

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME III

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Regional Office
OSM Conference Room
June 8, 2018
Anchorage, Alaska

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Regional Council Coordinator - Eva Patton

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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(Teleconference June 2018)

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(On record)

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8 MS. PATTON: Thank you for this
9 opportunity for the Council. My name is Eva Patton,
10 Council Coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence
11 Regional Advisory Council. Maybe we'll just check in
12 quickly again to see -- we were expecting a couple more
13 Council members this morning.

13

14

15

MR. BURCH: Hello, Eva. This is Mark
Burch from the Department of Fish and Game as well.

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MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mark.
Pardon, everybody, I have a bit of a bad cold, so I'm a
little hoarse. If you can't hear, just please pipe up
and let us know if you need us to talk louder. I can't
see you out in teleconference land, so just pipe in if
you are having a difficult time hearing.

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Do we have any other North Slope RAC
Council members that have joined us this morning?

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Eva.
This is Gordon Brower. What other -- who other RAC
members are we expecting? Is that Steve?

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MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
Steve Oomittuk was planning to call in. I understand
his mom is in the hospital unexpectedly here in
Anchorage, so he may not be able to join us this
morning. Lee Kayotuk was planning to call in this
morning. I just confirmed with him yesterday.
Similarly, Esther Hugo was planning to call in but also
may have had to go take care of family.

So I think this morning we have Lee
Kayotuk confirmed and I can give him a call quickly and
then I think maybe we'll go ahead and begin. Again,
both Steve and Esther may be attending to family
medical issues this morning. I know Jerry had other
meetings planned for today, so we weren't expecting
Jerry.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
2 we'll take your lead there, Eva. Were you going to go
3 ahead and make that call? Do you want us to wait or
4 are we going to begin or.....
5

6 MS. PATTON: Why don't we go ahead and
7 begin. We can begin with roll call of Council members.
8 Again, for the agenda today, this is just a follow-up
9 teleconference meeting, so we have an opportunity for
10 further discussion with BLM staff on NPR-A and other
11 activities in the region. Then we will also have
12 follow-up discussion with our fisheries staff on the
13 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. At the winter
14 meeting we did not have funding updates yet and we have
15 that now, so we have some good news and plans there for
16 opportunities in the North Slope Region.
17

18 And then just briefly updates on the
19 Federal subsistence wildlife proposals that did pass so
20 that the Council and communities are aware of that in
21 the region as well.
22

23 Mr. Chair, I will -- oh, we were also
24 expecting -- Wanda Kippi was going to call in this
25 morning as well. Let me give those two a call. If you
26 would like to begin for welcome and introductions,
27 Gordon. Mr. Chair, thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
30 you, Eva. You said you wanted to start off with roll
31 call and are we going to need a quorum?
32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 This is primarily an informational updates, but if the
35 Council wishes to take any action or make formal
36 recommendations in the form of a letter, then a quorum
37 would be needed for that.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Lee
40 usually does the roll call. It's kind of difficult
41 doing everything on a teleconference level when we
42 don't have the in-person type meeting going on. Is
43 that something that you can provide is the roll call,
44 Madame Coordinator?
45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, you bet. Wanda
47 Kippi is our secretary. She hasn't joined us yet. So
48 I will begin the roll call. And given that we're in a
49 little bit of a tight timeframe, Rosemary has some
50

1 exciting developments working with students in the
2 region there. So we'll go ahead and do roll call and
3 proceed with the meeting. As BLM is providing their
4 updates, I can give Wanda and Lee a call.
5

6 So we'll begin. Gordon Brower.
7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.
9

10 MS. PATTON: Robert Shears.
11

12 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Here.
13

14 MS. PATTON: Morning, Robert. Wanda
15 Kippi.
16

17 (No response)
18

19 MS. PATTON: I'll give Wanda a call in
20 a bit. Steve Oomittuk again is likely not going to be
21 able to join us this morning. Fredrick Neakok.
22

23 MR. NEAKOK: I'm here.
24

25 MS. PATTON: Welcome, Fredrick. This
26 will be an opportunity to welcome Fredrick as a new
27 North Slope RAC member. As the Council recalls, he
28 went to help with the school fire in Anaktuvuk Pass at
29 the time of our winter meeting. So really good to have
30 you on, Fredrick, and welcome.
31

32 MR. NEAKOK: Thank you.
33

34 MS. PATTON: Jerry Sikvayugak again had
35 other meetings today. Esther Hugo.
36

37 (No response)
38

39 MS. PATTON: I'll give her a call. She
40 may not be able to join us this morning. Lee Kayotuk.
41

42 (No response)
43

44 MS. PATTON: I'll give Lee a call.
45 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.
46

47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.
48

49 MS. PATTON: Morning. Okay, so we have
50

1 four Council members present. We don't have quorum at
2 this time, but again largely informational and we
3 expected to have both Lee and Wanda joining us. They
4 both confirmed yesterday they would be on, so we expect
5 to have them on shortly as well.
6

7 Mr. Chair, I will turn it over to you.
8 We were hoping to do an opportunity for Council members
9 to share from their community. Perhaps what we could do
10 is begin with the BLM overview and updates. As we get
11 full Council members on, then we can come back around
12 for Council members to have an opportunity to share
13 from their community and updates for the Council.
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
16 I've got the material open on my computer. I'm not
17 seeing an agenda to guide me through for the
18 teleconference. Am I missing something? Was there an
19 agenda for us to wield?
20

21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
22 Since this is a follow-up meeting, we're revisiting a
23 couple of the agenda items from the winter meeting. So
24 we have call to order, roll call. We do not have
25 quorum established at this time. Welcome and
26 introductions. Then the two primary items that are on
27 the agenda for today are the BLM NPR-A and other BLM
28 updates for the North Slope Region, and then the
29 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program updates.
30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Since we did a
32 roll call, I'm going to call the meeting to order at
33 9:16 a.m. Barrow time. It's 9:16 at my office. With
34 that I'm going to give the opportunity for council
35 members to have a brief report from their area as you
36 make those phone calls before we go into the material
37 that BLM was going to provide from our last winter
38 meeting that we didn't finalize.
39

40 With that maybe I'll go to Nuiqsut.
41

42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Good morning. Our
43 river went out on Saturday. We've had a good decent
44 start for the geese hunting. A lot of the whalers are
45 getting ready for the blanket toss happening in the
46 next couple weeks. I've heard of one boat that's gone
47 out on the river now, but we still have high water and
48 muddy conditions. Some of the boats haven't been out
49 yet, but we started the summer or spring real cold this
50

1 year. We finally have had a more normal start to the
2 season, so I'm looking forward to seeing what happens.
3

4 The breakup went real gradual. We
5 didn't have that big meltdown that occurs. So when the
6 ice, when it was late in the evening, no elevated
7 raising of the waters this year, so nice and calm.
8

9 Thank you.
10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
12 Any questions from the RAC members to Rosemary.
13

14 (No comments)
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
17 you, Rosemary, for your report. I'm going to go to
18 Wainwright. I think maybe we don't really have a
19 Wainwright representative if I recall and, Bob, you had
20 lived there quite some number of years and do frequent
21 the village from time to time. I know you're a Barrow
22 resident, so I'm going to give you the floor.
23

24 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Very good. No, I
25 don't have a lot to add to this meeting today as far as
26 significant comments on Wainwright, although I am
27 coordinating and communicating with many people that I
28 used to live with there. They're having a fairly
29 normal subsistence season. No abnormalities to report
30 that I've heard of. Thank you.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All
33 right. Thanks, Bob. I'm not too sure if anybody from
34 Point Hope chimed in yet. We'll keep Steve in our
35 prayers. I know his mom was in the hospital and he was
36 attending to his mom. We'll keep them in our prayers.
37

38 Atqasuk, is there anybody that chimed
39 in from Atqasuk? Wanda.
40

41 (No response)
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Not having heard
44 Wanda. We'll acknowledge those members that do call
45 in. As they get online we'll acknowledge them. I'll
46 go over to Anaktuvuk Pass.
47

48 (No response)
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll acknowledge
2 folks from Anaktuvuk Pass as they get online. With
3 that, Kaktovik.

4
5 (No response)

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll
8 acknowledge Kaktovik. He had intended to call in, Lee.
9 I don't know if he overslept or he's busy working.
10 We'll acknowledge Kaktovik representatives when they
11 chime in. I'm sure Eva is busy making those calls.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

16
17 MS. PATTON: We did just get a call
18 from Esther Hugo. She is attempting to call in. She's
19 going to try a different phone. She wasn't able to get
20 through on that particular line. Hopefully she'll be
21 able to connect with us soon here. Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I'm
24 just going to say a little bit here. Just like Nuiqsut
25 and other areas on the Slope it's been a slow -- well,
26 more like a normal spring breakup that I grew up in the
27 '70s when we were able to go geese hunting all the way
28 up to June. We seem to be having that kind of spring.
29 A lot of snow and people are hunting left and right and
30 getting geese.

31
32 I think the last crews pulled up a few
33 days ago from the ice. I think that was Crawford's
34 boats. I'm pretty sure we're kind of wrapped up for
35 the season on whaling activities. It's been a
36 difficult year in terms of struck and lost and that's
37 been an issue for this community this year.

38
39 Other than that the peak of subsistence
40 activities on the Slope is about ready to begin with
41 the summer and coming around. I'm sure people are
42 going to be making dried fish and other things like
43 that, dried caribou. We're excited that the majority
44 of the winter is past. We heard there's a storm coming
45 here in the next couple -- in the next day, I think.
46 Either tonight or something.

47
48 But other than that I don't have very
49 much to report. Only that. So I'm going to see if any
50

1 other Council members chimed in. Maybe Lee or Esther
2 or Wanda.

3
4 MS. HUGO: Hello. Good morning. This
5 is Esther.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Esther.
8 We did introductions earlier. If you could just
9 introduce yourself and then maybe talk a little bit
10 about your region before we go into the presentations
11 that BLM had to do that we didn't finish in our winter
12 meeting.

13
14 MS. HUGO: Okay. My name is Esther
15 Hugo and I'm with the North Slope Borough RAC. I've
16 been with -- hello?

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're on.

19
20 MS. HUGO: I'm just here to listen in
21 and do the teleconference. I'll just listen in and if
22 I have questions will -- as we go by the agenda. I
23 don't even know how many years I've been in with, but
24 I'm glad I'm here to be participating with a lot of our
25 concerns. Good morning to all.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Esther.
28 Very good. How's the breakup season in Anaktuvuk
29 going?

30
31 MS. HUGO: I haven't been home the
32 whole month of April or March. I just came home like
33 last weekend. I know all the rivers pretty much was
34 okay, but it's still cold. I don't know exactly the
35 breakup, but I know it was -- all over it was okay, I
36 think. I wasn't here most of the time, so I don't know
37 how the breakup went, but right now it's just cold.
38 It's like beginning of May -- I mean beginning of April
39 or something. Most of our snow is gone except for the
40 mountains and a few in the foothills.

41
42 I took a couple of trips, at least
43 three, four trips, so within the week I've been home.
44 (In Inupiaq) I sure wanted to go out and I got ready
45 and -- you know, we went out, we always see bears out
46 there every time we get going there, out there to where
47 we go look out there's bears. We saw a big old moose
48 down south.

49
50

1 There's some spring caribou still
2 heading up north. Some people are catching some.
3 Unfortunately I haven't got anything. I'm just happy
4 they're around and we're able to catch what we need to.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
7 It's always good to hear from our Council members. I'm
8 going to see if any other Council members from Atqasuk
9 or Kaktovik chimed in yet.

10
11 (No response)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Once we
14 hear from the other Council members that chimed in --
15 Eva, I think that might conclude introductions for now
16 from the RAC members. I wish I had an agenda paper to
17 guide me right now so I could go to the appropriate
18 next area. I look to you to.....

19
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

23
24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
25 Council. Again, the two agenda items are just the two
26 issues identified in the news release. So we did have
27 further discussion and updates with BLM NPR-A and we
28 have many of their staff on teleconference now. In
29 addition, the packet of information that was sent via
30 email, the summary overview and also the permitted
31 activities in the NPR-A area and their communications
32 plan. So hopefully everybody was able to get those.

33
34 Mr. Chair, if you'd like to continue
35 with the NPR-A updates from BLM, we could continue with
36 that. I did put a call in to try to reach the other
37 Council members. I'll check in with them when they
38 join us.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
43 with that we'll do the NPR-A update and hand it over
44 to BLM.

45
46 MS. FRITZ: Alrighty. Thank you, Mr.
47 Chair. This is again Stacey Fritz. Uvlaalluataq.
48 Good morning, everybody. We're really happy to join.
49 I'm here with Sarah LaMarr, the assistant manager for

50

1 the Arctic District Office, and Erin Julianus, who is a
2 biologist in the Central Yukon Field Office.

