --
38 north fork of the Chandalar River. And it appears that
39 they've stabilized some -- a little bit lower densities
40 than what was observed earlier -- even in the mid-'90s,
41 late or early 2000s.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Beth.

44

45 Any other questions to Joshua on WP18-
46 56.

47

48 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

49

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Lee.

2
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. I know it's -- you
4 know, when it comes down to no caribou around, at
5 least, you know, we've got a little bit of sheep to
6 bring back to the village. But, you know, again we've
7 got to go 140 miles from Kaktovik to get to the
8 mountains. And it's a good thing to have a little back
9 up. To have, you know, a little bit of meat on the
10 table or, you know, instead of buying the meat from
11 the store all the time.

12
13 Like every day some people do, you
14 know. You know, they don't have machines or anything
15 like that to provide. But, you know, at least there's
16 some families that can provide to say I went hunting.
17 I want to give you some meat. I've seen you buying
18 meat a lot.

19
20 But, you know, hopefully the sheep
21 population will come back up again, you know. You
22 know, when they're out hunting sheep, you know, again
23 -- you know, late spring and the bears are hungry, the
24 grizzly bears come out, you know, and they're up in the
25 high range and chasing sheep and things like that.

26
27 And you've also got the predators that
28 are out there, but, you know, hopefully that sheep
29 population will go back up again.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Lee.

34
35 Any other.....

36
37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I want
38 to recognize that we had some very important testimony
39 related to this from Fenton Rexford before he was
40 supportive of having this proposal be supported. The
41 concerns he had brought before was related to.

42
43 Hunters in Kaktovik do go and hunt the
44 sheep in this area, but they often are hunting the
45 sheep when they're unable to get some of the other
46 animals. And that it is an important area when it's
47 really cold out and they cannot find other animals,
48 that the community goes into this area. And because of
49 some of the natural formations there -- a salt lake

50

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1 that attracts -- when it's really cold sheep can be
2 found in that area. And that was an important note
3 that Fenton had brought out. Natural formations in
4 this area attract the sheep. And it is a very small
5 area.

6
7 And we did not have other similar
8 protective areas on other species that have been
9 supported. This is one of the few that has ever been
10 able to be approved on these kinds of considerations.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
15 Rosemary.

16
17 And I think rising to oppose this would
18 be the correct thing because it limits the hunts to
19 federally-qualified users. That you must be from a
20 community that resides in the area and be able to
21 access these sheep. And all other outside hunts are
22 prohibited. Must be a community member. And that's my
23 understanding.

24
25 Any other concerns from the Regional
26 Council to Joshua.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, report on
31 Board consultations from tribes and ANCSA corporations,
32 Eva.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
35 did not get any comments specific to this proposal this
36 time around.

37
38 As Rosemary had noted, the tribes in
39 the region had commented extensively through the
40 history of this proposal, but during the consultations
41 to the Federal Subsistence Board we didn't get any
42 comments this time.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

47
48 Agency comments. ADF&G.

49
50

1 MS. LENART: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Beth Lenart, for the record, with the Alaska Department
3 of Fish and Game.

4
5 The Department supports this proposal
6 because it restores sustainable hunting opportunity as
7 was intended to be provided under ANILCA. We have no
8 conservation concerns if this area is open. Sheep
9 populations across the Eastern Brooks Range appear
10 stable.

11
12 In addition, non-federally-qualified
13 hunters would be limited to full curl ram, which is the
14 most restrictive sheep hunting strategy, ensuring
15 conservation barring weather events.

16
17 Harvest pressure is expected to be very
18 low. In years the Red Sheep, Cane Creek portion of the
19 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area was opened to non-
20 federally-qualified users, an average of six hunters
21 took four full curl rams, indicating that the area
22 received little use.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before you leave
25 there, Beth, you rise in support of this Proposal 18-
26 56. And is there any other reason why you rise in
27 support? Is the population counts such that you can
28 see a trend occurring in the sheep population that
29 maybe I haven't fully understood?

30
31 MS. LENART: Mr. Chair. Just surveys
32 to the west of their -- west of Arctic Sheep Village
33 management area indicates the sheep population has been
34 stable the last few years.

