

SOUTHCENTRAL FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association  
Conference Room  
March 27, 2019  
Anchorage, Alaska  
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Encelewski, Chairman  
Aaron Bloomquist  
Eleanor Dementi  
Ed Holsten  
Andrew McLaughlin  
Michael Opheim  
Diane Selanoff  
Dan Stevens  
Gloria Stickwan  
John Whissel  
Dennis Zadra

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike  
DeAnna Perry

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

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/27/2019)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, good morning folks. We're going to go ahead and get started here. I got 9:00 o'clock so we'll come back in session here at the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, 27th of March. I remember the big earthquake on this day, and hopefully we don't have any of them but we'll go ahead and get started.

We're under agency reports and we're down to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I believe, Jeff, you're first on the docket here.

MR. ANDERSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name is Jeff Anderson. I work for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm the field supervisor at the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Soldotna. And in that role I've been delegated authority from the Federal Subsistence Board as the in-season manager for Federal subsistence fisheries in Cook Inlet.

And I think -- I was able to get a report into, a written report into DeAnna, yesterday I wasn't sure if it was actually going to -- I was going to be able to pull the numbers together and everything prior to the meeting or not so I didn't really schedule a time and I apologize I didn't have something sooner to actually get into the booklet, running just about a month behind on things, vis-a-vis the furlough and other things so it was a little late getting notices out to folks, a reminder letter for getting permits back in and just wrapped up the list of delinquent folks last week too.

So as far as I know these are pretty much the final numbers. And I would like to just briefly go over a couple of the numbers in the different tables. So Table 1 is just the number of permits issued by community and by river and I think there's about 10 more permits issued this year than last year so it actually seems to be leveling off a little bit after the initial spike when the community gillnet fisheries first came on line. And I don't know

1 if we'll see more folks or less folks this year but I  
2 think last year was around 358 and this year was a  
3 total of about 368 permits issued among all  
4 communities. And overall -- resulted in an overall  
5 harvest this year of about 4,389 salmon, most of them  
6 sockeye and split between -- most of them from the  
7 Kenai River. Residents of Cooper Landing harvested  
8 fish primarily in the dipnet fishery at the Russian  
9 River Falls and through rod and reel fisheries on the  
10 Russian River and upper Kenai River. Residents of Hope  
11 primarily harvested fish in the dipnet fishery at the  
12 Russian River Falls. And residents of Ninilchik  
13 harvested fish in the community gillnet fisheries on  
14 the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers primarily although some  
15 folks went up to the Russian River Falls and dipnetted  
16 on the Kasilof River, upper section, as well this year.  
17

18 That's actually down -- harvest is down  
19 about 100 fish from last year. I think last year there  
20 were about 4,400 fish harvested in all fisheries --  
21 4,400 sockeye harvested, excuse me, and all fisheries  
22 combined this year was down to about 43,150 [sic], part  
23 of that was likely due to the emergency special action  
24 I issued to close the Federal subsistence sockeye  
25 fishery, which also, you know, closed the harvest in  
26 the community gillnet fishery on the Kenai towards the  
27 end of the run when the sockeye -- the second run of  
28 sockeye on the Kenai just didn't show up until a little  
29 bit later too.  
30

31 Anyway, with that I'd be happy to  
32 answer any questions that the Council may have.  
33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.  
35

36 MS. STICKWAN: I think yesterday they  
37 said they saw king salmon in September 13th, did you  
38 guys notice that?  
39

40 MR. ANDERSON: Through the Chair. Ms.  
41 Stickwan. Yeah, I think that was a photo from the fish  
42 that was captured in the community gillnet fishery in  
43 2017 in September and I think based on run timing in  
44 the Kenai, the late run -- or late run chinook actually  
45 I think the peak spawning is probably in late August,  
46 early September so seeing, you know, fish on either end  
47 of that peak is not a huge surprise. I know there are  
48 fish that are entering the Kenai River, you know, and  
49 counted at the sonar at the lower river when they see  
50

1 separations in the middle of August. So there's likely  
2 fish that are still, you know, a few trickling in later  
3 over time. But, you know, I guess seeing runs coming  
4 in later is not necessarily unique to the Kenai River  
5 either.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go  
8 ahead, Andy.

9  
10 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, just a quick  
11 comment. Thank you, Chair.

12  
13 I've known of king to be caught about  
14 the middle of October there on the Kenai, too.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: For the Council,  
17 and for Jeff, I want to thank you for working with  
18 Ninilchik Traditional Council this year. I know that  
19 we had an early closure because of the lack of reds and  
20 I've been one that had some problems with the  
21 delegation of authorities in the past and Jeff really  
22 worked well. He actually kept the season open longer  
23 for us and he allowed us to fish and he actually had  
24 local knowledge and we actually had good input and then  
25 when we closed -- things worked out well. So we were  
26 able to get a lot more fish that way and it did work  
27 out okay that it got opened later.

28  
29 Go ahead, Ed.

30  
31 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, just one comment.  
32 First, I was kind of happy to see some NTC folks up at  
33 the falls this year.

34  
35 Second, to Jeff, we had some discussion  
36 -- normally we get one permit, I know you had some  
37 concerns that there may be more than one permit  
38 required depending on the area, we're talking about  
39 Cooper Landing at the falls; can you go into that a  
40 little bit or is it too premature?

41  
42 MR. ANDERSON: Through the Chair. Mr.  
43 Holsten. I think you might be referring to the  
44 proposed rule with the new regulations for Cook Inlet,  
45 and to be honest I don't know how those are going to  
46 actually -- what's actually coming out. I know I  
47 provided comments and input back in the fall at that  
48 point. I'm not sure what it's actually going to say.  
49 I know I'm going to start issuing permits on Monday.

50

1 Thanks.

2

3 MR. HOLSTEN: You'll have plenty of  
4 people there I'm sure.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions. Any  
9 other questions for Jeff.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you kindly.  
14 Good report. US Forest Service I got.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I was wondering  
17 if the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Staff's on line,  
18 if they want to provide an agency report.

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there  
21 anyone on there from the Kenai Refuge. Also I guess I  
22 better check in and see who's on the phone, hopefully  
23 we got our other Council members.