3
4 I provided three documents for the
5 Council, which we're going to also try our best to make
6 permanently available online. I already have one
7 online, so I'll make sure you get the links to those.
8 The three documents that I sent, one is a spreadsheet,
9 about 15 pages long. It's called the 2018 BLM Permit
10 Activities in the NPR-A. I've continually tried to
11 improve the format of this to make it user-friendly.

12
13 So if you manage to print it in color,
14 you'll see that the first couple pages are kind of a
15 salmon color and that is all the oil and gas
16 permitting. And I'm trying to do it by calendar year,
17 so it does include some stuff that already concluded
18 last winter's seismic exploration and exploratory
19 drilling programs in the NPR-A last winter.

20
21 Then the next section of that
22 spreadsheet if you have it in color is in green and
23 that's all the science and research surveys that we are
24 permitting or that BLM employees themselves are
25 conducting this summer up in the NPR-A. So this
26 spreadsheet tries to get in one document all the basic
27 information that people might want and then, of course,
28 we're happy to provide any other details on any of
29 these projects.

30
31 But the organization is that the first
32 column on the left says who is doing the activity, the
33 next column says where they're doing it, third column
34 says when, fourth column is exactly what they're doing,
35 so a summary of the actual description. Then we have
36 the number of people involved and the next column is
37 how, the access, so whether it's by Rolligon or
38 helicopter or fixed wing.

39
40 I'll say that when we have it, we put
41 in the tail number and description of the helicopter,
42 the commercial name of the chartered fixed wing when we
43 have it. Then we list the number of takeoffs and
44 landings. There's an explanation at the very back of
45 the spreadsheet that's somewhat relevant. We count the
46 number of times that an aircraft lands and then takes
47 off from BLM-managed land. So it doesn't include
48 takeoffs and landings of commercial aircraft from
49 airstrips.

50

1 It's not exactly what most people would
2 consider to be a flight. So it's a higher number than
3 what most people would consider a flight. So like a
4 helicopter could go out in the morning, touch down
5 dozens of times, and on our end that's going to be 24
6 takeoffs and landings, whereas other people may
7 consider that to be one flight.

8
9 So we're working to get better ways of
10 sort of representing -- we think that the number of use
11 days by aircraft is probably a more accurate method of
12 disturbing resources, whether it be caribou or humans.
13 So we are starting to provide -- have industry and our
14 permittees provide more detailed flight reporting and
15 we are constantly improving the way we try to
16 characterize the actual flight activity occurring.

17
18 So, like I said, there's oil and gas
19 first and then science and research, so there's several
20 pages of science and research, and then we have a
21 section called infrastructure development. So that's
22 things like the fiberoptic cable, the ASTAC Fiber Optic
23 Cable Project. Then transportation. So a lot of that
24 is Peak and like doing the fuel haul, USGS moving their
25 final conexes out of their locations.

26
27 Then we have a section called
28 restoration and cleanup. So that's where the Legacy
29 wells rehabilitation and cleanup projects are listed.
30 Cleanup at Umiat ongoing by the Corps of Engineers is
31 on there.

32
33 Then there's a yellow section called
34 inspections. That's mainly BLM. We have our monitors
35 and inspectors who go out and inspect the Legacy well
36 cleanup, the Conoco sites, various other locations,
37 Umiat.

38
39 Then we have a recreation section. So
40 far I believe we have processed only one permit for
41 commercial recreation. That's a guided river trip for
42 recreation down on the Naggu, Utukok and Etivluk.

43
44 Then the final section is guided
45 hunting. To date we have processed one permit for
46 commercial guide activity in the NPR-A. We do
47 anticipate doing more of those over the summer, so I
48 will be continually updating this spreadsheet and I
49 will have the updated spreadsheet available online. So
50

1 it's online now and I'll make sure that you get the
2 link, okay.

3
4 Does anybody have any questions at this
5 point about the format of the spreadsheet or
6 suggestions on ways that could be more user-friendly?
7 Does it have all the basic information that people
8 want?

9
10 MR. SHEARS: Hello, Stacey. Bob.

11
12 MS. FRITZ: Hi, Bob.

13
14 MR. SHEARS: Where would you plug a
15 military training exercise into this spreadsheet?

16
17 MS. FRITZ: Well, that's interesting.
18 I don't recall us doing any permits for a military
19 training exercise. So if it was -- you know, I think I
20 would just make a new category, honestly, because that
21 doesn't really fit into any of these other categories.
22 Is there something we should know about?

23
24 MR. SHEARS: North Slope Borough
25 permitted a military training exercise on the tundra
26 this last winter. I don't know if they actually went
27 beyond Barrow UIC properties onto BLM property, so it
28 probably wasn't (indiscernible - phone interference).
29 What I hear is that they're interested in coming back
30 repetitively year after year.

31
32 MS. FRITZ: Huh. Well, we -- you know,
33 I don't -- we haven't heard anything about it. I do
34 know that on the horizon, you know, the Department of
35 Defense is looking at, you know, upgrading some of the
36 distant early warning, north warning system radars and
37 those are within the NPR-A, so those are certainly
38 military activities that we permit. But we have not
39 heard anything about the military training exercise.
40 If the North Slope Borough thinks it's something we
41 should know about, we definitely invite them to share
42 that information with us.

43
44 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Thank you.

45
46 MS. FRITZ: So thanks for that
47 question. Does anybody else have any questions about
48 the spreadsheet? I also have in the past distributed
49 this by email to my large group of North Slope contacts

50

1 and we're just going to review it and make sure it's as
2 accurate and up to date as possible before I do that.
3 I usually do that about mid-June.

4
5 The other.....

6
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Stacey, this is
8 Rosemary. How about any information on the spreadsheet
9 that connects the associated interaction with the
10 project. A lot of these different things that come
11 upon us are activities that industry goes in
12 collaboration with other entities and the different
13 resources to site to site, like will probably go to
14 multiple sites and will become issues. They have some
15 of that kind of connectivity also that shows because I
16 know that's a big part of how some of our traditional
17 hunting sites have gotten damaged and it's not listed
18 on the routes that are discussed on some of the
19 activities.

20
21 So when they come back and inspect
22 we're fighting about how the damage occurred because
23 they're not out inspecting when the damage happens and
24 we find it after the snow melts and our tent sites and
25 floor structures get damaged and then we have to defend
26 how it got damaged. We've taken pictures during.....

27
28 (Phone disconnect)

29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:activity
31 occurring over here, they'll try to hop on the flight
32 and that adds into the traffic. When the pilots are
33 just sitting on the ground and don't have things
34 occurring, they don't mind doing some of this other
35 inter-site connectivity, but it isn't documented and
36 those are some of the more impactful concerns that we
37 have.

38
39 MS. FRITZ: So it's interesting we do --
40 you know, in all the mitigation that we have
41 established for trying to reduce impacts from flights
42 specifically in the Colville Delta area, you know. We
43 do request that people try to share flights, reduce the
44 number of flights if there's redundancies. So if that
45 happens, like people are like, oh, well, I need to go
46 out to that area too, maybe I could jump on the flight
47 if there's space. On one hand I could see that that
48 would be an attempt to comply with our mitigation
49 measure to reduce, you know, individual flights

50

1 necessary to reach certain sites. Like use fewer
2 helicopters to get more people out to sites they need
3 to go to.

4
5 But I think I see your point in that we
6 have the oil and gas section and that does include all
7 the summer activities, all the environmental studies
8 that ConocoPhillips specifically -- and also oil
9 search, you know, will be conducting this summer. But
10 then you can tell when you go to the green section for
11 science and research surveys that a great deal of those
12 take place in the Fish Creek, you know, GMT2 Willow
13 area.

14
15 So I think what you're saying is like
16 those are connected but it's not clearly showing on
17 this spreadsheet that they're connected to that oil
18 industry activity.

19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Right.

21
22 MS. FRITZ: So I wonder if maybe what
23 we could do is add a column that indicates that these
24 studies are taking place to monitor either the baseline
25 environmental conditions before anticipated industrial
26 activity or as monitoring ongoing industrial activity.
27 The third line down, BLM Fish Creek Watershed,
28 Teshekpuk Lake Region, BLM's fish biologist Matt
29 Whitman will be out there doing fish and hydrology
30 studies. Those studies are indeed directly related to
31 when or where industry plans to explore and develop or
32 where they have to monitor the impacts.

33
34 So I think that's a great suggestion.
35 Thank you. I'm going to add a column and maybe even a
36 different section, science research surveys that are
37 connected to industry and then we can separate those
38 from all the science and research that are connected to
39 just like climate change or fisheries resources across
40 the NPR-A that are not specific to industry. I like
41 that suggestion.

42
43
44 MS. LAMARR: Yeah, that is a really --
45 this is Sarah LaMarr and I think that is a really great
46 suggestion. The other thing we could add in that
47 column too is if there's a route that is being shared
48 by multiple entities.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Exactly.
2 That's the kind of discussion that's important because
3 when we go in and look at some of these planning
4 documents and we try to minimize our conflict with
5 what's happening with their activities and what we want
6 to do with our activities.

7
8 But when we go and look at these
9 different documents and it says there's going to be X
10 amount of flights, but when we get out there and
11 there's a lot more activity because of the combined
12 connection of all of the activities around us in those
13 inter-flights, because of the way it's easy for
14 industry to just hop on over there and do some of these
15 different things, whereas if they had to be more
16 accountable in the way that they're just hopping on
17 over there to do these different activities, they might
18 be more hesitant to just fly over there today versus
19 flying over there 15 times this week.

20
21 Those kind of things are really
22 important on trying to give us hope that we're going to
23 be able to try to have a traditional day in our efforts
24 to harvest because it's not -- when we go back to our
25 community meeting and your document says, oh, we only
26 did 14 flights throughout the project. No, we were out
27 there and it's always a combat about what's happening
28 with these documents versus what we're living through
29 on the grounds and waters.

30
31 So I think any ways we can improve the
32 way that it's being communicated. Because if we know
33 this is going to be a central hauling point where
34 materials and things are going to be transmitted to
35 multiple sites, that's very impactful for us to go out
36 and try to do caribou harvest when we're worried about
37 materials being slung and transported at a low height
38 and we're trying to harvest and might have a shot taken
39 and put an animal down, but comes between a helicopter
40 and our animal, sometimes we lose out.

41
42 MS. LAMARR: Yeah. Thank you.

43
44 MS. FRITZ: Thank you. Well, you will
45 see in the column for ConocoPhillips summer activities
46 in the Nuiqsut area this summer there are a lot of
47 flights that we're permitting. This system, and Debbie
48 Nigro is the one who tracks this and can explain it in
49 great detail, but we require industry to estimate how
50

1 many takeoffs and landings they're going to have on BLM
2 land.

3
4 Originally they were required to do
5 that so that we could track potential disturbance to
6 endangered species. Clearly humans are very interested
7 in when, where, how much activity is going on. So
8 that's why we list the takeoffs and landings, which is
9 what was required for ESA, but, like I said, we're
10 trying to get better about describing that in ways that
11 make more sense to humans, like how many use days.

12
13 It leads me to wanting to talk just a
14 minute about one of the other documents that I prepared
15 and submitted to the RAC and that is this North Slope
16 Aviation Outreach and Communication Summary. So what
17 I've tried to do here in one document just list all of
18 the outreach, all of the communication that occurs on
19 the North Slope for aviation. I'm not saying that any
20 of it works super smoothly or, you know, minimizes
21 impacts to the extent that people want, but it is the
22 best thing that we've all been able to come up with so
23 far.

24
25 The main thing that happens in Nuiqsut
26 is that Conoco -- so whoever is flying in the area they
27 submit their daily flight information to Conoco. They
28 have a North Slope helicopter logistics coordinator.
29 So they have two things. They have a call every day at
30 1:30. The number is on here. Anybody can call in to
31 that daily helicopter call-in at 1:30. Then they
32 record the basic information from that call. You can
33 call the hotline. That's the top number on this
34 document 1-844-423-7623. You can call that hotline and
35 there'll be a recorded message about where the
36 helicopters are going that day.

37
38 So Conoco has two helicopters in the
39 field for the summer, then there's the description of
40 the helicopters with the tail number. BLM has one
41 helicopter based usually at Umiat or Inigok and we
42 anticipate that oil search will be permitted to do some
43 summer exploration activities. We'll have their
44 helicopter information both on the daily recorded
45 hotline and then they produce a helicopter poster.
46 That's been distributed in Nuiqsut. It has pictures of
47 all the main helicopters active in the area with their
48 tail numbers.

1 Then Conoco has developed a map of the
2 area. It's a grid system. I requested permission from
3 Conoco to make that available online and I'm sure that
4 will be fine. So I'm going to have all of these
5 documents in one place for people. So sometimes they
6 say, you know, helicopter November 5, 6, 7, November
7 Alpha is headed to Kuparuk and they don't actually give
8 the grid locations or they say the Willow area. But
9 sometimes they use the exact grid so you can see
10 exactly where they're going.