35
36 But basically the reason we think it
37 can be opened is because these hunters would be under a
38 full curl strategy. And so they would not -- full curl
39 -- they have to harvest a full curl ram. So they can't
40 harvest ewes. They can't harvest younger rams. And so
41 that's a very conservative way to have a hunt.

42
43 And so that's why we're not as
44 concerned even though we don't have consistent sheep
45 surveys over this area. The Refuge, you know, has
46 conducted a recent sheep survey.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I thank you for
49 that information because it's -- and I'm -- you know,
50

1 I'm always harping on agencies and don't take it wrong.
2 You know, I like the need to have data. Just like what
3 Ryan is asking for permit, so that we could see the
4 harvest pressure. Even though there's 200,000 caribou,
5 there's 38 communities and the harvestable surplus has
6 already been exceeded by the communities -- and the
7 need to monitor the harvest.

8
9 And it seems to me you're lacking
10 surveys, population estimates, and shooting from the
11 hip to request and supporting -- rising in support of
12 this proposal. And to me that raises red flags. It
13 raises red flags to me.

14
15 And thank you for the ADF&G's comments.

16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. In
18 response to that discussion it does not take into
19 effect the pressures that are put on the community by
20 allowing the outside hunters to take one full curl ram.
21 It does not recognize that the communities near this
22 area may be impacted because it is displacing animals
23 from this area that would normally not be displaced
24 because of increased outside hunting activities. That
25 was something that was very strongly discussed in
26 previous meetings around this issue.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agency comments.
29 Federal agencies. Any Federal agents on line to make
30 comments on WP18-56.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Federal agencies
35 present that want to make comments on WP18-56.

36
37 Hollis.

38
39 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell,
40 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Through the Chair.
41 To the Council Members. I do have a number of comments
42 that I'd like to get into the record here.

43
44 I think there's a number of things that
45 are important to consider in this. First of all, if
46 you look back to the C&T determination it was made
47 clear back in about 1987 when the State was under
48 management of ANILCA programs at that time. So the C&T
49 determination was done before Federal assumption. That
50

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1 has not been challenged at all about the communities
2 that were traditional users of the area.

3
4 There were a number of proposals that
5 followed two years later which actually brought to the
6 creation of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.
7 That was back in 1991. Several different proposals
8 were put together for the Board to consider at that
9 time. And the result of the proposals, the Board did
10 establish this area as a conservation area -- Arctic
11 Village Sheep Management Area.

12
13 It has been fairly complex and has a
14 long history of actions and proposals as represented in
15 that section that was alluded by the presenter back in
16 Appendix A. And there's a pretty good depiction and
17 summarization on the different actions that have taken
18 place through the course of -- well to this time up to
19 now.

20
21 I'll get back to that a little bit
22 later, but I'm going to return to the actual proposal
23 itself, which is back in 407 pages. Just to make sure
24 that you're aware that this proposal is proposing to
25 essentially eliminate the non-local harvest
26 opportunities from the whole area. Not just Red Sheep
27 Creek, Cane Creek, but all of Arctic Village Sheep
28 Management Area. And that's a substantive change from
29 many of the proposals that have come later which
30 involve primarily around Cane Creek and Red Sheep
31 Creek, which were added to the original Arctic Village
32 Sheep Management Area at a later time.

33
34 And so those are important things to
35 remember. The densities -- sheep in this management
36 area has been presented, were acknowledged that they've
37 been low compared to other areas of the Brooks Range
38 and that's been very evident from the surveys that
39 we've done over the years in that area.

40
41 The population decline that was
42 referred to was pretty substantive. As we talked
43 earlier, not only for moose, but for sheep. We were
44 looking at pretty much about half of the sheep
45 population across Arctic Refuge declined over those two
46 year weather events -- periods. And they are under a
47 slow rebuilding of the population currently. No one is
48 arguing that this Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
49 is in a situation that it's not healthy and not open

50

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1 for uses. So that's not the issue here.

2
3 I would also caution you on looking at
4 any of the biological data that's being presented
5 that's been done from 2016 and 2017. Because the data
6 that's being represented there includes areas outside
7 of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area farther to
8 the north that are in more productive areas. For
9 instance, Canning Creek and the Hulahula River
10 drainage. So you have to be very careful with the
11 numbers here because they include data from a larger
12 geographic area than just the Arctic Village Sheep
13 Management Area.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could I say something
16 real quick here?