24

25 MR. OPHEIM: Michael's here.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

28

29 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, Dennis from Cordova  
30 is here.

31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

33

34 MR. ESKELIN: This is Todd Eskelin from  
35 the Kenai Refuge. We didn't have any reports but if  
36 the Council had any questions about moose harvest or  
37 anything I'm available.

38

39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, Todd,  
40 thanks.

41

42 Todd, we got a question for you, Andy  
43 would like to ask you a question.

44

45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, Todd, were you  
46 the one that flew that Kings Bay moose thing years ago,  
47 2014?

48

49 MR. ESKELIN: No, I think that's

50

1 probably a question for Milo. I think they contracted  
2 ADF&G to do that.

3

4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, Milo,  
7 I think you got it.

8

9 MR. BURCHAM: Good morning Council and  
10 Chair. Milo Burcham from the Chugach Forest.

11

12 Just to answer your question really  
13 quick, we contracted with Fish and Game. I don't know  
14 that it was Jeff Salinger that flew but someone out of  
15 his office did that survey and I don't recall the  
16 individual.

17

18 I think I'll go last and I'll introduce  
19 Jordan Rymer, law enforcement officer on the Kenai,  
20 that plays a role in our subsistence program, not just  
21 an enforcement role, and David Pearson, my counterpart  
22 on the Kenai. So I'll let those two go first.

23

24 MR. PEARSON: David Pearson, Chugach  
25 National Forest. Just an update from the Kenai side.

26

27 For the second year in a row we had 100  
28 percent harvest reports returned for both the moose and  
29 caribou hunt. And also helping Milo with the Prince  
30 William Sound fisheries harvest returns. They were  
31 pretty low on the onset of this year, but I think we're  
32 up to about 92 percent. And just so the Board knows --  
33 the Council knows, the kind of process we do, is, when  
34 we don't get harvest reports back I'll generally call  
35 everyone, at least on the Kenai side because there's  
36 usually under about 100 people. I'll call everyone and  
37 just remind them and then I'll give it a few weeks and  
38 I'll send out a reminder letter, I'll give it a few  
39 weeks, I send out another reminder letter and then  
40 after that point I'll restrict them the following year  
41 with the goal of just getting the harvest reports back,  
42 I don't want to restrict people. So I do put quite a  
43 bit of effort into getting those back and it's paid  
44 off. I spend quite a bit of time doing it.

45

46 MR. RYMER: Through the Chair. Jordan  
47 Rymer, US Forest Service Law Enforcement.

48

49 I just thought I'd update you guys on

50

1 some of the Russian River -- some of the subsistence  
2 things law enforcement's doing right now. So as far as  
3 the Russian River goes, mid-June we're going to be  
4 doing -- mid-June and mid-July we're going to be doing  
5 two separate two week details bringing in an extra law  
6 enforcement officer and working 12 hour shifts 14 days  
7 straight on the Russian River just contacting people,  
8 looking for violations and plan on putting a pretty  
9 good significant time in at the falls subsistence area  
10 making sure that, you know, subsistence users are the  
11 ones using that area, not sport fishermen.

12  
13 So, yeah, we'll be focusing on fishing  
14 violations as well as food closure violations and stuff  
15 like that.

16  
17 And then we're going to be doing  
18 Cordova subsistence patrol approximately two weeks in  
19 the beginning of September focused on State and Federal  
20 moose subsistence opener as well as sport and  
21 subsistence fishing out of Iback and Alganak. Last  
22 year we had a huge influx of non-locals, people coming  
23 out there sportfishing and issued several violations.  
24 So we're looking forward to being on those rivers again  
25 this year.

26  
27 So that's it for me.

28  
29 MR. PEARSON: And I'll actually add,  
30 we're going to have two other Forest Service employees  
31 come once a week through the falls area, the Russian  
32 River techs, they mainly spend most of their time on  
33 the lower Russian River. They're associated with the  
34 stream watch program and they're going to come up at  
35 least once a week and just contact everyone from the  
36 canyon up. So there'll be law enforcement and  
37 technicians kind of coming through that area this year.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Milo.

40  
41 MR. BURCHAM: Milo Burcham, subsistence  
42 lead for the Chugach. Donald Mike recently informed me  
43 that my presentations are usually rather windy or  
44 lengthy.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 MR. BURCHAM: I did not know I had that  
49 reputation here.

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1 (Laughter)

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3

MR. MIKE: No, very entertaining.

4

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(Laughter)

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MR. BURCHAM: Okay.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, I think he

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was right on.

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12

(Laughter)

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MR. BURCHAM: Well, I'm going to try to make this short but I'm going to save some time to give a quick presentation on the black bear, the cooperative project we're doing with Fish and Game on black bears in Prince William Sound.

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First of all the furlough kind of threw a wrench in things, you know, and we were told when we got back from the furlough that some things would have to come off of our plate because we lost roughly 10 percent of our year. In reality nothing has come off our plate, everything has been pushed into late March and April, including the meeting schedule and stuff like that. What it did effect slightly was the moose drawing. We had to have the Federal subsistence moose drawing in Cordova for Unit 6C and the deadline for the applications was January 15th, which was right in the middle of the furlough. I knew personally people who did not apply or were not able to apply because of it and so when I came back to work I talked to our District Ranger and OSM and we decided to extend it and held it for I think until February 15th, is how long we left it open, another month. And it resulted in more applications than we've ever had but I'd rather that than anybody miss out on the drawing. We received just over 1,100 applications for this years draw. We were offering 80 permits, 35 cows and 45 bulls and as quickly as we could, Dave helped go through the mountain of applications, to enter them, and I worked with State Troopers and city police department who are invaluable in checking -- making sure people qualify for the hunt by residency and stuff. So it's a cooperative project there.

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And, anyway, I think we had the results out during the first week of March, and it's greatly

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1     awaited by residents of Cordova who gets the permits  
2     and, anyway, it's a fun thing to see the results and  
3     see the smiles and the frowns as they show up when we  
4     announce this. And the word spreads like wild fire. I  
5     told somebody they were drawn just as I was going to  
6     announce the drawings, we tape them to our door and  
7     then I take them to Fish and Game and Native Village of  
8     Eyak and within minutes people on that list had  
9     received phone calls and are contacted. Literally six  
10    minutes somebody -- the person who I told they were  
11    drawn got their first phone call from somebody telling  
12    them they were drawn. That's about -- within 10  
13    minutes most people on that list know whether they got  
14    a permit or not. So it's pretty neat.