11
12 Now Conoco does say that they are
13 hiring a subsistence representative who will be on
14 those daily calls. I've requested this information
15 from Conoco. Who is this person, what's their name and
16 contact information so that other people can get a hold
17 of them and I haven't heard back from them. So that's
18 in red on this document because I intend to update it
19 as soon as I get it.

20
21 And that would be so people in Nuiqsut
22 could either communication with this subsistence
23 representative or call in to the call themselves to
24 find out where the helicopters are going to be or let
25 them know, hey, this is where we're going to be.
26 Please try and avoid that area.

27
28 So it's not a perfect system. I'm not
29 saying it is, but this is how we -- you know. And I
30 think they're doing their best to sort of make it as
31 easy for people as possible. And then Nuiqsut people
32 are also invited to call the Kuukpik subsistence
33 oversight panel for any Nuiqsut area helicopter
34 information.

35
36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The number for
37 Conoco's flights that's going to be a number that has a
38 recording. Are we able to leave messages and how often
39 will it be checked when we're having some of these
40 discussions. Could we put in recommendations? We're
41 going to be setting up our fish camp at such and such,
42 can we get a small buffer around this area.

43
44 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

45
46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: We have over-
47 flights. Is that the kind of thing that we would be
48 able to discuss?

49
50

1 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. I think that the
2 best way to do that would be to alert the North Slope
3 helicopter logistics coordinator and your
4 ConocoPhillips village outreach liaison. So right now
5 I guess Rusty used to be the main outreach and I think
6 he may be gone. So I believe that Valli Peterson is
7 your main contact.
8

9 I don't actually have a phone number
10 for the North Slope helicopter logistics coordinator.
11 I just have an email. But definitely Valli and Justin
12 Blank, who supports all of Conoco's North Slope
13 aviation, their numbers are on this document as well as
14 the emails for all of them.
15

16 So there's two ways you could do it.
17 You could call any of these people beforehand and relay
18 that information or, and probably ideally, you would
19 call in or whoever wanted this buffer or alert
20 established, would call in to the daily helicopter
21 coordination call. That number is here and there's a
22 conference code. It's just every day at 1:30 everybody
23 who's active in the area and I'll say 99 percent of the
24 time it's just Conoco if no one else calls in.
25

26 BLM, when we have biologists based out
27 of Inigok or Umiat who are going to be flying in the
28 area, they actually can't call in at 1:30 because
29 they're usually out in the field. So what they do is
30 in the morning they send all their detailed flight
31 information to Conoco and Conoco reports it. They talk
32 about it during their call and then they put it on the
33 hotline recorded message.
34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. So the
36 hotline number is just a recorded message?
37

38 MS. FRITZ: Yep. The hotline number is
39 just a recorded message you can call any time and that
40 is updated daily. It tells you where Conoco's two
41 helicopters and any other helicopters.....
42

43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So is it going to be
44 listed by site or is it going to have coordinates?
45

46 MS. FRITZ: It's kind of both. You
47 know, sometimes they say Kuparuk and sometimes they say
48 the Willow area. Like I said, Conoco has developed
49 this map where the entire area is gridded. I will put
50

1 that online and email it to you. It should be
2 available in the Nuiqsut area.
3

4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think I've seen
5 parts of it, but I haven't seen the newer process.
6

7 MS. FRITZ: Okay. I'll make sure you
8 get it, Rosemary.
9

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's the kind of
11 stuff that's really important. For me, I try to print
12 this stuff out and have it in my house so when people
13 come and ask me questions I can just pull out the
14 information and encourage people to call in and
15 participate.
16

17 The one big process that we went
18 through in the past is when we had the combined effort
19 between multiple research projects associated with
20 Shell combining with Conoco and the North Slope
21 Borough. Is that going to continue to engage in this
22 kind of scenario as we look at the different changes
23 that may come into the future coordinating some of this
24 kind of information?
25

26 MS. FRITZ: I mean the entire point of
27 what this helicopter coordination is to try to
28 coordinate it so there's just one central helicopter --
29 aviation. It's not just helicopters. It's fixed wing
30 also. So central points.
31

32 You know, what I can do, Rosemary, to
33 make it easier on everybody is I can print out copies
34 of these and just mail them to you so that you don't
35 have to worry about getting them in color and the right
36 size and all that. But I don't know anything about the
37 North Slope Borough coordinating with this. As far as
38 I know we haven't permitted a North Slope Borough
39 activities in the Colville area.
40

41 We permitted -- Brian Person, doing his
42 normal geese study in the Ikpiukuk delta is on here.
43 Like I said -- so in the past Caelus has participated
44 in those calls. I don't think they have any helicopter
45 activity that we know of. There is a big restriction
46 on that.
47

48 We are really only aware of specifics
49 of activities taking place on BLM-managed lands. So
50

1 that's not all the land around Nuiqsut, but the BLM-
2 managed land is the only stuff that people -- that's
3 the only places where people are required to provide
4 their flight information to us.

5
6 That said, Conoco, on their hotline and
7 in their daily call-in, they will provide information
8 on everywhere their helicopters and fixed wing aircraft
9 are going.

10
11 So just once again I know that they
12 said they're going to hire a subsistence
13 representative. As soon as I get the name and contact
14 information for that person, I'll make sure that you
15 have it. I'll say that the Native Village of Nuiqsut
16 Tribal Council has a standing request that the BLM
17 conduct government-to-government consultation with them
18 on every single permit that we review for the Nuiqsut
19 area. So that's pretty much an ongoing consultation
20 with them.

21
22 They also requested that the BLM come
23 to give a public meeting in Nuiqsut this early summer
24 to give an overview of all the permits that we either
25 have permitted or are permitting for the area. We are
26 trying to schedule that around Nalukataq without too
27 much disturbance to busy time. So maybe the week of
28 June 18th we're looking at coming up. Maybe Monday,
29 June 18th, we'll have a public meeting. So we would
30 have copies of all of this and maps and just make sure
31 that public members who want to be aware have all this
32 information available.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay, great. We
35 just want to make sure that there's a process where we
36 get to talk to a body and not just get the machines and
37 we have some timely interaction to try to allow us to
38 have some of our times on our lands and waters doing
39 our traditional activities. These kinds of things are
40 really important. Whatever we can do to coordinate
41 some of these interactions to reduce the conflict is
42 really important.

43
44 I do see the time as being a bit of an
45 issue, but the reality is having the opportunity to
46 call in and speak to a body during this process is very
47 helpful. I do suspect that when there are conflicts
48 that there will be some very aggressively upset people
49 that engage in these processes, but also know that it's

50

1 so expensive for us to try to get out and participate
2 in our way of life. It's frustrating when we get these
3 constant reactions that lead to a very negative
4 traditional experience that we put a lot of effort to
5 try to maintain that way of life into the future.
6

7 I do know that we are going to be
8 having a culture camp and definitely I'll try to make
9 sure that we coordinate some of these discussions with
10 that process. It's really important that we have these
11 camps where we go out and spend time on our lands and
12 waters and give our students an opportunity to harvest.
13 With the different changes that we're going through
14 it's not as easily done as other communities do. It's
15 important for longevity that we keep these interactions
16 going.
17

18 I appreciate that we've gotten to this
19 point where we actually engage in planning calls with
20 the activities as an opportunity and hope that many of
21 our hunters will take this process. When you bring out
22 those documents, if you can make sure that there's some
23 that are laminated that would be helpful.
24

25 MS. FRITZ: Sure.
26

27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then we're also
28 doing a process with the school this summer with the
29 drone project through NASA. I'm going to have to get
30 off to go participate with that. The students are
31 going to be working to learn to fly the various drones.
32 We have a weather station and we'll be doing hydroponic
33 cabinets for a process to develop a community garden in
34 the future. The process we'll be having Ron Fortunado
35 from NASA come out and do the glides with the drones to
36 help get the pictures for erosion along the riverbank.
37

38
39 So if there's some opportunity to
40 connect with the students, we have been engaging at
41 10:00. We may be moving to 1:00 for engagement with
42 the students to participate in this process, but just
43 communicate ahead of time and let us know when you're
44 coming out and I'll let you know what days we're
45 participating.
46

47 MS. FRITZ: That's excellent. I think
48 Sam told -- so the acting manager of the Arctic Office
49 is Shelly Jones. She is like super interested in
50

1 helping or participating with the student drone
2 project. She's been talking about it quite a bit.
3 She's out of the office today so she couldn't join the
4 call.

5
6 But we will definitely follow up with
7 you on that. She specifically wants to help or
8 participate. We certainly would like to know about the
9 project and where it's taking -- you know, the culture
10 camps and the drone project. Thank you so much,
11 Rosemary.

12
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. Thank
14 you.

15
16 MS. FRITZ: So the other information on
17 this outreach and communication handout, you've got the
18 -- I mentioned the poster, then we have the BLM Arctic
19 Unit aviation manager, Susan Bissell. Her contact
20 information is on here. I mentioned the spreadsheet
21 that I distributed. I have the information on here for
22 North Slope Search and Rescue. We have Facebook, so
23 BLM does have an NPR-A news Facebook page and I really
24 invite you to all like that page so that you see any
25 updates that BLM posts on there. We try to post a
26 couple times a week.

27
28 And then the other thing that we find
29 is that's not super effective for actually
30 communicating to residents in an area, so when we do
31 permit an activity or have a BLM activity based out of
32 a community, what I've been doing is hiring locals to
33 post the information about the project on their own
34 personal Facebook page because they're usually friends
35 with everybody in the community and that's a far more
36 effective way of making sure that everybody knows
37 what's going on.

38
39 We have several -- we distribute to all
40 permittees a couple things. Aviation awareness and
41 conflict avoidance letter. I have another special
42 stipulation about tips and stipulations to avoid
43 disturbing subsistence camps. I ask people to try to
44 fly certainly away from heavily-used subsistence rivers
45 and all those rivers are listed. To avoid camps and
46 cabins. To try and fly -- if they have to do a bunch
47 of research or monitoring in the NPR-A, we try to get
48 them to do it in June and avoid July, later July,
49 August. So the earlier the better time to avoid peak
50

1 caribou hunting season. I try to get them to do it
2 early in the morning and during weekdays instead of
3 weekend afternoon. Not perfect, but just with the tips
4 that they can use to avoid and then you work with the
5 community itself.
6

7 So then there's just a couple other
8 resources on aviation outreach and communication in
9 that document with some links and that will be
10 available online. The other document that I
11 distributed for the RAC was just -- it's called the
12 update on 2018 permitting activities. What that is is
13 just a little bit more information on some of the big
14 projects and this is by no means complete.
15

16 The main thing on there is the GMT2
17 draft supplemental environmental impact statement. We
18 have the project lead from the BLM State office
19 Stephanie Rice is on the line to give you a brief
20 update on that project and that's also described in the
21 document.
22

23 Mr. Chair, did you want Stephanie Rice
24 to give a brief update on the status of the GMT2
25 project?
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to refer to
28 the wish of the Council. What's the wish of the
29 Council? Do you guys want to hear a little bit of the
30 GMT2 update?
31

32 MS. HUGO: Sure, that would be
33 interesting if it's short and brief.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's
36 an interest, so let's do it.
37

38 MS. FRITZ: All right. Stephanie Rice.
39

40 MS. RICE: Thank you all very much. My
41 name is Stephanie Rice. I work in Anchorage and I am
42 the GMT2 project manager. So just real briefly. We
43 published the draft supplemental environmental impact
44 statement on March 23rd and the public comment period
45 closed on May 17th. During that time we held four
46 public meetings in Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass and
47 Utqiagvik. Those meetings also included subsistence
48 hearings.
49
50

1 For the draft EIS we did make a finding
2 of may significantly restrict for subsistence uses for
3 Nuiqsut, for the project itself and then the cumulative
4 impacts analysis, so the GMT2 project plus all the
5 other developments that's going to occur at the same
6 time as GMT2 cumulatively may significantly restrict
7 subsistence activities for Utqiagvik, Anaktuvuk Pass
8 and Atqasuk.

9
10 So during the public comment period we
11 held hearings to get input from the communities about
12 how to lessen those impacts and how to mitigate them.
13 So right now we have gotten all of the comments that
14 were submitted at those public meetings and during the
15 public comment period and we are adjusting the analysis
16 and considering mitigation measures as we come to a
17 record of decision to issue this permit to drill for
18 GMT2.

19
20 We have not published the final EIS yet
21 where we're going to make all those changes based on
22 the public comments and we don't know right now when
23 the final is going to come out, but it will probably be
24 sometime this summer. And then after that we will
25 issue a record of decision and give ConocoPhillips
26 their permit to drill.

27
28 So that's pretty much the status of
29 GMT2. Are there any questions?

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
32 the Regional Advisory Council.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
37 you for the GMT2 update.

38
39 MS. RICE: Thank you all.

40
41 MS. FRITZ: Thank you, Stephanie. So
42 we actually have two projects that we're permitting
43 that we would appreciate any input from the RAC members
44 on. Since Jeannie Cole from the Central Yukon Field
45 Office just joined us, I'm going to skip the ASTAC
46 fiber optic cable for now and talk just a little bit
47 about the North Slope Borough community winter access
48 trails right-of-way. The BLM Arctic Office.....