17
18 MR. TWITCHELL: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We had the same train
21 of thought maybe ten years ago about moose. To try to
22 let the biologists consider that these were transient
23 moose that came from another much more populated area,
24 but they wouldn't allow us to consider that.

25
26 At that time when we were looking at
27 can we get maybe five moose for Kaktovik. And we were
28 arguing for one or two more moose at the time. And we
29 just couldn't get past -- even though the biologist
30 said -- you know, bend your ear a little bit behind the
31 scenes and said, yeah, these are transient. If you
32 kill them all, they're going to come again from this
33 other populated part and come back again.

34
35 But we weren't afforded to consider
36 that back in that time. And I applaud you for bringing
37 that to light. That be careful with the data. Because
38 the population here that is being told includes an area
39 which is a much more healthy, productive area as
40 inclusive to this.

41
42 So there's been arguments in the past
43 over these things over decades about population and
44 transient nature of recruitment.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. TWITCHELL: I think the geological
49 boundaries between -- of the Brooks Range that the

50

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1 populations in the Hulahula River drainage, as opposed
2 to those farther south -- as far south as the Arctic
3 Village Sheep Management Area, there's probably not a
4 great deal of movement between those two habitat areas.
5 The boundaries between Canning River and the head
6 waters of Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek however are a
7 lot more proximate to each other's. And there may be
8 some movement back and forth, but, you know, we're --
9 we couldn't tell you if that's the case or not. But it
10 would be the only place where I would see that there
11 would be any interchange in populations.

12
13 For our thinking and our purpose, we're
14 thinking these are more discreet populations because of
15 the drainages and separations and habitat types in the
16 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. The transition
17 to different habitat in terms of vegetation and
18 densities of sheep occur once you get north of Cane
19 Creek. That seems to be a boundary that we've seen
20 over the years where the densities are substantially
21 less to the north as opposed to the north.

22
23 I hope that gets towards your question.
24 That's how we perceive it. We don't see any of that
25 movement occurring to the east -- across the east fork
26 to sheep on that side of the drainage. So if there's
27 going to be anything at all, it's likely to be any
28 westward movement.

29
30 So we're now in the recovery period
31 from those two bad years. One of the things that we've
32 seen when we surveyed prior to 2016 and 2017 was that
33 all age classes of sheep were much lower. The
34 mortalities affected all age classes and certainly the
35 numbers as well. What we've seen in the more recent
36 years from 2015 on is that the number of ewes per
37 hundred -- lambs per hundred ewes has increased from
38 down in the 20s up into the 30s. So we're seeing the
39 recruitment come back in terms of reproduction of the
40 sheep in that area, so that's an encouraging thing.

41
42 So again just like moose, we're very
43 hopeful we don't experience some substantial weather
44 events while the population is starting to come back.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a little
47 question, Hollis, if I may. Is there a threshold to
48 where people really should be considering non-
49 federally-qualified users?

50

1 Seems to me when you start to think
2 about sustain yield you need to have a much larger
3 population to maintain a healthy, viable stock. And
4 then look at other competing users to harvest those
5 resources. And it's hard to -- you know, if you think
6 that 200 animals is a population to have a harvestable
7 surplus, I would tend to disagree. I think that's a --
8 to me there's -- that would be borderline federally-
9 qualified users even.

10
11 So I mean that's my train of thought to
12 have a healthy population in order to open up for the
13 hunters, the sporthunters, and -- and just like Beth
14 indicated, this would be only the ones with the full
15 curl, you know, and that's very, very limited. Besides
16 those are the breeders, I would think, and only the
17 super full curls would be the trophy hunters. I mean a
18 full curl is you're going to mount that thing.

19
20 And so anyway, I mean those are my
21 train of thoughts about sustain yield and making sure
22 you have healthy populations to really support other
23 types of hunts.

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: Thank you. One of the
26 things that our biologist had said in its write-up,
27 that he thinks that it will be three to five years
28 before we see an increase in these mature, eight-plus
29 year-old rams. So it's going to be a number of years
30 before that portion of the age class is going to build
31 up into what would be a State eligible harvest.

32
33 The Federal one is two rams. And it's
34 not tied to the eight years or full curl. And that's
35 characteristic of the traditional types of hunting.
36 They didn't purposely select out those large rams.
37 They would hike up till they came across a ram and they
38 would harvest it. So, you know, there's a different
39 strategy there between the State's full curl ram
40 management goals and certainly how the traditional
41 harvesting activities occur.