15  
16                   And we reviewed in the fall most of the  
17    population and survey results. We work with Fish and  
18    Game, either through contracts or direct participation  
19    in surveys for moose, deer and mountain goats, and I  
20    think I reported on those and even Charlotte Westing,  
21    the State local wildlife biologist reported on most of  
22    those, the status of those populations at the fall RAC  
23    meeting. I don't really have anything new to report.  
24    There was not good survey conditions for moose on the  
25    Delta and we got a good survey in last year. All these  
26    populations that we're hunting are doing quite well.

27  
28                   So with that I'll go to a quick review  
29    of a bear project. This is a cooperative project we're  
30    doing with Fish and Game. After realizing from  
31    multiple stakeholders throughout Prince William Sound  
32    that there seemed to be a problem, nobody was seeing  
33    bears, harvest was declining and it was, you know,  
34    begging something, you know, needed to be looked at.  
35    So in 2016 we pooled resources and they were modest  
36    resources and pulled together a project to look at  
37    black bear habitat use in Prince William Sound and try  
38    to look at some of the management implications.

39  
40                   The two areas that we chose as our  
41    study area are Esther Island to the north, and \*Knight  
42    Island to the south. Esther Island has a high harvest  
43    density, a lot of bears killed per square kilometer  
44    versus \*Knight Island which has a lower one. We wanted  
45    a contrast in there. And starting the summer of 2016  
46    we set to work trapping and radio collaring bears and  
47    we used snares, cable snares, either set in a bucket,  
48    this modified alddrich set like this, or a ground  
49    alddrich snare, which is, you know, on the trail set in  
50

1 this right here, so those are the methods we used to  
2 capture all our bears. And with a little bit of luck  
3 this is the kind of thing we would see when we checked  
4 our snares, here's a black bear that's caught in one of  
5 the M15 bucket sets.

6

7

And then we went to work.

8

9

A lot of people helped with this  
10 project. We would tranquilize bears, the number 1  
11 priority was to get a radio collar on it but since we  
12 had a bear down we got lots of biological measurements,  
13 we got genetic samples that will aid genetic work that  
14 the research branch of Fish and Game is planning on  
15 doing in both Prince William Sound and Kachemak Bay.  
16 And within an hour to an hour and a half we could  
17 reverse the drugs and the bears would be up and on  
18 their way. Here I am placing a collar on a bear.  
19 These are GPS satellite collars and they are  
20 transmitting data to a satellite and I get it at my  
21 computer every other day from each bear, it generates  
22 and email with a Google Earth file showing where they  
23 are.

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Just to give you progress of where we  
are and what we've accomplished so far. So for the  
last three summers, and we've basically concluded our  
trapping and radio collaring of bears at this point,  
this past summer we captured 43 bears, in 2018. But we  
had a total of 106 captures of 96 different individuals  
over the three years. This graph shows all six of our  
trapping trips and this is a boat-based operation in a  
remote area of Prince William Sound. The first two  
green bars are the 2016 trapping trips and the number  
of bears caught. The middle bars are the 2017 trips,  
those were both to \*Knight Island. And then the two  
red ones are the 2018 trips.

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We got better and better.

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We were learning along the way and by  
the end we felt like we had really learned a lot and  
were pretty good at capturing bears.

This is a summary of all our captures  
and where they took place and the number of collars we  
got out. We deployed 53 of these satellite GPS  
collars. We've had some attrition, both from hunter  
mortality, natural or unknown mortality and a few

1 collars that have just gone off the air. But it looks  
2 like we have around 44 live collars now. Actually two  
3 of those we know are failed and we might try to replace  
4 in dens next week. We have a little bit of field work  
5 coming up.

6  
7 This shows where our captures took  
8 place. It's the same graph with the number of bears  
9 caught per trip but we concentrated on Esther Island in  
10 2016, on \*Knight Island in 2017, and then this past  
11 year we split it to kind of round out our sample and  
12 make sure we had a good sample on both islands and  
13 finished up with one trip to \*Knight, and then another  
14 one to Esther Island.

15  
16 This is too early to really review  
17 data. We're just basically finishing the field and  
18 capture and radio collaring phase of the project. But  
19 this is the sort of data that we're getting. And I'm  
20 going to show just some interesting results that help  
21 explain some of the bear problems that a lot of  
22 SouthCentral, especially Cordova witnessed last year.

23  
24 This is the sort of home range data  
25 that we're getting from our collared bears. We have  
26 over 40,000 locations so far from bears from both  
27 Esther and \*Knight Islands. This shows the home ranges  
28 of female bears on Esther Island and it's amazingly how  
29 concise and how compact those home ranges are and how  
30 they don't overlap very much. We thought we knew these  
31 bears pretty well, but we -- and this is the sort of  
32 home range as we can draw, this includes males in this,  
33 in which some of the males have very large -- or much  
34 larger home ranges. But we thought we knew these bears  
35 pretty well before this past summer, 2018, especially  
36 the females with these real tight home ranges, you  
37 know, not covering very much ground, but we noticed  
38 something very interesting, starting the end of July  
39 last year and here's three bears that illustrate it  
40 very well, and these were in that original Esther  
41 Island map; for the first three seasons that we  
42 followed this bear, 25, it's home range looked like  
43 this, that was the rest of 2016 after the capture, all  
44 of 2017 and 2018 prior to late July, that was her known  
45 universe to us. But after late July her home range  
46 looked like that. And that taken by itself might not  
47 mean that much but here's another bear, Bear 13, it's  
48 whole world, you know, as far as we knew it looked like  
49 this prior to late July this year, and then it looked