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Stacey.

2
3 MS. FRITZ: Yep.

4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm sorry. This is
6 Rosemary. I was trying to get back on, but I got
7 locked up here. This is really important for Nuiqsut
8 and the changes that we faced. We've really been
9 impacted with changes to the east of our village and
10 changes to the north of our village and changes to the
11 west of our village. Concerns to future changes that
12 are being discussed to the south of our village is
13 severely concerning to our community.

14
15 It's really important that we look at
16 this process in a staggered way. We can't just have
17 the development occur as it has been occurring already
18 around our community because of the failures to protect
19 our subsistence and the migration. Having that
20 migration come to our community is really important and
21 having the migration impacted in those different
22 directions makes it really difficult for our community
23 to harvest and continue our way of life.

24
25 We haven't discussed in our region what
26 a staggering of development to the south side of our
27 community is, so I recommend that there is no activity
28 to the south of the proposed development on the GMT2
29 project to allow our communities to come back and
30 discuss what it would look like to do this.

31
32 It's really important that before we go
33 forward with more activities in leasing that we get a
34 discussion in ways to return some of the migratory
35 patterns that have been impacted with the existing
36 infrastructure development that has happened.

37
38 If there's some modifications that we
39 can do to allow animals to come back to our community
40 from the directions that they used to come to our
41 community, these kind of discussions are very important
42 to happen instead of just allowing more and more
43 projects to occur.

44
45 The reaction to our communities are not
46 just one. It's multiple communities that are being
47 impacted by these discussions and we haven't been able
48 to fully discuss what that would look like, but I hope
49 that we are given this opportunity to discuss ways that
50

1 we have that can be discussed to give us hope that
2 we're going to get migrations from the south side of
3 our community.
4

5 That inter-community migration that has
6 traditionally occurred between the communities of
7 Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk are so important with our
8 traditional uses in harvest that it's important that we
9 continue to support these discussions that protect both
10 of our communities' resources as well as the region as
11 a whole.
12

13 By doing a push-back on this process
14 and allowing our community to discuss what is agreed of
15 development in that area might look like to hopes that
16 we might have subsistence occurring in our community
17 with the threats that have already proven to restrict
18 traditional cultural uses in lands around our
19 community.
20

21 MS. FRITZ: Thank you for that,
22 Rosemary. There is indeed a lot of activity planned
23 around the Nuiqsut area, including to the south as I
24 mentioned. Oil Search is the name of the company. I
25 believe they bought out Armstrong's leases and they're
26 going to be doing some exploration to the south of
27 Nuiqsut this summer. Most of the lands directly south
28 of Nuiqsut is State land, so we're talking about the
29 Federal lands to the west of the Colville. I think
30 they're doing that in anticipation of a winter
31 exploratory drilling season.
32

33 I think in the big picture the leasing
34 plan, the integrated activity plan that the BLM did for
35 the entire NPR-A. That was sort of the major decision
36 that was made, like which lands to make available for
37 leasing. I'm sure you've probably heard this before
38 that once the BLM leases the land that conveys the
39 right to explore and develop to the company that leased
40 it.
41

42 So that's -- yeah, I understand it's
43 very frustrating for people. It's very hard for them
44 to keep track of these processes. We're continually
45 trying to improve our communication. Personally I feel
46 like the best that I can do is to just let people know
47 what's planned to happen hopefully before it actually
48 happens.
49
50

1 But I hear you and definitely what we
2 will do is do our best when we come to Nuiqsut here in
3 a couple weeks to give a broad overview of all the
4 permitted activities. We didn't yet discuss -- I know
5 the Native Village of Nuiqsut Council had a lot of
6 concerns about Conoco's activities doing marine
7 environmental studies in Harrison Bay in anticipation
8 of developing a temporary gravel island near Atigaru.
9 So that is one of the things that we will discuss in
10 Nuiqsut this summer just to at least give people a
11 heads up.

12
13 Our analyses that we've done and this
14 is just a draft, they're not based on measurable
15 impacts to date. With these analyses what we are
16 required to do is do our best to predict what the
17 impacts will be over the course of the life of a
18 project. So it's really a difficult -- because there's
19 no science, you know, of what's going to happen to, for
20 example, the caribou movement in the future.

21
22 I think our best judgment so far has
23 been the development such as the GMT2 road to the west
24 and activity on that road. It does have the potential
25 to deflect some caribou from the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
26 from traveling to areas closer to Nuiqsut in the
27 Colville where they're traditionally harvested. So
28 that could impact people who traditionally harvest
29 caribou from rivers by boat.

30
31 Nuiqsut residents are switching. A lot
32 more people are traveling overland with four-wheelers
33 and they're traveling overland west of the community by
34 four-wheelers.

35
36 There's a lot of people who think that
37 since that's what people are doing anyway the road will
38 facilitate their access to new hunting grounds where
39 more caribou will be easily available. We don't have a
40 crystal ball, so there's no way for us to say with any
41 certainty what the impacts will be, but we do try to
42 use all the best available data to predict what the
43 impacts might be over the course of 30-33 years of life
44 of this project.

45
46 To date, Nuiqsut hunters have been able
47 to harvest caribou in adequate numbers, so there's no
48 hard data other than certainly we have data that
49 hunters are disturbed by aircraft. I think there's

50

1 clearly enough traditional knowledge and constantly
2 reported disturbance from hunters that the aircraft
3 disturbs their hunting experience and it makes the
4 caribou run around crazy and harder to shoot. There's
5 no hard scientific western evidence to date that it
6 deflects caribou herds from their traditional migration
7 paths.

8
9 So we can definitely say that it
10 affects the experience of hunting and it makes it
11 harder to hunt those caribou, but to date Nuiqsut
12 hunters have still managed to get caribou at adequate
13 numbers. Despite that we were able to, at least in the
14 draft EIS, make it clear, be transparent about the
15 impacts that we do believe are likely from the road and
16 development out west.

17
18 We haven't done any analysis for
19 development further south of the community, but when we
20 come there we will do our best to be as transparent as
21 possible about all the activity that we see on the
22 horizon for the Nuiqsut area. I hope that helps.

23
24 I'm not sure if Rosemary is still
25 online.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Sorry. This is
28 Rosemary. Yes, definitely that helps a little bit. I
29 wish I could stay on further, but my students are here
30 now, so I have to get off. If we can call in and give
31 further discussion, I definitely would like to, but I
32 can't divide in half. Thank you.

33
34 MS. FRITZ: Thank you, Rosemary.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

37
38 MS. FRITZ: So, as I was saying the
39 Arctic Office of the BLM permitted the Arctic
40 Slope.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Stacey, can we hold
43 for just a second. I want to see if there's any other
44 Council members that have dialed in maybe from Kaktovik
45 or Atqasuk.

46
47 (No response)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Go

50

1 ahead.

2

3 MS. FRITZ: That's too bad. I really
4 wish that people from Atqasuk were on the line.
5 Eventually we want to talk about that fiber optic
6 cable. For now, as I saying, the BLM Arctic Office we
7 permitted the Arctic Slope community winter access
8 trail in the fall of 2017. North Slope Borough and
9 their contractors had those caravans. People traveled
10 between Utqiagvik and the Dalton.

11

12 Now the BLM Central Yukon Field Office
13 is evaluating the proposed winter snow trail route to
14 Anaktuvuk Pass. They're doing an environmental
15 assessment. We are -- if there's any questions or
16 input from community members about that route, about
17 stipulations that they want to -- some of the main
18 questions that BLM, the team here, has include the
19 staging area. We're looking at the Galbraith Lake
20 Campground.

21

22 Right now we're looking at a gravel pit
23 south of Galbraith Lake airport, but DOT told us
24 yesterday they have concerns about that. So it's
25 possible we might be looking at having them create like
26 a snow pad or something for a staging area that's
27 outside the airport. That's just north of the
28 Galbraith Lake Airport.

29

30 So unlike the winter access trails on
31 the North Slope, on the Arctic Slope, where people have
32 to go through oilfield security, the one off of Dalton
33 to AKP there's no permanent industry there, so the
34 question is whether or not we put up a gate or we ask
35 the North Slope Borough to put up a gate to prevent
36 road vehicles from the Dalton accessing that road
37 outside of the caravan times. So that's one of the
38 things we're evaluating. Would really appreciate your
39 input on that.

40

41 The archaeologists are looking at the
42 potential impact to cultural resources. One other
43 potential issue is that that Galbraith Lake area is
44 very popular for people to go dog mushing. So if there
45 was a packed snow trail, people would probably be
46 tempted to mush their dogs on that or go skiing on that
47 or just walk on it, riding their fat bike, ride their
48 bicycle. They wouldn't be able to drive on it with a
49 car unless they were with the caravan. We'd be

50

1 interested to hear what people think about that.

2

3 I know Esther was on the line and
4 originally Sollie was on the line. I don't know if
5 he's still there. Especially people from Anaktuvuk
6 we'd love to hear any input you have on staging area,
7 gate, non-motorized recreational use, any concerns that
8 you have.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Stacey, this is Esther. Do
11 you have a map on the trails of the right-of-way from
12 there?

13

14 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, we have a map. It
15 wasn't provided with this, but I'm going to have
16 Jeannie sort of describe it to you. You know the area
17 well enough. I think you'll understand.

18

19 MS. COLE: Okay. Well, it starts right
20 by Galbraith just off the airport road. The road that
21 goes from the Dalton Highway to the Galbraith airport,
22 it would start right off that road and it would go
23 north for about 10, 12 miles and then turn and go west
24 until it gets over towards Anaktuvuk valley and then it
25 would come down the valley to Anaktuvuk Pass.

26

27 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. So generally it goes
28 straight north from AKP and then takes kind of a right
29 turn. You're leaving Anaktuvuk. It goes through some
30 ASRC land, Nunamiut Corporation land, State land.....

31

32 MS. COLE: And BLM land.

33

34 MS. FRITZ:and BLM land. You're
35 following the foothills, yeah.

36

37 MS. HUGO: You stated earlier that
38 maybe the dog mushers or the skiers or the hikers will
39 be able to access the trails?

40

41 MS. FRITZ: We think it's likely
42 because it's in an area that recreational dog mushers
43 like to use anyway. So if there's a nice packed snow
44 trail there, then it seems likely that people will want
45 to use it. So I think it's a complicated issue because
46 I don't know that we could legally prevent them. I
47 think there's some State money going into these road
48 systems, so they're sort of public.

49

50

1 Now certainly we -- with the North
2 Slope Borough it's completely restricted to road
3 traffic unless it's with the caravan organized by the
4 North Slope Borough. But recreational use people would
5 be able to go around a gate, so we wouldn't be able to
6 physically restrict them and I don't think we'd be able
7 to legally restrict them either.

8
9 MS. COLE: And even if they -- you
10 know, we could tell them they couldn't go on the road,
11 but they could go right next to the road because that
12 area is just open to non-motorized uses.

13
14 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. My name is
15 Fredrick Neakok. I was wondering if I could bring
16 something up. I'm one of the RAC members in Barrow.
17 Is that possible?

18
19 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, please.

20
21 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. Well, here
22 between the Barrow and Atqasuk trail there was a lot of
23 snowmachine travel on the trail over here and not all
24 vehicles went through with a caravan between Barrow and
25 Atqasuk. So if there's a possibility of people
26 bringing their snowmachines or ATVs during the winter,
27 that's another possibility as well.

28
29 MS. COLE: Within five miles of the
30 Dalton Highway is closed to snowmachine or ATV use by
31 non-subsistence users unless it's something for oil and
32 gas development or mining and there's nothing going on
33 up there as far as mining. So people
34 would not be able to legally ride snowmachines or four-
35 wheelers on the road from the Dalton Highway end of it.
36 They could from the Anaktuvuk Pass end.

37
38 MS. FRITZ: So Anaktuvuk Pass residents
39 would be able to because they're subsistence users of
40 the area. They would be able to ride snowmachines and
41 four-wheelers on the road. Outside hunters would not
42 be able to use motorized vehicles because it's within
43 the Dalton corridor. So it's totally different than
44 the snow road from Barrow to Atqasuk.

45
46 MR. NEAKOK: All right. Would there
47 also be vehicle inspections like there was on this site
48 as well?

49
50

1 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. The Borough's
2 proposed action is basically exactly the same as far as
3 how they would manage the caravans and construct the
4 snow road and everything.

5
6 MR. NEAKOK: All right. No problem.
7 Thank you. I just thought I'd bring that up.

8
9 MS. HUGO: Stacey, this is Esther. I
10 was just going to ask a question that Fredrick asked
11 you. We will be allowed to use the access trail from
12 here to Galbraith or not to the Dalton, right?

13
14 MS. FRITZ: If it's for subsistence,
15 you could either go on a caravan with the Borough.

16
17 MS. COLE: In a road vehicle.