42
43 I want to move away from the biology
44 aspect of whether this population is stressed to the
45 point where it should exclude outside users or whether
46 outside users should come in again. Because I don't
47 think that's the point of this proposal from our view.
48 Our view being Arctic Refuge. And I think that sort of
49 represents much of the views of -- clearly of the more
50

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1 traditional users, particularly Arctic Village and
2 Venetie, which are indeed as described the substantial
3 users for the sheep management area and most
4 particularly for the Cane Creek, Red Sheep Creek area.

5
6 In this write-up there's already been
7 mentioned that the communities depend on caribou
8 because it's a more abundant species around their area
9 and that when the abundance or the movement or
10 migrations or the numbers of caribou are not
11 approximate to their communities, they turn to sheep as
12 an alternative. And what we're seeing there I think in
13 terms of low numbers of participation in people hunting
14 up on the Refuge is for certainly the last three, four
15 years the winter concentrations of the Porcupine
16 Caribou Herd has been around their communities. You
17 know, scattered out through that area from Chandalar
18 Lake all the way over to Sheenjek and Coleen.

19
20 So they've had bands of caribou right
21 in Arctic Village. In the community and all around the
22 community. And so they've been depending and
23 harvesting from that population, as you would expect.

24
25 So if there comes a time when caribou
26 are not in their area, then they really going to turn
27 to sheep, particularly if moose are not abundant also
28 in that area. So the way it's write-up here, it's
29 known as hunger food. And there is a transition on
30 efforts by the community, depending on resources more
31 readily abundant.

32
33 I want to move now to really the aspect
34 of two drainages in particular that have been so
35 controversial for the last 20 years in terms of
36 interest from outside users hunting there and the
37 traditional users, particularly Arctic Village and
38 Venetie.

39
40 I had the opportunity to travel up
41 there with a traditional chief. Trimble Gilbert, from
42 Arctic Village. And I did that right after the area
43 had been re-closed from outside users. Or that had
44 been opened to outside users and proposals were there
45 to close it. And I wanted to understand what really
46 was going on in that area. And we spent a day with him
47 and it was very enlightening to me that this was much
48 more than an area that was important for them to get
49 sheep, although sheep was a real elemental factor on
50

1 why they were there in that area.

2

3 And he talked about the historical use.
4 When the whole clan from Arctic Village would travel up
5 to Red Sheep Creek. And they would stay at Red Sheep
6 Creek for essentially well over a month, sometimes more
7 than that. Men -- all the men, the women, the elders,
8 the children -- they walked up there at that time.

9

10 From there the traders who would trade
11 with Barter Island would go up over the top and down
12 and do their trading. And it would take them upwards
13 to three weeks or more to make that journey to do their
14 trading with products and bring them back down. While
15 they're doing this, the rest of the clan were doing the
16 harvesting activities of sheep of course, caribou if
17 they're in the area, moose, any other species that they
18 could harvest, dry, and preserve.

19

20 When the traders came back down, they
21 of course would load up all the resources into boats
22 and float down to Arctic Village area again. Not the
23 elders, not the women, and not the children. They
24 would walk back down. The supplies that had been
25 harvested and stored would be taken down there in the
26 boats.

27

28 That's a substantial effort by the
29 whole clan and community to be there. And being there
30 for such long periods of time, they developed a very
31 strong bond to that particular area. And you see that
32 not only in the signs that we have now of Native
33 allotments in that area. We know there's cultural
34 sights in there. Not only caribou fences, sheep
35 fences. There's also graves in that area. It's as
36 reached into that Native community in a way that it's
37 more than just an area to go hunt sheep. It is
38 essential to how they view their relationship with the
39 homeland and where they travel and go to.

40

41 So when you see a lot of the write-ups
42 in here and you listen to some of the reasons why when
43 they go back there they feel very challenged of other
44 users in the area, of other hunters, the disruption of
45 caribou in proximity to where they particularly can get
46 to, which is basically Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek.
47 They realize that it does make it more challenging for
48 them to get to, locate, and harvest sheep if the sheep
49 have been moved away from that area that they have most

50

1 ready access to.