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1 like this afterwards. She was one of the first bears  
2 that we saw leave Esther Island, which is a short swim,  
3 but no bears had left it, none of our collared bears  
4 had. And then another female on the north end of  
5 Esther Island, her home range looked like this for the  
6 first three seasons of the project and then it did  
7 this, all the way up to CogHill, and then all these  
8 bears went back to their original home ranges  
9 amazingly. But we don't know, you know, the exact  
10 reasons but I think they're relatively obvious. There  
11 was most likely a resource failure, a berry crop  
12 failure, and bears that are usually able to live their  
13 lives in a small little piece of ground went on  
14 walkabouts, you know, trying to find resources, you  
15 know, berries. And this explains probably what we saw  
16 in a lot of our communities. It's not like the bear  
17 population grew by leaps and bounds overnight, most  
18 likely these bears all over the landscape started  
19 wondering and they started bumping into places where  
20 food was available and Cordova was one of them. We  
21 learned a lot of lessons this summer and a lot of bears  
22 died as a result of these bears coming into town.  
23

24 So that explains, I think, a lot of  
25 what SouthCentral Alaska saw, you know, these bears  
26 coming into town.  
27

28 We're doing a little bit of den work,  
29 but it's basically just to keep our collars active.  
30 Last spring we went up to four dens and replaced  
31 collars on bears in three dens. We're also putting  
32 some trail cameras at den sites to document cub  
33 production. The study area is remote, it's hard to get  
34 this data from our bears but we're doing the best we  
35 can, piece by piece, and one way we can do that is to  
36 put these cameras at dens but logistically it's pretty  
37 tough. And we're doing some flights. But the bears --  
38 the sightability is relatively low and trying to get  
39 cub counts from the air, but we're trying to piece that  
40 together as best we can. In 2018, yeah this spring --  
41 last spring, we went to four dens and replaced collars  
42 on three bears and next week we plan to go out and  
43 replace two failed collars on a male and a female.  
44

45 This is what happens when you crawl  
46 into a tight crevasse with a flashlight and peer at a  
47 bear in a den. It's pretty exciting work but they're  
48 actually pretty docile and sluggish and a lot of den  
49 work has been done so it all went very smoothly. And  
50

1 one den had little cubs in it, and you can see in the  
2 inset right there.

3  
4 This project is probably most well  
5 known for this infamous case that we discovered. Last  
6 spring, sort of serendipitously we placed a camera on a  
7 tree to document this female's cub production. This is  
8 her the previous spring at the entrance of a den. They  
9 spend a couple weeks at the entrance of their den  
10 before they start walking around in the spring. But,  
11 anyway, this female, the following -- the last spring  
12 was in a den and when we were putting the camera  
13 outside of her den we heard bawling inside, you know,  
14 from little cubs. This is the one who's case has made  
15 national and international news where a man and his son  
16 from the Valley poached the female. It's not illegal  
17 to kill a bear in a den but it is illegal to kill a  
18 bear with cubs and he did not know she had cubs at the  
19 time, but then proceeded to kill both cubs and you've  
20 probably all read about this in the paper.

21  
22 So future work.

23  
24 What we're doing now, we're entering  
25 the analysis phase of the project. We will replace  
26 collars as needed, which will be mostly den work in the  
27 springs as we find out that different collars have  
28 failed. A lot of times the GPS or the satellite  
29 antennas on these collars will fail but they'll  
30 continue to transmit a VHF signal so that allows us to  
31 pinpoint the den and go in and put a new collar on on  
32 these bears. So we're going to try to keep as many as  
33 going for as long as we can. The final collars will  
34 drop off in the fall of 2021. The first batch will  
35 fall off this fall, October 2019, the ones we deployed  
36 in 2016.

37  
38 We have weather stations on Esther  
39 Island, which are cameras and measuring stakes that  
40 will monitor snow depth, we'll keep on doing that  
41 through the project. We'll have some field trips to  
42 retrieve dropped collars, as they drop off in batches  
43 in the fall of the coming years, and data analysis and  
44 reports where we can really look at the data and start  
45 analyzing habitat use and patterns and their  
46 vulnerability to hunting, using shoreline habitats, you  
47 know, which are some of our major goals of the project.

48  
49 This is Charlotte and I with bear

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1 number 94, we ended up handling 96 individuals. I want  
2 to say that this project is an amazing partnership with  
3 Fish and Game and it's drawing on expertise from both  
4 agencies and we're learning a lot and, you know,  
5 bringing a lot to the table, you know, both parties to  
6 pull this off. And logistically it's tough. We're  
7 working in a remote area, we're trying to overcome  
8 shoreline bias of trapping, you know, from a boat by  
9 bringing, you know, half of our, or up to a third of  
10 our trap locations at least a half mile inland. So,  
11 anyway, it's taken a lot more than just she and I to do  
12 this. And this is just a few pictures of some of the  
13 crews that have helped. But we have a good 20 people,  
14 you know, everyone at this table and elsewhere, from  
15 both agencies, working together to make this happen.  
16 So it's a collaborative and a group affair making this  
17 work, but it's been a lot of fun too.

18  
19 Yeah.

20  
21 MS. DEMENTI: When you dart them how  
22 long do they sleep? (No microphone)

23  
24 MR. BURCHAM: About an hour to an hour  
25 and a half. And we're using a drug mixture with less  
26 tielasol and another drug called dexmetatomadine and  
27 the dexmetatomadine is reversible. So after about an  
28 hour to an hour and 15 minutes or 30 minutes you'll  
29 start seeing some signs of recovery and then you can  
30 give them the reversal and sometimes they're up in  
31 minutes after they've received the reversal.

32  
33 MS. DEMENTI: Have you noticed any  
34 effects on them? (No microphone)

35  
36 MR. BURCHAM: No. We're not able to  
37 observe them very far after the -- after we've handled  
38 them, but other projects have observed that, and looked  
39 at the impacts of these drugs in more detail than we  
40 have, but they're deemed to be a really safe drug  
41 combination for wildlife and for bears in general. So  
42 I think the effects are minimal.

43  
44 MS. DEMENTI: Thank you. (No  
45 microphone)

46  
47 MR. BURCHAM: Was that too long?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It was good.

50

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: It was good.

2  
3 (Laughter)

4  
5 MR. BURCHAM: Okay.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.  
8 Andy's got a question for you.