18
19 MS. FRITZ: In a highway vehicle. You
20 could use your sno-go if it was for subsistence
21 purposes. I don't know that you would be able to drive
22 your sno-go out and leave it parked on the Dalton
23 Highway and then hitch a ride into Fairbanks or
24 something to go shopping. That might not fit under the
25 definition of a subsistence use. I don't know. It's
26 kind of an unknown, but I guess it would be good to
27 know if people think they would want to do that. We
28 can try to figure it out.

29
30 MS. COLE: I foresee that people from
31 Anaktuvuk -- how many people have road vehicles in
32 Anaktuvuk, but a lot of people have snowmachines and
33 four-wheelers and they may want to use the road to get
34 to the Dalton and then somehow get to Fairbanks or
35 Anchorage from there. So we want to make sure that if
36 people want to do that that it's legal, that it's
37 permitted, that it's not going to create a health and
38 safety issue, that sort of thing.

39
40 MS. HUGO: I sure hope you guys work
41 something out like that because I can just see us
42 opening this access trail from my home to the Dalton
43 and then are you saying anybody, hikers, maybe the dog
44 teams, maybe the skiers, they can access that trail
45 from Dalton or Galbraith?

46
47 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, Galbraith right off
48 the Dalton.

1 MS. COLE: Basically from the Dalton
2 because there's a road that goes from the Dalton over
3 to the Galbraith Lake area.
4

5 MS. HUGO: The thing I don't see is why
6 can't we just go right to the Dalton? You guys got to
7 work on that. I mean I'm sure we're not going to be
8 going to Fairbanks to bring in a lot of booze or a lot
9 of drugs, but for a lot of us it will be where we can
10 go shopping, maybe get a refrigerator or, you know, all
11 these things that we need at home, but then if we're
12 stopped to Galbraith and then find a way to go to the
13 Dalton.....
14

15 MS. COLE: Now you would be able to go
16 to the Dalton from the end of the snow trail because it
17 hits an open -- the snow trail ends at the road to the
18 airport, the Galbraith airport, which does go out to
19 the Dalton. So there would be a way to access the
20 Dalton Highway from there. It's just whether you would
21 be able to ride your snowmachine down and leave it
22 parked there at the staging area by Galbraith and then
23 have somebody pick you up and drive you into Fairbanks.
24

25
26 That's what we need to figure out. So
27 if people think they want to do that and that would be
28 something that you think is going to happen a lot, then
29 it would be nice for us to know about that so we can at
30 least consider how we would handle it.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Stacey, this is.....
33

34 MS. HUGO: Go ahead.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
37 Esther.
38

39 MS. HUGO: Yeah, I'm just saying I'm
40 sure once Mother Nature cooperates with us I'm sure
41 this will be set up, the access trail to Galbraith.
42 I'm sure we'll have some privately-owned vehicles that
43 will -- you know, we've got not more than 10. I just
44 wanted to say that.
45

46 Go ahead.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther. I
49 have a little bit of information as to that. We have
50

1 been trying to work with DOT and DOT works with
2 transportation-related issues as well. So we're in
3 dialogue with DOT on some of these issues that are
4 being expressed. There is a camp that belongs to DOT
5 and how the North Slope Borough might be working with
6 DOT. If we needed to have warm shelter or bathroom
7 areas to take those kind of things. So we're working
8 some of those kind of issues. I just thought I'd point
9 that out.

10

11 MS. FRITZ: Thank you. So we have also
12 here in the room the habitat wildlife biologist for the
13 Central Yukon Field Office and the wildlife biologist
14 who will be looking at the potential subsistence
15 impacts. So any other issues that people can foresee
16 that we're not thinking of. That's really the main
17 one, Esther and others, that we thought of that dog
18 mushers might take advantage of the route, whether
19 they're hunting caribou or not. And I don't know if
20 everybody in Anaktuvuk is absolutely opposed to
21 recreational users coming in, but I just wanted to give
22 people a heads up that it's only open for a couple of
23 months, but it is during the season when people are
24 doing that kind of travel in the Brooks Range and the
25 foothills. So AKP may see an increased number of
26 recreational skiers, bikers, dog mushers. I mean I'm
27 tempted to ride my fat bike into Anaktuvuk from the
28 highway.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MS. COLE: How many miles total is the
33 road?

34

35 MS. FRITZ: About 100 miles.

36

37 MS. COLE: Oh, that's a long way.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MS. FRITZ: But that's not very far for
42 a dog musher. It's a nice one-day run, I guess.

43

44 MR. HUGO: Hi. Good morning.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And you are right,
47 there are dog team -- I think there's one group that
48 tours to the White Mountains and back that have actual
49 permits to do some of that kind of stuff.

50

1 MS. FRITZ: Did we hear Sollie chiming
2 in there?

3
4 MR. HUGO: Yes. Good morning.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

7
8 MR. HUGO: I'm not sure who to address.
9 Who's the chairman here? I'm trying to address Ms.
10 Chairman Stacey or Mr. Chairman Gordon?

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon Brower. Go
13 ahead, Sollie.

14
15 MR. HUGO: Good morning to you.
16 Apparently you're discussing this winter trail that was
17 proposed several years ago. The first trace of (phone
18 cutout) and then now we're hearing Galbraith Lake site.
19 If anything is inundated, we should know about that.
20 If there's changes, we would like to know about that
21 also. This is causing a disparity over maybe myself
22 and some concerned residents because the point of
23 origin was Big Lake and now it's Galbraith.

24
25 So in all fairness it would be a
26 collective decision to have all people involved to have
27 the paperwork in front of them so they could know what
28 they're referring to instead of trying to paint a
29 picture in your mind, which I easily can do because
30 these are my regions. These are Nunamiut lands
31 primarily. Nunamiut lands. And then having it put
32 elsewhere is kind of -- that would kind of make me feel
33 like I'm secondary in my own home regions. Kind of an
34 insult like.

35
36 But if you would provide a map or a
37 plan of course that you're planning to do with the
38 roads there, it would be in your best interest to
39 provide it to the community here because you're
40 suddenly making irrational decisions without even our
41 people knowing about it other than that the road is
42 going on. Which route and who's able to access it.

43
44 Apparently all of a sudden we have
45 recreational folks able to use that, dog mushers,
46 nature people, and probably Norwegians with skis, about
47 50 of them I would think. So it would be in our best
48 interest if you would just provide us with some solid
49 information and then we would be able to put it up and
50

1 say this is what the State of Alaska and the North
2 Slope Borough are intending to do to bring us less cost
3 of freight and the things that we might be able to buy
4 that we couldn't have purchased without this road.

5
6 In all fairness, this disparity should
7 be a little concern for you guys I would think. Thank
8 you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.....

11
12 MS. COLE: This is Jeannie Cole.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Sollie. I
15 think those are very important points. Go ahead,
16 Jeannie.

17
18 MS. COLE: Okay. We did send a copy of
19 the proposed action out to the city of Anaktuvuk Pass,
20 Cathy Lynn Morry, Karlene Ticket, the Anaktuvuk Pass
21 Council, James Nageak, the Simon Paneak Museum, and
22 also to the Native corporation there in Anaktuvuk Pass,
23 to the president. So there should be a few copies of
24 it out there, but I would also be happy to email it to
25 somebody. Sollie, you let me know who.

26
27 MR. FRITZ: Yeah, Sollie is at the
28 Simon Paneak Museum and he's also working on a map, so
29 he definitely -- of the area. So, Sollie, the
30 archaeologist here met -- when it looked like this was
31 going to go forward last winter, it was actually
32 proposed for last winter, but it didn't happen because
33 the snow depth and the layer of freezing meant that the
34 State of Alaska never opened the foothills to tundra
35 travel. So we're basically hoping that it will freeze
36 hard enough this winter for this actually to go forward
37 if indeed people from Anaktuvuk want it, you know.

38
39 The archaeologist met with the Council.
40 But it's good that -- you know, in a way we have a lot
41 more time to work with AKP this summer before it gets
42 permitted for this winter.

43
44 MR. HUGO: Okay, yeah. On a different
45 note, that's good information, but this is -- as Esther
46 said, if Mother Nature cooperates, this would be
47 possible, but from the way things are looking it's just
48 -- that might not even be possible until we get a solid
49 winter. Last winter we were 20 above the most part of
50

1 -- not be cold enough to freeze over to where it's able
2 to support intense weights, especially tonnage.

3
4 The other thing is that I'm at the
5 Nunamiut Museum. I'm the oral historian here and I
6 have maps of all regions. It's just that I'm trying to
7 figure out where your proposed road is going to take
8 place and I would probably have a few concerns myself
9 if I had an actual map in my office.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, I'm going to send you
14 the actual map, Sollie. I'm going to email it to you
15 today, okay?

16
17 MS. COLE: Would it be helpful if I
18 sent it also to Eva and she could distribute it to
19 people by email?

20
21 MR. HUGO: You can send it to
22 charles.hugo@north/slope.org.

23
24 MS. COLE: Okay, we'll do that. One
25 other thing on the road, because the community has an
26 interest in bringing in materials to rebuild your
27 building that burned down, it's my understanding there
28 could be commercial uses of the trail to haul in
29 building materials, but they would be under a separate
30 permit from the North Slope Borough, but they would use
31 the trail that the Borough had constructed and they
32 would travel probably following the caravan, so they
33 would be going along with the caravans. So that's
34 another possible use of the trail.

35
36 MR. HUGO: Yeah. Apparently the
37 Borough would suddenly jump on that because their
38 intentions were to leave that burned building there for
39 a number of years and then come pick it up because it
40 would have cost them too much to the airlines. So
41 that's not surprising that they would jump up and try
42 to put in their two cents worth also because it would
43 save them money. In the meantime they were going to
44 leave it there for about three or four years and then
45 come pick it up when they feel like it, I guess I would
46 think, because that's how I felt what they were doing.

47
48 The other thing is the road itself
49 would probably go through some sensitive areas. That's

50

1 why I would like to see the map. I'm kind of objecting
2 to it without even seeing where you're going. So I
3 would like to object to something that I can visualize.
4

5
6 Thank you.
7

8 MS. FRITZ: Gotcha. Sollie, I already
9 told the archaeologist that he should get in touch with
10 you specifically, so I'll make sure you get the map
11 with the land status so you can work out -- I think the
12 main concern for disturbance to cultural artifacts
13 would be the industry, when they build the snow road,
14 sometimes they like to go in before the ground freezes
15 to the legal limit where they can open it for tundra
16 travel.
17

18 They can go in and they prepack the
19 snow road by gathering up snow from where there's lots
20 of snow accumulated and then they pack it down and then
21 it stays there and it makes for a much quicker and
22 easier construction of a snow road. The thinking is
23 that if there's any disturbance that could occur it's
24 from that process when they try to scrape up extra
25 snow.
26

27 MR. HUGO: Okay.
28

29 MS. FRITZ: But we definitely want you
30 to take a close look at the route.
31

32 MS. HUGO: Stacey, this is Esther. I
33 agree with Sollie. I know North Slope Borough will
34 jump into that trail so they don't have to pay so much
35 freight for the building that burned down here. They
36 kept telling us they'll do it after Mother's Day. My
37 God, Mother's Day is gone and we've been waiting since
38 February and they're still sitting on it. That's the
39 only way they want to eliminate all that freight money
40 is to use that access. I just agree with Sollie and I
41 need to see the map too.
42

43 MS. FRITZ: That is a good point,
44 Esther. My thinking was it was going to happen last
45 spring and now hopefully it will happen this winter.
46 In a way it gives people the opportunity to plan ahead
47 for heavy loads of gear or equipment that they do want
48 to -- you know, commercial loads of whatever needs to
49 be freighted in to Anaktuvuk or out or people who want
50

1 to buy equipment gives them more time to plan for it.

2

3 So there are copies of the map
4 available in AKP, but we will be sure to email and mail
5 more copies today, specifically to you, Sollie.
6 Esther, I'd say best would be to get with Sollie at the
7 museum to look at the map we're going to send him right
8 after this meeting.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Okay. Thank you.

11

12 MR. HUGO: On a different note, if I
13 may, on the Army Corps of Engineers' involvement in the
14 Umiat area.

15

16 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

17

18 MR. HUGO: They still have military
19 debris, quite a few tonnage, still in the mountains
20 here. I've been able to talk with their commander in
21 California, but there's some kind of glitches here that
22 we're snagged on. They're supposed to come up, I think
23 it was last summer, to clean up the site at -- Shainin
24 Lake site where there was military activity there and
25 there is tonnage of barrels and military debris. It
26 looks like about maybe six tons. That's only one of
27 the four sites that the military has dumped their
28 garbage. Buried it also like they did at Umiat, but
29 apparently the shores washed it over and now exposed it
30 to the shorelines and that's not very good. Can we sue
31 them?

32

33 MS. FRITZ: I don't know. I don't know
34 the answer to that, Sollie. I'm sorry to be like this,
35 but I don't have any information on other military or
36 formerly used defense sites or some of those sites
37 south of Umiat are from old oil exploration. This
38 office specifically looks at the BLM land, so I'm not
39 too familiar with the FUDS, formerly used defense
40 sites, or other industrial stuff.