2

3 I saw that when I spent quite a bit of
4 time up there. When that area was open to aerial
5 hunting -- not aerial hunting. To air access in Red
6 Sheep Creek and Cane Creek by general hunters and their
7 activity in the area as they searched for sheep. We
8 saw the flights along the skylines, along the ridges.
9 We saw a lot of activity going in to Red Sheep Creek in
10 particular because of the size and length of the
11 airstrip there. It was already a location where larger
12 aircraft can safely get in and out. And so of course
13 it was an area that was much used by general hunters
14 into the area as well.

15

16 With that also came people accessing
17 onto some of the Native allotments in the area in terms
18 of trespass. One of the issues that have been well
19 talked about there is that one particular Native
20 allotment in particular has a small airstrip that has
21 evolved in there. Not because of the allottee. That
22 was because of outside users finding it. A suitable
23 place to land with smaller planes.

24

25 This wasn't the big larger landing zone
26 like the main Red Sheep Creek airstrip. This one on
27 the allotment is about a mile north. And I know over
28 the course of the years that I've been there I've twice
29 had to move non-local people off that who had been
30 dropped off there or who had landed with their own
31 aircraft there, unknowing that they were landing on a
32 private allotment.

33

34 Of course like most allotments, it's
35 not marked. So of course they -- unless they had
36 called up and asked specifically and researched it,
37 they probably wouldn't have known that they were. But
38 indeed they were trespassing on that person's Native
39 allotment.

40

41 Over the years there's been situations
42 that -- like when we go in there on a fairly regular
43 basis, we go through -- around the area and we pick up
44 stuff that gets inadvertently left behind. It happens.
45 And, you know, part of our -- I guess our job is to go
46 in there and clean up after it. And over the years
47 I've hauled a lot of stuff all across the Refuge, out
48 of the back country. And Arctic Village Sheep
49 Management Area is no exception, particularly when you

50

1 have these air access nodes.

2

3 So these issues remain. They still
4 remain today as they have been a number of years ago.
5 We have to work to try to resolve those the best we can
6 with better education and outreach to the public.

7

8 What I have seen with the re-closure of
9 Cane Creek, Red Sheep Creek is the air taxis -- they
10 come into the main Red Sheep Creek drainage. And
11 they're -- most all of them, with a couple of
12 exceptions, are very good about telling their clients
13 that they need to move north beyond Red Sheep Creek.
14 And there's been consistent hunting activities north of
15 Red Sheep Creek in those drainages that are open to all
16 hunters.

17

18 Other people have crossed to the east
19 and hunted to the east after being dropped off there at
20 Red Sheep Creek. During the periods when Cane Creek
21 was closed, there was one hunting party of three people
22 who actually landed in Cane Creek and took the
23 substantial effort of hiking to the headwaters of Cane
24 Creek, over the summit into Canning, and hunted for
25 sheep up there where it was of course open to all
26 hunters. They only harvested one sheep in the upper
27 end of the Canning River drainage and then of course
28 came back out and hauled it out.

29

30 So other hunters who have gone into
31 areas just beyond the Cane Creek, Red Sheep Creek to
32 take sheep and -- and they've continued to do that.
33 And we've seen that happen almost every year.

34

35 So those are the things that I could
36 add to the discussion for you to consider. This is
37 more than just the fact that they need to go up there
38 and take a couple of sheep. This has aspects of
39 spirituality. This has cultural history. This has a
40 lot of ties that bring a whole new element into this
41 one particular area.

42

43 At that point, I think I went on long
44 enough. And I know Lee's anxious to get out. And I
45 hope you'll make a good decision here.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Thank
48 you, Hollis. And, you know, I was visualizing
49 everything you were talking about because these are the

50

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1 types of issues that really need to be told. And
2 there's a story in there. And, you know, cultural ties
3 and trampling on areas, Native allotments. And then
4 you get a proposal like this and to re-engage and start
5 at a type of activity by opening up an area without
6 controls.

7
8 And I think about this in the same was
9 as the area of influence afforded a community like
10 Venetie or Arctic Village. That really needs to be
11 thought carefully why there are areas of influence that
12 are in community plans when they're created by
13 contemporary hunting practices of those communities.

14
15 So this is our area where the
16 contemporary hunting patterns of the community exist to
17 provide for food security of the community. And I take
18 these types of things very seriously and I wish the
19 land managers would look at these things.