9  
10 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

11  
12 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I got a few  
13 questions. Are you doing the pregnancy test or.....

14  
15 MR. BURCHAM: We're taking.....

16  
17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: .....blood samples.

18  
19 MR. BURCHAM: .....blood samples but  
20 not for that reason, we're not testing that for  
21 pregnancy.

22  
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: How do you know which  
24 den to go look for cubs, are you just getting sows.

25  
26 MR. BURCHAM: We're not looking for  
27 cubs. So we want to find out -- we wish we knew all of  
28 the females, whether they had cubs or not every year,  
29 but we're not able to do that. We're chipping away at  
30 it by one putting cameras at dens, you know, two,  
31 flying a little bit, and then, you know, we find out  
32 when we've trapped and handled the bear whether they're  
33 lactating or not. And in some cases we've had cubs,  
34 you know, in trees nearby. But we're just having to  
35 piece that together as best we can. Logistically it's  
36 too tough, like, to put cameras at every den of every  
37 female and, yeah, when we handle the bears, through  
38 lactation we can generally tell whether they have cubs  
39 or not. They wouldn't be pregnant at the time, or --  
40 well -- no, I'm wrong about that, they would have got  
41 -- they have delayed implantation, they would have made  
42 it and, you know, not started developing their young  
43 yet until they go into the den. But, no, we're not  
44 testing that way.

45  
46 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Would it be possible  
47 to look at their blood for the genectropin and see if  
48 they are.

49  
50

1 MR. BURCHAM: I don't know that but  
2 we're not. We haven't explored that.

3  
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And are you doing DNA  
5 testing of that.....

6  
7 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, well.....

8  
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: .....so you can see  
10 where dispersal goes?

11  
12 MR. BURCHAM: We're handing all the  
13 samples over to the research division of Fish and Game  
14 for a genetic study that they're planning on doing that  
15 will get at some connectiveness of the populations or,  
16 you know, the bears around Prince William Sound and  
17 possibly even using techniques that could estimate  
18 numbers in Prince William Sound.

19  
20 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Okay. A couple more  
21 questions.

22  
23 Are you seeing what was kind of  
24 suspected when all those -- the numbers started  
25 dropping, it's like maybe the bores in the spring are  
26 down at the beaches where they're getting shot off and  
27 the sows are up high with the cubs, is there a  
28 dispersal of elevation preference in the spring that  
29 you were suspecting for?

30  
31 MR. BURCHAM: It's too early for us --  
32 we've only barely started to look at that. And that's,  
33 you know, one of the major goals of the project, you  
34 know, in looking at the habitat use and the use of  
35 shoreline habitats and it's too early to make any  
36 comments on that right now.

37  
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Do your GPS' show  
39 elevation?

40  
41 MR. BURCHAM: Well, they show exact  
42 locations and then we have.....

43  
44 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, okay.

45  
46 MR. BURCHAM: .....models of the  
47 islands so, yeah, we would get at that very readily.

48  
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: And then one other

50

1 question. So when they're coming in and out of the  
2 dens, I've seen dens where it's like a star, where they  
3 go this way, back in, muddy tracks coming out of there  
4 go every direction, are you seeing any type of weather  
5 events that make them return back to hibernate for  
6 awhile again?  
7

8 MR. BURCHAM: I can't correlate it to  
9 weather events. For that two or three weeks that most  
10 bears spend before they start wandering around, they  
11 are going in and out of their dens, and we even have  
12 cameras, you know, showing some of that on some of  
13 those dens that we put cameras on.  
14

15 One thing that's kind of interesting,  
16 is, we're not checking most of these cameras until the  
17 following fall and we have bears going in and out of  
18 dens all summer. And we've also seen things like,  
19 well, mink, river otters, martin, go in and out of  
20 dens, I don't know if it's curiosity or what, you know,  
21 throughout the summer season. And bears, not just the  
22 ones that use that -- that hibernated in that den but  
23 other bears checking them out through the season also.  
24

25 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: So one more thing.  
26 Are you seeing any like middle of January, I've had  
27 bears come steal martin out of traps in January after a  
28 lot of rain, so are you seeing where in the middle of  
29 winter some actually come out and do their thing and go  
30 back in?  
31

32 MR. BURCHAM: We've had a few hits  
33 through winter but to save battery life on our  
34 transmitters, our collars are programmed to go into a  
35 reduced transmission mode starting November 15th and  
36 they'll go back into summer mode on April 1st. So  
37 we're less likely to pick it up. I think they're only  
38 trying to hit satellites once a week through the winter  
39 and they would have to be out when it's trying, you  
40 know, at that moment, so the probability of capturing  
41 those, you know, brief exits from a den in the winter  
42 are low so we're probably missing some of that. But  
43 we're not seeing much of it.  
44

45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: But your cameras work  
46 all winter long every day?  
47

48 MR. BURCHAM: Well, we don't have very  
49 many cameras out. Just selectively or  
50

1 opportunistically we've put cameras at a few dens of  
2 females in the spring and we've checked them in the  
3 fall, you know, to check on cub production.

4

5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I saw Aaron  
6 first.

7

8 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Thanks. Super  
9 interesting that -- I'm kind of a bear junkie, I deal  
10 with bears in all corners of the state, I guess.

11

12 And just one question to build on what  
13 Andy was saying, have you had what you would consider a  
14 hard winter in Prince William Sound during this study.  
15 I guess I don't really.....

16

17 MR. BURCHAM: No.

18

19 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Okay.

20

21 MR. BURCHAM: There have been nothing  
22 but mild winters. I was looking for this graph I was  
23 going to throw in in this presentation just now but I  
24 didn't have it with me. What we've done is summed up  
25 the ages. We've just got our ages of all our bears now  
26 and I summed up the ages of all the bears we captured  
27 and then I sort of sorted them by year class because  
28 the ones that we caught, you know, that were two years  
29 old in 2016 were four years old if we caught them again  
30 -- anyway, what I did is I counted for the age  
31 distribution, or the age classes that we were catching  
32 and of all the bears we caught, 96 different bears that  
33 we've caught, the younger age classes should be most  
34 common and then the older ones should taper off, we  
35 don't have any bears -- we never caught a bear that was  
36 born in 2011. And if you remember snowpocalypse that  
37 was the fall of 2011 and the spring of 2012, so there's  
38 a possibility that cubs that were born in 2011, which  
39 should have been normal population in normal  
40 conditions, cubs born that year that went into their  
41 dens and should have emerged as yearlings either didn't  
42 emerge or didn't survive the next spring, so we seem to  
43 be missing that age class, at least in our captured  
44 sample and we have very few cubs that were born in  
45 2012, which was, you know, immediately following  
46 snowpocalypse. So that seems to have had an effect.