41

42 MR. HUGO: Okay. I believe we're
43 working with the same Army Corps of Engineers, are we
44 not?

45

46 MS. FRITZ: Oh, yeah. Uh-huh
47 (affirmative).

48

49 MR. HUGO: Okay. Well, I'm just kind

50

1 of in awe that they would -- because that's an
2 important military site down there and it's attracting
3 a lot of attention in Umiat. Apparently it sounds like
4 we could make this a legal matter of some sort because
5 we have some people that have land ownership around
6 those immediate areas there.

7
8 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, I don't know anything
9 about the legal stuff, but I do know that if you see a
10 contaminated site, there is a process and Melody
11 Debenham, who is our environmental science or HAZMAT
12 person, she can give you the number exactly who you
13 call. I think you usually call the State of Alaska,
14 Department of Environmental Conservation, to report a
15 contaminated site or find out if it is already in their
16 database and what has been done and report that it's
17 been exposed and leaking into the river. I'm going to
18 make sure that Melody gets in touch with you so you and
19 she together can report it to DEC. That's the first
20 step.

21
22 MR. HUGO: Actually we've already went
23 beyond all that. I've already got the Corps of
24 Engineers to do their assessment down there. We had
25 them here last summer. I'm hoping that we're going to
26 have them come up sometime this summer and they'll try
27 to extract their garbage from the pristine land that
28 they think is pristine and then they have all this
29 military garbage that they bury underneath the carpet.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. FRITZ: Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, I've got a
36 question here, Stacey.

37
38 MS. FRITZ: Yeah.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You mentioned debris
41 along the Colville River coming from ASRC land. For
42 the longest time the concerns that we've heard from
43 Nuiqsut either expressed to the Corps or the
44 Restoration Advisory Board, which is a combination of
45 Air Force, Navy, Corps of Engineers folks, agency
46 folks, cleaning up old military sites or things like
47 that.

48
49 The concerns that we continually raise

50

1 based on the communities' concerns that the origins of
2 that debris since the Colville River during high water
3 inundates the old landfill and overtops the old
4 landfill at Umiat that it was a high likelihood that
5 the debris could be being undermined from the swift
6 water at Umiat as the cause of some of the debris
7 that's showing up around below Umiat. I wanted to pose
8 that question. Now the shift is focused to ASRC land
9 and is that still old military debris.

10

11 MS. FRITZ: It's a confusing issue, but
12 of course if there are barrels floating down the
13 Colville past Nuiqsut, everybody assumes it's from
14 Umiat, but then we had hunters from Umiat going upriver
15 realizing, no, they weren't coming from Umiat, they
16 were coming from some tributary further up. And then
17 we eventually tracked it down to a dump along the
18 Chandler that the dump was from -- it's called the
19 Gubik well, I believe. Maybe not. It was a Husky oil
20 well that was drilled in the '60s or '70s and they had
21 a little dump there and then the river shifted channels
22 and the dump was exposed.

23

24 So that summer when there's all of a
25 sudden a kind of surge of barrels it seemed -- people
26 assumed they were from Umiat, but it turned up they
27 weren't. They were from this dump site further up the
28 Chandler.

29

30 Now Umiat -- and I've sent someone to
31 try and get Melody Debenham in here who participates
32 with the RAC and works with the Corps to make sure she
33 gives you the appropriate update, but I'm sure you
34 know, Gordon, that the Corps of Engineers has released
35 a draft feasibility study, which is basically their
36 term for a draft environmental impact statement with
37 different alternatives for how they want to clean up
38 Umiat. So they have several main plans for cleaning up
39 the Umiat site, which you all know is kind of a massive
40 undertaking. The cost of the cleanup is about several
41 times more than the FUDS budget nationally per year.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Having said
44 that -- and I'm sorry to cut you off here, but having
45 said that are these areas where subsistence users have
46 confirmed where drums might be coming out of have you
47 taken the initiative to go to these sites to take a
48 look at that now?

49

50

1 MS. FRITZ: Yeah. So the dump on the
2 Chandler, the then manager of the Arctic Field Office
3 Stacie McIntosh got together with Erik Kenning. A
4 HAZMAT scientist went with them, representatives from
5 the Native Village of Nuiqsut and they flew out there
6 in a helicopter. This was two or three summers ago to
7 locate the dump. But then it was actually -- I'm sure
8 many people here are familiar with Rick Reanier, the
9 archaeologist who's done so much surveying on the North
10 Slope, who was able to say, oh, I know exactly what's
11 going on here. It's this dump, here's a picture.

12
13 I can forward you that email, Gordon.
14 I don't know what has occurred, if anything, to that
15 site since then.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'd appreciate
18 an email about that dialogue.

19
20 MS. FRITZ: All right. I know at the
21 last round of RAC meetings they distributed copies of
22 the draft technical feasibility plan for Umiat, so
23 those are around. I think the comment period got
24 extended at the request of Anaktuvuk Pass. It's
25 probably closed by now. BLM weighed in and I think our
26 consensus here was we wanted the Corps to decide to
27 pull everything out of there. Not to bury it anywhere
28 nearby.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just one last
31 follow up if I may. I hate to indulge in this so much.
32 Is there a plan of action for Chandler with this Husky
33 oil well with that dump being exposed or do you believe
34 the dump is cleaned out by the river overtaking it now
35 and that it's all in the river at this stage?

36
37 MS. FRITZ: I really don't know,
38 Gordon. I think that's a question for ASRC. Erik
39 probably has a much better idea of what has happened.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I just wanted
42 to see if somebody is actually doing something about
43 that one when we know that there's no debris. There
44 should be boots on the ground to try to limit that.

45
46 Any other questions about the Corps of
47 Engineers stuff from the Council? By the way, I had an
48 email that Mike Pederson from the Wildlife Department
49 has chimed in and is just taking notes.

50

1 MS. FRITZ: Mr. Chair. If I could
2 continue with the updates. The next project.....
3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just hold on one
5 second.
6

7 MS. FRITZ: Sure.
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just wanted to
10 backtrack to the CWAT project for the community.
11

12 MS. FRITZ: Sure.
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If it turns out that
15 you are going to go to the community, we would like to
16 participate in that as well. Just as an informational,
17 about 10 years ago the city council of Anaktuvuk had
18 requested that the Borough study the feasibility of
19 connecting the village of Anaktuvuk Pass with a trail
20 and we brushed the dust off of that. It's called a
21 project analysis report and it's several years old. It
22 was at the community city council waiting for the
23 regional government, the Borough, to look at how we can
24 help the community establish a trail. It's trying to
25 accomplish what the CWAT trail is doing. We're working
26 on those kind of things at the request of the
27 community.
28

29 Also in the archaeological resources in
30 working with the community and we have a cultural
31 resource person, which his name is Tommy Nageak. He
32 will work on behalf of the Borough to work with the
33 community on protecting cultural resources. That's one
34 of the things on top of archaeological requirements.
35 There's the IHLC requirement as well.
36

37 MS. FRITZ: Thank you for that, Gordon.
38 I know our archaeologist Joe Keeney works closely with
39 Tommy a lot. They are definitely trying to figure out
40 a way that it would be easier for the BLM to have
41 access to the PLUI site. If there's any way that the
42 North Slope Borough wanted to facilitate that, I think
43 we could house them securely. The BLM could also house
44 that data because here we have to process permits and
45 we have to analyze what the impacts to cultural
46 resources are going to be and we have to do that
47 usually pretty quickly and then it sometimes takes
48 several months to get the PLUI sites for that area from
49 IHLC. So it kind of stymies our ability to do an
50

1 analysis.
2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would just refer
4 you to Tommy and Tommy can work on maybe an MOU with
5 you or something like that. There has to be a
6 confidentiality arrangement because these are protected
7 resources. We just don't disclose them to everybody
8 for protection purposes for pillaging and other things
9 like that of archaeological resources. These are
10 highly protected sites that we're privileged to work
11 with and we would need to work out some arrangement to
12 that.
13

14 MS. FRITZ: Great. Thank you.
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But I say work with
17 Tommy and work with Sollie. Tommy works with all of
18 the historians of all the communities.
19

20 MS. FRITZ: All right.
21

22 MS. HUGO: Excuse me. Gordon, can he
23 include me in there since I'm with the IHLC?
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Absolutely.
26

27 MS. HUGO: Okay. Thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, continue
30 BLM.
31

32 MS. FRITZ: Okay. So the next project
33 that we were hoping to get some input from from RAC
34 members is the ASTAC fiber optic line route between
35 Utqiagvik and Atqasuk. So just a big picture. We
36 permitted their winter survey. Last winter they went
37 out and snowmachined surveyed the route. We are
38 permitting their summer activities and we're looking at
39 doing an environmental assessment for the actual
40 right-of-way for the fiber optic cable.
41

42 Sounds like a great project. We do
43 have a number of concerns. The applicant, ASTAC,
44 originally proposed to bury those cables underneath the
45 three main rivers that it has to cross. That's the
46 Inaru, the Nigisaktuvik and Niklavik Creek. I'm not
47 sure if I'm pronouncing that correctly. I don't know
48 where Niklavik Creek is. Those are the three main
49 river crossings.
50

1 We had an original meeting here with
2 ASRC, the subsidiary of ASRC that's doing the
3 permitting for ASTAC and ASTAC people. At that time --
4 and we had fisheries biologists from ADF&G here. At
5 that time it was only discussed that they would be
6 trenching and burying these cables underneath the
7 rivers, those three rivers.

8
9 Since then now their proposed activity
10 is to suspend the cable over those three rivers. To
11 have large like telephone pole style poles on either
12 side of the rivers high enough that a cable could be
13 suspended across the river and then I think those
14 cables would have the big orange safety balls on them
15 to alert aircraft or whatever.

16
17 That's one of the main alternative that
18 we will be looking at in this environmental assessment.

19
20 MS. RICE: Right now we're also looking
21 at having a second alternative to address some of the
22 issues that have been brought forward with having an
23 elevated fiber optic line over the rivers. So a couple
24 of our concerns in having that elevated line. One is
25 migrating birds and other wildlife that use rivers and
26 creeks as migration corridors. Then the other is also
27 when folks are using snowmachines in the winter and
28 using the rivers and the potential of maybe having some
29 of those lines sag and people getting hung up in those
30 lines or hitting those lines as they're going up the
31 river.

32
33 We're also working on a second
34 alternative that would require the company to bury the
35 lines underneath those three river crossings.

36
37 MS. FRITZ: We did bring it up just
38 briefly at the North Slope Borough Planning Commission
39 public hearing and we're just not sure -- I think the
40 other resource of concern is just visual resources and
41 what we heard from a couple people, but I'm not even
42 quite sure who it was, that they didn't want to see
43 that. So Gordon or anybody else, if you've had any
44 other input from people. ASTAC said they reached out
45 to allotment owners and didn't hear anything back. I
46 don't think that really covers the scope of people who
47 use the area and would be impacted and have input one
48 way or the other.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is Gordon. The
2 Planning Commission had a public hearing on this fiber
3 optic line and after deliberations under public hearing
4 they passed a permit. When it's conditional use and
5 it's a public hearing item, I don't get to sign on
6 permit of that type. It's the Planning Commission
7 chairman. It's the alternatives and the way BLM
8 permits this project differs from how the Planning
9 Commission ultimately approved the project. There's
10 issues surrounding that. Either BLM or the Borough
11 would have to make sure the permits align or they kind
12 of cancel each other out. We've come across that in
13 the past. We were hopeful that the ASTAC crew -- I
14 think it was ASTAC that was doing it, right?