20
21 And I often have concerns over the
22 Refuge raised by Kaktovik and how we can better work
23 together as a -- because some of the things that you're
24 describing, certainly the Borough can help enforce in
25 terms of debris, trash, waste, and things like that,
26 that are left behind. And actually find people and to
27 -- making sure that, you know, there's no trace left
28 behind.

29
30 Anyway, I thank you for your talk on
31 WP18-56.

32
33 So that was Federal agencies.

34
35 Native, tribal and village and other.

36
37 We have ICAS, George Edwardson. He's
38 the ICAS President of Inupiaq Community of the Arctic
39 Slope.

40
41 George.

42
43 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. To start off
44 with, the subsistence users of the sheep in the area is
45 already protected. Then you look at going after a full
46 curl. That means you have to fly over it. You have to
47 disturb all the rest of the herd that might be there to
48 see if you want to commercialize that area where the
49 sheep is. Because if you're going after a full curl

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1 and anybody can catch it, you basically have
2 commercialized it. And this is supposed to be a
3 protected area. The subsistence hunter is already
4 protected. He can go get his sheep. And that should
5 be real simple to see.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mr.
10 Edwardson.

11
12 Any other Native, tribal, village, and
13 others to -- under agency comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we don't have
18 InterAgency Staff Committee, as Eva alluded to.

19
20 Item four, advisory group comments.
21 Other regional councils.

22
23 And I'm going to refer to Eva.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As
26 you're aware, this proposal is within the Eastern
27 Interior Regional Advisory Council Region, as Arctic
28 Village and Venetie and -- are primary villages. And
29 Kaktovik has C&T in this area as well.

30
31 So the Eastern Interior Council did
32 take up this proposal just last week at their meeting.
33 My understanding is they had a long deliberation and
34 discussion about it. The final motion of the Council
35 was to support WP18-56, with a modification to only
36 open the area north of Cane Creek.

37
38 And maybe just so the Council has the
39 visuals of what Eastern Interior had proposed, page 409
40 has the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. And
41 Hollis had noted the difference of -- of what the
42 proposal is -- was to eliminate the entire -- or to
43 open the entire Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in
44 25A. Eastern Interior had supported the modification
45 to only open north of Cane Creek.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other advisory
48 group comments.

49
50

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1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 It's just the Eastern Interior RAC and the North Slope
3 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council that this
4 proposal is relevant to.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

9
10 MS. PATTON: And I should I didn't
11 receive any comments from Fish and Game advisory
12 committees. There may have been some discussion on the
13 record at the Eastern Interior meeting. I didn't get
14 any feedback on whether AC's had commented or not
15 there.

16
17 And there were no comments from
18 Subsistence Resource Commissions for that area.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

23
24 Summary of written public comments.

25
26 MS. PATTON: And Mr. Chair and Council.
27 There were 51 letters that were submitted regarding
28 this proposal. Let's see. I've written down the page
29 number where those start on. So all of those letters
30 are included in your book as part of the administrative
31 record. Sorry. I lost my page number for that. Where
32 did I write that.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: 421.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Rosemary. 421.

37
38 And I have read all 51 letters and most
39 of them are covering the exact same points of concern.
40 The primary points that each comment -- well, some were
41 from individuals and some were from hunting
42 organizations in the region.

43
44 And the primary concern was that they
45 felt there wasn't a conservation concern that was
46 driving the closure. And they felt that was in
47 violation of ANILCA for there to be a closure to users
48 when there wasn't a conservation concern.

49
50

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1 As noted, there was some discussion
2 about that what would open is a full curl ram. And
3 they felt that the hunt -- the population could sustain
4 that hunt of a full curl ram.

5
6 In addition, many of the letters also
7 referenced that they felt the closure was for social
8 reasons and again not for conservation concern of the
9 sheep.

10
11 And those were pretty unified
12 throughout the letters that were submitted.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So public testimony.

17
18 Yeah. I think I'm getting tired.
19 Public testimony. And we'll open the mic to public
20 testimony, WP18-56, for sheep in Unit 25 in Arctic
21 National Wildlife Refuge area.

22
23 Public comments.