47

48 But we were -- harvest was declining  
49 around five percent per year in the years leading up to

50

1 that and there was as many as 500 bears being taken per  
2 year, prior to the -- you know, in like 2004, '05, '06  
3 in that time period, which was starting to show some  
4 effects and snowpocalypse seemed to, you know, an even  
5 greater effect on top of all that.

6  
7 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, thanks. That's  
8 exactly what I was getting at. You know, I've seen it  
9 from that same winter and actually the following winter  
10 was really hard in some areas of the state, too, all  
11 the way from the farthest northeast Arctic to Togiak  
12 there was a big decline that all of us that spend a ton  
13 of time around bears have seen and I was just curious.

14  
15 MR. BURCHAM: Uh-huh.

16  
17 MR. BLOOMQUIST: I was trying to get at  
18 what you said and I didn't know how to ask the question  
19 so thank you.

20  
21 MR. BURCHAM: Yes.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John.

24  
25 MR. WHISSEL: Yeah, Milo, so a quick  
26 question about your collars. I'm assuming you're able  
27 to log -- they log information and locations so that if  
28 you have their antenna damaged and can't transmit,  
29 that, if you're able to recover it you can still get  
30 all that information.

31  
32 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, they store on board  
33 all the locations and activity reading, every five  
34 minutes for the three year life of the collar and  
35 temperature data twice a day, which is just what our  
36 settings happen to be. And we've only chosen to have  
37 the location data transmitted by satellite, all the  
38 rest is stored on board.

39  
40 MR. WHISSEL: Have you had any of those  
41 just go dark and not be recoverable?

42  
43 MR. BURCHAM: The handful of failed  
44 collars that we recovered so far, and there's not very  
45 many, one of them had data throughout the time, even  
46 after it had failed, the other one had an extra two  
47 days of data stored on it and the other one didn't have  
48 anything other -- in addition to what we already  
49 received through the satellite, so it seems to be

50

1 variable.

2

3 MR. WHISSEL: Right. So you think  
4 damaged, hit the receiver.

5

6 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Yeah.

7

8 MR. WHISSEL: Okay, thanks. The other  
9 question is, I'm kind of a bear junkie too and  
10 that's.....

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 MR. WHISSEL: .....honestly that's one  
15 of my favorite subsistence foods is these black bears  
16 that get fed on berries and boy if they're not doing  
17 that, you know, last summer on, the concern I have is  
18 you continually kind of putting the idea in our heads  
19 that you're piecing this together with a bit of money  
20 from here and a bit of money from there and I honestly  
21 think this is some of the most important work going on  
22 right now. Because, A, you started this from a  
23 population in decline, or the assumption of a  
24 population in decline from reduced harvest, right.....

25

26 MR. BURCHAM: Uh-huh.

27

28 MR. WHISSEL: .....and trying to get at  
29 those. And you've stumbled into this really anomalous  
30 season where some real information has been collected  
31 about how bears react to shortages. So congratulations  
32 on that. What I'd like to see is you able to plan this  
33 project out for many years and not spend half that time  
34 trying to piece together small bits of money to do it.  
35 So do you have an idea of how this Council could help  
36 support you guys put together a pile of funding to  
37 prioritize work like this?

38

39 MR. BURCHAM: We do have, you know,  
40 funding in the Forest Service to fund projects like  
41 this. Even though it was modest funding we pulled off  
42 everything that we had hoped to with this. I mean it  
43 would be neat for it to go on and on but, you know, it  
44 is expensive and it's a toll on our personal lives, you  
45 know, also. The last three summers have kind of  
46 cleaned our clocks with these, you know, not just 10  
47 day trapping trips but the baiting that goes up before  
48 those and, you know, all the other maintenance and  
49 stuff like that. I think, you know, we designed this

50

1 project to answer the questions that we had and we  
2 think we can do it in this time period, you know, by  
3 capturing 100 bears and following these 53 bears for  
4 over three years so I think it was designed to answer  
5 our questions and as neat as it would be to keep it on,  
6 I think we'll have good answers, management answers,  
7 and then this complimentary study that Fish and Game is  
8 doing with genetics is -- I haven't heard details of  
9 where that is right now, they weren't able to start it  
10 last year but I think they're going to try to start it  
11 this year could answer some other questions like  
12 populations and connectivity of the populations.

13  
14 MR. WHISSEL: My concern more is that  
15 if berry failures continue.....

16  
17 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

18  
19 MR. WHISSEL: .....what may happen and  
20 tracking bears may be really important if the shortages  
21 continue and the resources.....

22  
23 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

24  
25 MR. WHISSEL: Anyway, thanks.

26  
27 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Gloria.

30  
31 MS. STICKWAN: Ahtna Corporation is  
32 doing a study in bears in GMU 13.....

33  
34 MR. BURCHAM: Uh-huh.

35  
36 MS. STICKWAN: .....because there's no  
37 bear studies done there on State lands. It'd be nice  
38 to get a copy of your study and share it with the  
39 biologists at Ahtna.

40  
41 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah.

42  
43 MS. STICKWAN: They're doing snares or  
44 getting bears, with snares, I think they're snares.

45  
46 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah. Yeah.

47  
48 MS. STICKWAN: Yeah, and they're doing  
49 genetic studies, getting the fur and mailing it out,  
50

1 taking it out.

2

3 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I'd be happy to  
4 talk.....

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: Well, they're doing it  
7 by putting a line across and the bears get their fur  
8 stuck on the line and then they just take whatever fur  
9 they have on that line and they're taking it and  
10 studying it so it'd be interesting to see your report  
11 and share it with them.