15
16 MS. FRITZ: Yes.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That they would have
19 first looked at the more lengthy process in the
20 permitting, which maybe this BLM permit is and to make
21 sure they achieve some certain milestones and have a
22 prediction of all the alternatives and what ultimately
23 will be permitted by BLM and then come to the Borough
24 to submit that as their plan of operations. So kind of
25 the reverse right now seems like is going on that the
26 Planning Commission has already weighed in and heard
27 the public and the community involved under public
28 hearing weighed in and issued the permit on the
29 Borough's side.
30

31 We can do that, but it just puts the
32 applicant in a position that if those permits don't
33 match and their alternatives are different, then
34 somebody's got to yield.
35

36 MS. FRITZ: I would say that on our end
37 I don't think that it's been until at least very
38 recently that ASTAC has submitted the information that
39 we need to conduct the analysis. I know that -- I
40 believe ASRC is a landowner for this that also would
41 need to permit a right of way or easement or however
42 they do that. It is slightly complicated and I think
43 we just got more information from ASTAC.
44

45 MS. RICE: We're still waiting for some
46 additional information so that we can start the NEPA
47 process, so we're very early in our process for this
48 project. We're not sure when it goes to our staff if
49 they may actually identify some additional issues that
50

1 could drive some other alternatives. We have been
2 waiting to get some answers to some questions before we
3 can identify that we have a complete package and
4 proposed action from ASTAC so we can start moving
5 forward.
6

7 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, that's why we went
8 ahead to -- that's not normally how we like to do
9 things, but we did go ahead or we're doing a permit for
10 this summer for their summer activity.
11

12 (Pause - reporter reminding speakers to
13 identify themselves)
14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. We'll
16 enforce that, making sure. One last thing. This is
17 Gordon. Has ASTAC shared with you the public hearing
18 outcome and their permit issued by the Planning
19 Commission?
20

21 MS. LAMARR: This is Sarah. I am not
22 aware of that. Our permitting person, Donna, may have
23 that, but I am not aware that we received that.
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yeah, I think
26 it's important to see. One of the concerns that we
27 raise periodically in trying to advise applicants if
28 there is a process Federal agency under NEPA, get that
29 done first. I thought that was already completed
30 because there's a concern from us at the Borough to
31 where when they come to the Borough first and there's a
32 NEPA process going on and almost the perception by the
33 applicant and saying, hey, this is the alternative that
34 the Borough has already selected and it might have been
35 the preferred alternative of the applicant. I just want
36 to make sure that perception is -- we don't move in
37 that direction. If there is a NEPA process and the
38 least environmentally damaging alternative is
39 different, then I want to make sure they're not waiving
40 the Borough's permit in front as the alternative of the
41 North Slope Borough in these processes. It's just the
42 permit and that's one of the things that we try to be
43 mindful and careful of advising applicants.
44

45 MS. FRITZ: Great.
46

47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may, this
48 is Eva.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

2
3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
4 just wanted to let Stacey and others at BLM know we
5 still don't have Wanda Kippi online yet. I wasn't able
6 to reach her home phone. It keeps getting
7 disconnected. I had spoken to her last night. She had
8 just come in from spending a couple weeks at her camp,
9 so she had hoped to be on today.

10
11 I just wanted to check in with you,
12 Stacey. Wanda is a very active subsistence hunter and
13 fisher in the area around Atqasuk. Whatever we can
14 relay from the meeting here today and a way for her to
15 get in contact with you, if there's any feedback from
16 Atqasuk regarding potential subsistence impacts from
17 this fiber optic line. Was there going to be any
18 further public meetings in Atqasuk?

19
20 MS. FRITZ: Thank you for that, Eva.
21 I'm good friends with Wanda. I'm going to reach out to
22 her and Paul Bodfish and I've already talked to Mayor
23 Whiteman about it, but we will continue reaching out to
24 people in Atqasuk to have them weigh in. I think
25 particularly in the Nigisaktuvik crossing there are a
26 couple camps right near that crossing. As people know,
27 it's a wide river. One of our real concerns just from
28 a physical standpoint is how they could suspend this
29 substantial cable over that length, I mean it's 300
30 feet, without it sagging in the middle. So neither of
31 these things has really been done before. Like laying
32 the fiber optic cable on the tundra and just nestling
33 it in and I actually think that is a preferred method
34 than trenching it the whole way.

35
36 But the main concern we have and we
37 will certainly get back to people in Atqasuk and maybe
38 organize a teleconference with them. I've been texting
39 Wanda, but I think she's just been out at camp and is
40 probably sleeping.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, through the
43 Chair. Thank you, Stacey. Yeah, she just arrived back
44 home last night. I just talked to her last night and
45 had hoped to call in this morning, but lots going on.
46 So thank you. We'll relay that to Wanda as well.

47
48 Thank you.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: One last thing too
2 for myself. Be reminded the Planning Commission
3 chairman is a resident of Atkasuk, Paul Bodfish, Sr.,
4 is the Planning Commission chair.

5
6 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, thank you. I'm going
7 to call Paul up to pick his brain about this too. So
8 with the permission, Mr. Chair, I'd like to just touch
9 on the other main projects that we have described here
10 in case the Council has any questions or wants more
11 information.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

14
15 MS. FRITZ: Okay. The next main
16 project that we have here is the Willow Prospect Master
17 Development Plan. So the BLM intends to initiate a
18 master development plan EIS that will be similar in
19 scope to the Alpine Satellite Development Plan. That
20 will evaluate development of the Willow Oil Prospect.

21
22 BLM is in the preliminary stages of
23 coordinating with Conoco and is working to identify the
24 list of cooperating agencies. I know North Slope
25 Borough and Native Village of Nuiqsut were on the
26 preliminary cooperating agency call yesterday. So
27 we'll reach out with a formal invitation once a project
28 proposal is submitted from the applicant.

29
30 The other thing I have noted here is
31 that there's a new executive order known as the
32 Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews
33 Order that mandates that agencies try to complete EISs
34 in 12 months and keep the document below 300 pages in
35 length. So we're considering strategies to achieve
36 those goals. We do not yet have the complete proposal
37 from Conoco, but once we do we will move forward with
38 publishing what's called a notice of intent to prepare
39 an EIS and we anticipate having that this summer.

40
41 Is there any questions on that project?

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
44 the Regional Council on the Willow Prospect?

45
46 MS. HUGO: This is Esther. Where is
47 that located?

48
49 MS. FRITZ: Hi, Esther. It's lo.....

50

1 MS. HUGO: Alpine?

2
3 MS. FRITZ: No, it's -- so it would be
4 -- if it's connected by road, which seems -- you know,
5 we're not allowed to say that it would be, but I think
6 it seems likely that it would be connected by road to
7 the GMT2 project, which is the other -- which is just a
8 drill site almost directly west of Nuiqsut. The Willow
9 Central Processing Facility would be connected by road
10 an additional 10 to 13 miles south southwest of GMT2.
11

12 There is a map in the document I gave.
13 The Willow Discovery Area is on Page 6 if people have
14 the Word document for the BLM office permitted
15 activities. The entire area is 30 to 40 miles west and
16 a little bit southwest of Nuiqsut. South of Harrison
17 Bay. Completely within the NPR-A. I believe
18 completely on BLM managed public land. So this is
19 different from the previous drill sites that have been
20 on either Kuukpik land or land that has been selected
21 by Kuukpik Corporation. If people remember the
22 complete Alpine satellite development plan, this is
23 similar in scope to that.
24

25 MS. HUGO: Okay, I've got the map.
26 This is Esther again. I have a question. You know,
27 with all the projects going, when is BLM and
28 ConocoPhillips going to kind of eliminate or slow down
29 these projects? Are we going to keep looking for oil
30 until all these things are put up, the oil wells?
31 Jeez, it seems like years we've been doing a lot of
32 this in the Nuiqsut area and I think we need to give
33 them a break or are we just going to be looking for oil
34 until we can't find any more up there?
35

36 It seems to me sometime I think the
37 more we build around this area, I know there's oil,
38 we're going to have what you call that, sinkholes, and
39 that's scary. It's all wetlands up there. Just a
40 thought. I just wanted to know.
41

42 Thank you.
43

44 MS. FRITZ: I appreciate that. The one
45 thing I can refer back to is sort of the big EIS, the
46 NPR-A integrated activity plan that determined what
47 areas in the entire 23 million NPR-A would be available
48 for leasing. If folks remember back to that process,
49 which was finalized in 2013, the administration made a
50

1 lot of land unavailable for leasing or deferred from
2 leasing or expanded some special areas around Teshekpuk
3 Lake where no permanent infrastructure or serious
4 restriction. The administration determined at the time
5 that really the only area where oil development in the
6 entire NPR-A was feasible and likely was in the
7 northeast corner. So building on the existing oil
8 development there.

9
10 The NPR-A does have its own law that
11 governs it. It's called the Naval Petroleum Reserves
12 Production Act. That law and the NPR-A IAP, those are
13 the main rules if you will that govern how we manage
14 this land and they do require an expedited program of
15 leasing. So the administration has moved forward with
16 annual lease sales usually the first week of December.
17 The companies are allowed to bid on the leases that are
18 made available on an annual basis.

19
20 At the February meeting I reported that
21 the current administration went ahead and had a lease
22 sale where they offered all available lease sales,
23 lease tracts in the entire NPR-A and there's a map
24 depicting some of the most recent lease sales graded by
25 the year they were acquired on Page 9. That's just the
26 ones on BLM land west of the Colville. It's really in
27 this northeast corner where people have been leasing
28 and exploring and having successful -- finding
29 economically viable amounts of oil

30
31 It is a complicated process, but as I
32 mentioned earlier the way that works is that once the
33 Federal government leases that land, then there's not
34 really anything that gives the rights to the oil
35 company to go ahead and explore and move forward with
36 development. That's understood that when they lease
37 the land that's what they have the right to do.

38
39 So it's pretty overwhelming socially
40 for the communities to try and keep track of all of
41 that. I personally just try to do my best to let
42 people know what is planned for the area and at least
43 be transparent about the fact that there are entities
44 in the Nuiqsut area who request for development to slow
45 down. But it's really, to be completely honest, it's
46 at the discretion of the oil companies and how fast
47 they can get their permits.

48
49 MS. HUGO: Okay. Thank you so much,

50

1 Stacey. This is Esther again and I guess I'm really
2 blessed and really happy I live way out here in the
3 middle of nowhere where I'm not near all this. So
4 thank you.

5
6 MS. FRITZ: Thank you, Esther. So if
7 there's no more questions on the Willow, just briefly --
8 you know, as I reported in February Olgoonik
9 Construction Services went down and did some Legacy
10 well remediation at the Wolf Creek Legacy wells kind of
11 directly west of Umiat. That was all completed. They
12 were contracted by the BLM to do that, to go out and
13 plug an abandoned five Legacy wells. They also cleaned
14 up any accessible or visible surface debris and it was
15 completed. We'll be going out to inspect and OCS will
16 also be going out to inspect this summer.

17
18 Those were the main kind of large
19 projects that we wanted to make sure people knew about
20 or invite you to provide input. As I mentioned
21 earlier, this first document, the large spreadsheet of
22 permitted activities, we invite you at any time to look
23 at the projects that are permitted or being permitted.
24 You can see if they're happening in your area and then
25 get a hold of us if you want any more information on
26 any of those projects.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
29 Stacey.

30
31 MS. HUGO: This is Esther.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Esther.

34
35 MS. HUGO: So with all the projects and
36 everything around the next area, I'm on Page 9 of the
37 map, we are really careful about the migration of the
38 Teshekpuk Herd. I suppose more monitoring or making
39 sure all this activity is not -- you know, they're not
40 hurting the herd. I just want to know that.

41
42 MS. FRITZ: Yeah, so the applicant, so
43 that's Conoco mainly.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please state your
46 name.

47
48 MS. FRITZ: Oh, I'm sorry.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please state your
2 name before you start.

3
4 MS. FRITZ: Sorry. This is Stacey
5 Fritz, BLM. The applicant is required to -- so there's
6 several layers of studies on the caribou as you may be
7 aware. ADF&G based out of Utqiagvik conducts annual
8 surveys. The details on this year's surveys are in
9 this spreadsheet. Conoco also contracts ABR to do a
10 lot of caribou surveys.

11
12 The other main requirement is that --
13 so it's actually originally the North Slope Borough
14 required that Conoco do a subsistence -- a Nuiqsut
15 caribou subsistence monitoring study annually for 10
16 years on the Alpine satellites. Now that these permits
17 have moved onto BLM land we are requiring those annual
18 Nuiqsut caribou monitoring subsistence studies to
19 continue. Those have been conducted by Steven R. Braun
20 & Associates. That level of study will continue.
21 That's the way we monitor the impacts to the
22 subsistence hunters in Nuiqsut, which does convey some
23 information about the availability of caribou in that
24 area. Then the collared caribou data and the aerial
25 surveys conducted by ADF&G that BLM and then ABR
26 participates in those. That's how we monitor the
27 caribou herds themselves.

28
29 So the good news is that the caribou
30 herd population is doing great. To date we have never
31 had any indication that this development is affecting
32 the abundance of the animals in that caribou herd or
33 altering their main migration routes. The only thing
34 that we predict may occur with this development near
35 Nuiqsut is that it would deter some animals from
36 traveling to areas closer to the community and the
37 Colville where people have traditionally harvested
38 them.

39
40 Now we have not even started to do an
41 analysis for the Willow development project. That
42 entire area is definitely right in one of the migration
43 paths of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. It doesn't
44 subsume their migration corridor but it is in their
45 migration corridor.