24
25 Rosemary.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just wanted to add
28 (In Inupiaq) was the first one that gave me a chance to
29 taste the sheep. And he hunted in this area. I asked
30 him because the first time I got to try this animal, I
31 was in Kaktovik. And when we were getting ready to cut
32 it up I noticed that the fur had a red color on it.
33 And I asked my uncle why did you mark the sheep. And
34 he said he didn't. The sheep goes into that area
35 because of the salt licks that's there. And he said
36 that when it's really cold out, they can depend on
37 finding sheep in that area. That usage has continued
38 with other hunters in the Kaktovik area and that
39 sharing has been important.

40
41 I also learned about some medicinal
42 uses. Because the sheep has its uniqueness, there's
43 some values with the sheep, the meat and the food.
44 Traditional knowledge shared that the sheep can be used
45 for different ailments in the bodies when you have
46 electrolyte imbalances. And it can help to replace
47 some of those needs when our bodies are running down
48 and we need that replacement.

49
50

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1 That medicinal use is not well
2 understood by many of our families anymore, but that is
3 a value that was shared in the generations.
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
6

7 And we're still under public testimony.
8 Any other public testimony from anybody.
9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
11 should have had again -- I was not at the Eastern
12 Interior Council and many of the public testimony that
13 occurred there from residents of Arctic Village were
14 involved in commenting at that meeting. And this was a
15 little far for their participation and at a late hour,
16 but there was public testimony at the Eastern Interior
17 Region from residents of the area of Arctic Village.
18

19 Thank you.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
22 I would think they would rise in opposition in
23 something like this from that community.
24

25 Any other public testimony.
26

27 (No comments)
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go to the
30 Proposal WP18-56. We'll need to get it on the docket
31 here and get into deliberation.
32

33 Need a motion from a Council Member to
34 start discussion.
35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve
37 Wildlife Proposal 18-56.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
40 the floor to approve WP18-56 from Rosemary.
41

42 MR. KAYOTUK: I second the motion.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second from
45 Lee for discussion purposes.
46

47 And what's the wish of the Council.
48 Let's talk about this.
49
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We've had a
2 tremendous amount of discussion in this. We've had
3 historical discussions related to this. The concerns
4 in this small area of the Red Sheep Creek and the Cane
5 Creek area was well supported.

6
7 This proposal modifies it to a larger
8 area, but the intent to protect the community harvest
9 in this area is important to recognize. And by having
10 the restrictions as it was presented in the previous
11 proposal gave the subsistence harvest in a more
12 traditional way. Opening them to outside users, even
13 if you restrict it to a full curl ram, will still
14 increase the actions around these areas and can cause
15 hardship to the harvest of those users.

16
17 Protecting that with the restriction is
18 a benefit that's only allowable in this small area and
19 is important to the communities that harvest from this
20 area.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

23
24 Additional discussion on WP18-56 from
25 Council.

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to take my
30 hat off and say a couple of things.

31
32 Yeah. WP18-56 -- I find it to be in my
33 view alarmed. There is -- if you look at the proposals
34 from the State Board of Game that have been going on
35 today, I think. Yesterday and today with all kinds of
36 ways to decipher for harvest and sliding scale. And
37 sliding scale harvesting -- well, what is that. I mean
38 tomorrow there's going to be 15, so the sliding scale
39 we get five today. And then tomorrow there might be 20
40 and you move that sliding scale again, then you get 15.

41
42 It seems to me these are -- some of
43 these have no merit in the proposal when you're looking
44 at this and saying a full curl. Full curl. You know,
45 this herd can handle a full curl. Did you know one
46 caribou bull has a harem to itself. And I watched this
47 in Ikpikpuk. And when we're sacrificing bulls that one
48 bull can mate up to 30 females and sire a whole little
49 herd. And you take these animals that are breeders in

50

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1 a population that's just barely getting by. I mean we
2 heard some struggles of this Red Sheep Creek area about
3 this herd. That -- and it's still under intensive
4 management in a protected Sheep Creek Management Area.

5
6 And, you know, I don't like to say to
7 any others that's having a proposal like this that
8 might be frivolous. And we heard from Hollis and
9 looking at the rate of recruitment and the larger area
10 of recruitment that seems to suggest something, but we
11 need to be careful. In the same way that we've looked
12 at moose recruitment and transient nature that they
13 come from another place. And weren't afforded the --
14 weren't afforded the idea of encompassing a larger area
15 that -- to increase the harvest in moose.