12

13 MR. BURCHAM: Yeah, I'd be happy to.  
14 And if any of your biologists want to talk to us,  
15 either Charlotte Westing or myself, about our methods  
16 or equipment or whatever, we'd be happy to help.

17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy,  
19 one more.

20

21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. Is  
22 there a correlation similar to like lynx and snowshoe  
23 hare, if you could use like the deer population with  
24 your pellet counts on the deer and a correlation to  
25 bear following. Because in the villages people see  
26 higher atrophic level things, like predator prey  
27 relationships and wondering if the bear population  
28 decline also had to do with the snowpocalypse, not only  
29 just the extra den stress but the lack of food  
30 resources because some years you call in more bear than  
31 deer, you know, because they're coming in for a deer  
32 meal. So I know it's a heavy duty food source of  
33 theirs. Can you use deer population to say what's gong  
34 to happen in the future for bears?

35

36 MR. BURCHAM: I guess I'd have to think  
37 about it, you know, we don't know much about either  
38 population as far as numbers go, our deer transects are  
39 getting at trends, you know, whether a population's  
40 increasing, decreasing, or staying the same and it  
41 doesn't get at numbers and no one knows how many bears  
42 are out there and we have some anecdotal things like  
43 harvest, you know, that are indicating that, you know,  
44 what we thought was a declining population. We could  
45 look at that and think about it but, you know, they're  
46 both -- both data sets are pretty loose as far as, you  
47 know, really trying to nail something like that down  
48 like that.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other  
2 questions.

3  
4 (No comments)

5  
6 MR. BURCHAM: Thank you very much.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Good  
9 information.

10  
11 How about we got the National Park  
12 Service next. We got Wrangell-St. Elias Park and  
13 Preserve and then we'll have the Denali.

14  
15 Go ahead Dave.

16  
17 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning, this is  
18 Dave Sarafin, fishery biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias,  
19 and I believe Barbara Cellarius is on the phone too.  
20 I'll start with the fish report and then Barbara will  
21 take over with wildlife and the anthropology report.

22  
23 So I think you've all gotten the  
24 reports from us. I don't think they made it in the  
25 book but you have them.

26  
27 So starting out with the fish weirs.  
28 You're well aware of losing funding and we have  
29 submitted a proposal for the 2020 FRMP call for funding  
30 so that's in the records now to get considered for  
31 future funding there. For 2019 we are discussing with  
32 AITRC for possibilities for cooperation to keep it  
33 running for 2019, so that's in the works right now.

34  
35 Last year we did run Tanada Creek Weir  
36 and ended up with a count of 6,941 so that's on the --  
37 the past counts are on Table 1.

38  
39 And we've got an ongoing burbot project  
40 also going on and last year we investigated the  
41 population in Grizzly Lake as a followup. And ended up  
42 with an estimate of 991, which is pretty comparable to  
43 the 2014, but, then again it's much lower than 2011.  
44 And we have two more years remaining on that project.  
45 So one lake a year we'll be doing.

46  
47 And for the Copper River fisheries,  
48 subsistence fisheries, 2018. You have on Tables 2  
49 through 4 are.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Dave, if I may, I  
2 didn't want to interrupt you, but I think we're missing  
3 some reports you thought we had.  
4

5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I neglected to  
6 remind the Council that in your supplemental materials  
7 in the back there's a National Park Service report that  
8 begins on Page 34.  
9

10 My apologies.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

13 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Donald, I didn't get  
14 the supplemental portion.  
15

16 (Pause)  
17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead,  
19 Dave, sorry about that.  
20

21 MR. SARAFIN: So continuing on the 2018  
22 Federal subsistence fishery for the Copper River,  
23 there's tables, Pages 4 through 6 of past harvest for  
24 each subdistrict and the Batzulnetas area.  
25

26 In 2018, so the sockeye salmon return  
27 it was extremely low, especially during the early  
28 season. The State took early and mid-season management  
29 actions intended to limit the harvest in the State  
30 fisheries affecting the run, except for the subsistence  
31 fishery near Cordova. A trend of increasing run  
32 strength was observed as the season progressed, and the  
33 final sonar count ended up 17 percent above their  
34 management objective for that date. So preliminary  
35 assessments are still -- you know, it indicates the  
36 lower bound of the wild stock sockeye salmon  
37 sustainable escapement goal was likely achieved. We're  
38 still assessing final harvest levels that affect -- of  
39 that assessment.  
40

41 For 2019, the Alaska Department of Fish  
42 and Game's preseason forecast, a return of 55,000  
43 Copper River chinook, which is roughly 20 percent above  
44 the recent 10 year average. Their forecast for wild  
45 sockeye salmon 1.4 million is roughly 31 percent below  
46 the 10 year average. And the total sockeye salmon  
47  
48  
49  
50

1 return is 1.5 million as a forecast, which is lower  
2 than the 2018 preseason forecast of 1.8 million.

3  
4 So management is anticipated to be  
5 precautionary during the early season until run  
6 strength indicators become available for evaluation.

7  
8 2019 early season management strategy  
9 for Federal fisheries. By regulation the upper Copper  
10 River district is scheduled to open May 15th to  
11 September 30th. In the past we have done special  
12 actions affecting the Federal fishery in the Chitina  
13 subdistrict, to periodically open and close it,  
14 consistent with the State fishery. Last year was the  
15 first year that we departed from that and went with  
16 continuous fishing after an early season delay of May  
17 15th to June 1. So harvest in the subdistrict by  
18 Federal users has still been extremely low. We did get  
19 an increase last year of harvest and users, some of  
20 which indicated they switched from Glennallen to  
21 Chitina. Some users prefer harvesting by dipnet as  
22 opposed to fishwheel so it provided them extra  
23 opportunity and we've had -- we have gotten no negative  
24 concerns brought up about this. Some minor enforcement  
25 complications maybe but no big issues. And we have  
26 received some very positive comments from -- a limited  
27 number of individuals that were very happy to be  
28 provided the opportunity to fish there when the masses  
29 from the urban areas weren't there. So I think that  
30 was a deterrent from past uses of Federal users, by  
31 having the crowds there and they like to be able to get  
32 away from that. And for plans for this year, we're  
33 evaluating whether that early season delay is justified  
34 this year, given the low level of harvest and usage  
35 that the Federal users are incurring in that area.