46
47 I'm not a caribou biologist and there
48 aren't any here, but the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd are
49 interesting in that they migrate around, but they
50

1 always stay up on the coast through the winter, which
2 is one of the reasons that Fish Creek has been such a
3 productive caribou hunting location.
4

5 Some of the indications are that people
6 are using the industry roads to get out to those areas
7 where it's mainly Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and are having
8 some success. All I can say is that there are numerous
9 agencies carefully monitoring the population of the
10 herd, whether their migration routes are impacted, and
11 you will certainly hear about our analyses for the
12 final GMT2 project and then as we move into analyzing
13 the Willow project.
14

15 MS. HUGO: Okay, thank you. This is
16 Esther again. I think it's about time after so many
17 years, 30-plus years, since we do depend on the
18 caribou, whether it's the Teshekpuk, the Western or the
19 Central, we do need somebody other than the Barrow
20 sites where they have their biologists. I think we are
21 overdue for our own up here for Anaktuvuk Pass. I know
22 maybe it might cost money for the Borough, but we need
23 that.
24

25 The information we get on our caribou
26 is from up north and that's, what, so many hundred
27 miles away. It doesn't really concern -- I mean the
28 caribou itself, yeah, but it's our area that we need
29 somebody to monitor, a biologist to tell us, hey, this
30 is what happens when a caribou don't migrate. We don't
31 hear this kind of stuff. We need to have our own
32 biologist other than one based in Barrow. Come on,
33 this is who we are and what we need.
34

35 Thank you.
36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.
40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Esther, I just wanted to follow up as well. We had put
43 in a request for Kyle Jolly, who is the caribou
44 biologist with the Gates of the Arctic National Park.
45 We'll try again to see if he might be able to address
46 the Council at the upcoming fall meeting. There's been
47 a little bit of challenges with the meeting overlapping
48 with his field work. Hopefully we'll be able to get
49 further updates from Kyle at the upcoming fall meeting
50

1 and we'll keep you posted on that.

2

3

Thank you.

4

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MS. HUGO: Thank you, Eva. This is Esther. Couldn't that guy just -- we've got a National Park two-story right across from the city. I don't see why we can't access that use for this biologist or somebody that can monitor in our area. Nowhere else. Just here. That's all we need. Thank you.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Esther. I'll certainly pass on that request to the National Park Service. They might have some feedback for you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question related to Willow. The community winter access trail. We're limited to try to connect over by 2P, which is I think south of Ocean Point and then connect to Meltwater. If Willow or GMT2 were part of the review for the community's needs, that would shorten the winter access trail by about 50 or 60 miles. Just keep that in mind. Those kind of projects that put in all season gravel roads should be looking to provide greater benefits, not just to the industry but to communities.

We're all trying to address the very high cost of living in our communities from Atkasuk to Wainwright to AKP. We've heard even from Kaktovik they now want to have a winter access trail program so that they can try to address some of these -- to go to the store or shopping in Fairbanks or something like that or buy a new vehicle.

The other one is food security issues. Should caribou -- for some reason there's a lot of variables involved. Need to start to think about mitigation measures. Things like maybe it might be good or necessary to look at reindeer herding, maybe a demonstration reindeer program on the North Slope or one of our communities or something like that. We hear these here and there and we need to start thinking about those kind of things as well.

Thank you.

MS. FRITZ: Thank you. This is Stacey Fritz with the BLM. As I'm sure Gordon is aware,

1 accessing the GMT1, GMT2, potential future Willow road,
2 the road access from Nuiqsut to those oil field roads
3 is only possible by using the privately-owned Kuukpik
4 Spur Road. So that's a privately-owned road and then
5 the oil field roads are also private roads. Right now
6 it's pretty explicit that it's only residents of
7 Nuiqsut who have a right of access to those roads. Any
8 planning to connect the community winter access trail
9 system to that I really think that it's the landowners
10 you'd have to negotiate with.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We understand that.
13 The environmental purposes of things like that, the
14 less that there's potential tundra damage to occur and
15 use all-season gravel road to connect to would be
16 highly beneficial. I'm just trying to express that.

17
18 MS. FRITZ: Right. I hear you. Well,
19 with the permission of the Chair, I think that wraps up
20 the BLM update unless there's any more questions.
21 There is a little language on here on the leasing plan
22 for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife
23 Refuge, but there has been scoping meetings in
24 Utqiagvik and other communities and upcoming ones in
25 Kaktovik and Venetie.

26
27 We will continue to update this
28 spreadsheet and make the most current version available
29 online. I will email that to my North Slope contact
30 list here in a week or so. Just once again invite
31 people if they have questions or concerns about any of
32 the projects listed on here. My information is on the
33 spreadsheet. Please feel free to contact me. Thank
34 you so much. It was really an honor for us to present
35 to the RAC and we thank you for your time.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much,
38 BLM. Eva, was there any other agenda items we needed
39 to address?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
42 Thanks to BLM for those comprehensive updates and
43 opportunity for discussion with the Council. We have
44 just one other thing on the agenda. That's a brief
45 update to follow up on the Fisheries Resource
46 Monitoring Program. At the winter meeting we had not
47 yet funding confirmation for projects that will be
48 funded for the North Slope Region. We have Karen Hyer
49 here, fisheries biologist for the North Slope Region.

50

1 We also have some ANSEP interns.

2

3 MS. HYER: No, we don't.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Oh, I'm sorry. We have
6 some student interns with us.

7

8 MS. HYER: No, we don't. We have
9 nothing. She's just here to listen.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just before we begin
12 I want to know what the wish of the Council is. It's a
13 quarter to noon. If there's a need to take a lunch
14 break. I don't know how long the fisheries
15 presentation will take place. Maybe you can give us
16 some indication how long that's going to take.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
19 This is a very brief update. Maybe five minutes, 10
20 minutes max.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So be it. Fisheries.
23 Karen.

24

25 MS. HYER: Good morning Mr. Chairman
26 and Council members. I'm just going to briefly update
27 you with what's happening with the Fisheries Resource
28 Monitoring Program. This is the part of our program
29 where we fund research and monitoring projects
30 throughout Alaska. If you remember back to previous
31 meetings, we came to you and we asked what the priority
32 information needs were and then that went out into a
33 call and investigators submitted proposals to us and
34 then they were reviewed. When we last met we didn't
35 have our budget, so we couldn't tell you what we were
36 going to fund of those successful proposals.

37

38 What we did is we ended up putting the
39 proposals in order and we start at the top and we fund
40 down to the line where we run out of funding. Funding
41 is allocated by area. So your area is the Northern
42 Area and it includes the RACs of Seward Peninsula,
43 Northwest Arctic and your RAC.

44

45 We now have our budget and we now know
46 how many of those research projects we can fund.
47 Starting over in Seward Peninsula -- we're funding
48 three in the Northern Area -- we're funding the
49 Unalakleet River chinook salmon escapement project.

50

1 That's an ongoing project on the Unalakleet River weir
2 where they're trying to estimate the escapement of
3 chinook. They've been having low returns and they're
4 very concerned about that run. Their final goal is they
5 hope to get enough information that they can actually
6 set an escapement goal on that river.

7
8 Currently for the chinook salmon on
9 that river it's entirely restricted to subsistence
10 harvest. There are no commercial harvest of those
11 fish. Then sport fish has also been severely
12 restricted on that river over concern of the chinook
13 salmon. So we are funding that project for four years
14 and that will operate the weir out of Unalakleet.

15
16 Then the next project we're going to
17 fund, moving east, so that would be in Northwest
18 Arctic, is a continuation of the genetics project on
19 the Kobuk River. The Wulik has one of the largest and
20 the most important Dolly Varden fisheries in that part
21 of the world, but those fish aren't from the Wulik.
22 They're from all over. So there is work being done to
23 try to figure out exactly where those populations are
24 originally from to get a handle on the genetic
25 diversity of the fish that are harvested out of the
26 Wulik.

27
28 So this is going to collect genetic
29 information on the Kobuk because we know Kobuk fish are
30 harvested on the Wulik, but we don't know how many.
31 It's to help develop the baseline. It's a very small
32 and simple project and they're collecting just this
33 summer they're trying to expand their genetic baseline.
34 So that's the second project we're funding in the
35 north.

36
37 The third project we're funding is
38 actually in your region and it is the arctic grayling
39 project that we've been talking about for quite a while
40 up there. They're going to use radio telemetry and
41 they're going to try to identify some seasonal habit in
42 the migration of the arctic grayling around the
43 Colville River. This project won't start until next
44 summer and the funds that they're allocating for this
45 year are going to be spent on outreach and project
46 development with the local community. This spring that
47 will start.

48
49 We're involving an ANSEP student in
50

1 this project and it's Kaelyn. She visited you not at
2 your -- it would be your fall meeting. She was a
3 Bridge student last year where she was moving from high
4 school to university and she's returning to us and
5 she's spending about six weeks working with the Office
6 of Subsistence Management and then from there she's
7 going to go up and work with our Fairbanks fisheries
8 office in Alaska Department of Fish and Game out of
9 Kiana and doing sheefish work and collecting
10 information on sheefish in that area.

11
12 Next spring -- she's going to work with
13 us this fall kind of in project development and then
14 next spring she can travel with us to do some of the
15 outreach and then she'll be incorporated into the
16 project next summer. Unfortunately she's sick today,
17 so she's not here. I was hoping I could introduce here
18 again to you. But that's all I have for the summary of
19 the FRMP project. I'm going to pause for a minute to
20 see if there's any questions.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MS. STALKER: Hi, Karen. This is
25 Kaelyn. I've been listening in.

26
27 MS. HYER: Oh, very awesome, Kaelyn.
28 Why don't you say hello to the RAC and just tell them a
29 little bit about what you're doing and how the last
30 school year went.

31
32 MS. STALKER: Hi, my name is Kaelyn
33 Stalker. This is my second year as an intern with Fish
34 and Wildlife and I'll be working here in the office for
35 the first part of my internship this summer and for the
36 second part I will be heading back to Kiana to work
37 with Fish and Game. They put me on the Nuiqsut project
38 so I'm excited about that.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's awesome.
43 Thank you. Does that complete your update?

44
45 MS. HYER: No. If there are no
46 questions, I just have one more thing I want to remind
47 the RAC about. This fall we're heading into another
48 round where we're developing priority information needs
49 to start this whole cycle all over again. We are going

50

1 to start working on developing those priority
2 information needs coming up over the summer.
3

4 The first thing we're going to do is
5 meet with the land managers and get some ideas from
6 them and then we're going to circle back around with
7 our working group and start our discussion. So we'll
8 be reaching out to you fairly soon. If we can't get
9 you as a group, we may be contacting you one on one to
10 solicit feedback so that when we meet in the fall we
11 have done the groundwork to initiate the conversation
12 about priority information needs for 2020.
13

14 Anyway, that's all I had. Thank you
15 very much for your time.
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen and
18 the ANSEP student. Thank you. All right, Eva.
19

20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
21 Thank you. Just to follow up on that too. As Karen
22 noted, we'll be contacting our Fisheries Resource
23 Monitoring Program Working Group, which was the
24 majority of Council members who were interested to
25 participate in that discussion. So I'll be following
26 up with you on that.
27

28 We plan to both engage the Council.
29 Part of Kaelyn's work also will be reaching out to the
30 community of Nuiqsut, so working with that community on
31 this Colville River grayling project. Rosemary has
32 provided a lot of feedback as well. The plans are to
33 engage both the school and the community and we'll be
34 following up with the Council for more communications
35 on that.
36

37 So this whole fall and to the spring of
38 next year will be primarily outreach and working with
39 the community before any research starts in that
40 region.
41

42 I just had one brief update for the
43 Council as well before we conclude. When the Council
44 met at the winter meeting.....
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You have one minute.
47

48 MS. PATTON: We're almost done. The
49 Federal Subsistence Board had not yet met to take
50

1 action on the wildlife proposals, so I just wanted to
2 let the Council know one of the proposals that was
3 passed was the permitting requirement. So similar to
4 the new State requirements for registration permit for
5 the harvest of caribou in the region. There will be
6 now a Federal subsistence requirement for harvest
7 permit.
8

9 The Council had raised some concerns
10 while supporting that information to provide more data
11 for understanding the subsistence harvest of caribou
12 and to assist the management. There were some concerns
13 that some communities -- individuals harvest for the
14 whole community or for many families and so we are
15 responding to those concerns both in your annual
16 report. We're available here to reach out to those
17 communities to let folks know the options either
18 through a designated harvest permit or through
19 community harvest permit.
20

21 So just wanted to alert the Council
22 that those regulations are scheduled to be enacted July
23 1st and we'll be in touch with more details on that and
24 also avenues for people to reach out for any questions
25 or opportunities for making sure that those traditional
26 ways of harvesting are able to continue.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That kind
31 of concludes the intent of the teleconference. Do we
32 have a motion to adjourn.
33

34 MS. HUGO: I so move. This is Esther.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
37 the floor to adjourn.
38

39 MR. SHEARS: Second.
40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. All those
42 wanting to adjourn signify by saying aye.
43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We are adjourned.
47 Thank you, everybody.
48

49 MS. PATTON: Wonderful. Thank you,
50

1 Council. Thank you to everyone who's participated.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Good information, Eva.

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Take care

7 everyone.

8

9 (Off record)

10

11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered____through
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13 NORTH SLOPE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME
14 III taken electronically on the 8th day of June 2018;

15

16 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
17 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
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21 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
22 interested in any way in this action.

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24 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 20th day of
25 June 2018.

26

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29 Salena A. Hile
30 Notary Public, State of Alaska
31 My Commission Expires:09/16/18

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