16
17 This seems to suggest the same concept,
18 but this time it's supported. I don't know what the
19 driver is at this point. And when a non-resident hunt
20 on a full curl usually you're going to -- it'll be a
21 \$10,000 hunt. I'll tell you that much. You'll get a
22 guide and a client coming from Montana or from New York
23 or somebody to take up this full curl when we're having
24 concerns about recruitment and stabilizing this small
25 population of these things.

26
27 So I think there is a conservation
28 concern here. And I would recommend that we be very
29 careful. And the other things that I think we need to
30 be mindful of that it be supported by substantial
31 evidence, such as biological, and traditional,
32 ecological knowledge.

33
34 I think there's other things to be
35 considerate about. The nature of communities and the
36 need for sustainability and food security issues.
37 Those are common. They're common needs of communities.
38 When ADF&G and others -- maybe even OSM -- might be
39 guilty of overlooking community needs, area of
40 influence, the contemporary traditional use patterns of
41 a community that make up the food security around its
42 community. To look at those things and not create an
43 argument and fighting for that one full curl.

44
45 These are some of the things that
46 really need to be looked. And use real evidence. We
47 heard that there's no population count that is being
48 relied on. No estimated trend in growth other than
49 let's -- only these Natives or these rural residents

50

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1 are having access to it. Seems to be that's a
2 jealousy. But it can't be a jealousy because this is a
3 conservation matter.

4
5 That's the law. ANILCA sustain yield
6 principle. Rural subsistence priority is the law in
7 Federal land and we should heed these warnings.

8
9 And so I think, you know, whether this
10 recommendation to -- for WP18-56 to open it up, you
11 know, what kind of detrimental. Is it beneficial or is
12 it detrimental to subsistence needs and users. We
13 heard testimony here that I think really speaks for
14 itself that it would be definitely detrimental.

15
16 You're going to find arguments. You're
17 going to find trespass in a very -- in a localized
18 area. And I think we just need to be careful on the
19 approach.

20
21 And there is a need to restrict others
22 from this at this time. When we look at harvestable
23 surplus and then community needs, there needs to be a
24 much higher level to exceed the community needs.
25 There's a threshold. And we don't know that threshold
26 right now. And there's -- it's still a low population.
27 And we heard that from Refuge manager. We heard from
28 the area biologist that there's no -- there's no census
29 being relied upon here.

30
31 So with that I would, you know, rise in
32 opposition to WP18-56 as an individual person. As a
33 Regional Council Member.

34
35 Is there any other discussions from
36 Regional Council.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So hearing none.
41 Restate the motion to oppose Wildlife Proposal 18-56.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Rosemary. I
44 think the original motion was -- we needed a motion to
45 approve and then we're going to work that way, I think.
46 I think.....

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Robert's Rules
2 of Order allows us to not work backwards, but I think
3 we work forward.
4

5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. So I did it
6 wrong. The motion was to support Wildlife Proposal 18-
7 56 for discussion.
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.
10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then.....
12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
14 motion on the floor to approve WP18-56. It was
15 seconded. It was discussed. What's the wish of the
16 Council.
17

18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.
19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Questions have been
21 called for.
22

23 All those in favor of WP18-56, signify
24 by saying aye.
25

26 (No aye votes)
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those that
29 oppose, say no.
30

31 IN UNISON: No.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The nos have it.
34 WP18-56 does not pass the North Slope Regional Advisory
35 Council.
36

37 Madame Coordinator.
38

39 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
40 Excellent work. Thank you so much for all of your
41 really diligent work and thoughts and consideration
42 today.
43

44 And I know it's been a very long day,
45 so the call is yours.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think it's
48 8:35. My dinner time was way a long time ago. It's
49 probably in the refrigerator by now.
50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I would beg to
4 recess until tomorrow morning. To reconvene to take
5 the remainder of the proposals. And Steve has said
6 he'd call in because it's in his area of concern.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what's the wish of
11 the Council.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Recess till tomorrow
14 morning.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
17 the floor to recess till tomorrow morning at 9:00.

18

19 MS. KIPPI: Second.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded.

22

23 All those in favor, signify by saying
24 aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're recessing.

29

30 (Off record)

31

32 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

33

34

35

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