36  
37 One other add-on that I didn't have on  
38 here is we do have the proposals that we discussed last  
39 fall that'll get considered by the Federal Board. If  
40 there's any additional questions on that aspect, too,  
41 I'm here to answer.

42  
43 And I think that pretty much concludes  
44 the fish report and open to any kind of questions.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right.  
47 Questions for Dave.

48  
49 Go ahead.

50

1 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Hey, Dave. We've had,  
2 I guess, some concern over the boat dipnetting  
3 situation and I think it's mostly probably on the State  
4 subsistence side, but is there any way you guys can  
5 capture whether people are using a boat, or doing it  
6 from the bank. Is that something you could put in your  
7 reports or something.  
8

9 MR. SARAFIN: We don't have a -- it's  
10 not included in the harvest reports or permit  
11 conditions or anything, as far as -- you know, like  
12 with hunting it says what method they use.  
13

14 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Right.  
15

16 MR. SARAFIN: We don't have that on our  
17 reports. It may be something to consider if that could  
18 get added on there. You know, we do have method,  
19 dipnet.....  
20

21 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Right.  
22

23 MR. SARAFIN: .....fishwheel. It --  
24 yeah, it's a new concern that's developed relative, and  
25 I think it relates a lot to likely the shift in usage  
26 occurring with the State fishermen.  
27

28 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I'm just kind of  
29 curious, how many Federal fishermen use that method,  
30 you know, and it'd be interesting to have it on the  
31 form so we could parse that out.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Other  
34 questions, fisheries, for Dave.  
35

36 (No comments)  
37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I guess we're  
39 good on that.  
40

41 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning, this is  
42 Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell-St.Elias.  
43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,  
45 Bar.....  
46

47 MS. CELLARIUS: I am the subsistence  
48 coordinator.....  
49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,  
2 Barbara.

3  
4 MS. CELLARIUS: .....and I'm in Copper  
5 Center, and if there's no questions -- no more  
6 questions for Dave I can cover the wildlife and  
7 anthropology report.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Barbara, I  
10 have.....

11  
12 MS. CELLARIUS: That could be a  
13 separate -- a separate report in your packet, in the  
14 supplemental materials.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Barbara, this is  
17 Greg. I've got one last question for Dave before I get  
18 to you. I didn't see Dan's hand.

19  
20 MS. CELLARIUS: Okay.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dan.

23  
24 MR. STEVENS: It isn't really a  
25 question, it's just a comment. I live there in Chitina  
26 and I see the advantage of shutting off the personal  
27 use and everybody else at the same -- you know, until  
28 what we did the last year, it made a big difference in  
29 our fishing on the wheels.

30  
31 That's the only comment I wanted to  
32 make.

33  
34 Sorry, Barbara.

35  
36 MS. CELLARIUS: Not a problem. It's  
37 hard being out here in teleconference land, I can't see  
38 people who are waving their hand.

39  
40 MR.SARAFIN: So in response to Dan.  
41 Yeah, those were State actions that occurred in  
42 regulating the fishery, in Chitina there, based off of  
43 the run level that was coming in and run indicators and  
44 their management associated with that.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

47  
48 MS. STICKWAN: I was just wondering,  
49 you know, Ahtna doesn't consider fishing with boats to

50

1 be customary and traditional, you know, like John said  
2 we used a platform traditionally to use dipnets over  
3 100 years ago, that's how we fished. We don't consider  
4 that to be customary and traditional.  
5

6 I would like to know how hard it would  
7 be to have on your permit, whether they -- how they get  
8 their fish, do they use a boat to go out there, how  
9 hard would that be to put on the permit and check that?  
10

11 MR. SARAFIN: That is something I will  
12 discuss with OSM Staff, who have -- you know we work  
13 directly with them with the permit and conditions and  
14 the permit database and harvest reports, so I could  
15 discuss that -- I will discuss that with them and see  
16 if we could put that on there.  
17

18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Eleanor.  
19

20 MS. DEMENTI: (No microphone) I was  
21 wondering if you could limit.....  
22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Microphone.  
24

25 MS. DEMENTI: (No  
26 microphone).....number of boats (no microphone)  
27

28 MR. SARAFIN: I don't believe we'd have  
29 any authority to limit the number of boats and I don't  
30 know if even the State would have that ability to do  
31 that, I'm not sure.  
32

33 MS. DEMENTI: Because I heard -- I  
34 don't live around there but I heard there were a few  
35 dipnetters and then all of a sudden there was a bunch.  
36

37 MR. SARAFIN: From boats, you're  
38 referring to, dipnetters from boats or.....  
39

40 MS. DEMENTI: No, from -- from the  
41 shore.  
42

43 MR. SARAFIN: Well, the State does have  
44 -- they open and close the fishery and so there'll be  
45 times when it's closed and then all of a sudden they  
46 open. So people from urban areas all make the trip  
47 down at once and so it gets very clustered during those  
48 limited openings of a lot of people at that time. And  
49 then it closes and then it gets a break.  
50

1 MS. DEMENTI: Have you ever studied how  
2 it affects the subsistence users around there?

3  
4 MR. SARAFIN: How it affects, pardon,  
5 the?

6  
7 MS. DEMENTI: Subsistence fishers.

8  
9 MR. SARAFIN: Well, you know, the State  
10 they do their best to get harvest reports to know the  
11 level of harvest occurs. They have developed a  
12 management plan with specific management objectives for  
13 the fishery and trying to control, you know, monitor  
14 that harvest within their management plan guidelines  
15 and, you know, included in that is subsistence ANS,  
16 amounts necessary for subsistence for the up river  
17 areas of the Copper River too. So they do try -- their  
18 management plan does try to address that.

19  
20 MS. DEMENTI: I'm just wondering how it  
21 affects them.

22  
23 MR. SARAFIN: Well, Dan has given a  
24 good record, he's got a fishwheel immediately above and  
25 he has made statement that he could see the effect from  
26 when it actually opens and an immediate number of fish  
27 that occur just a couple miles up the river that he'd  
28 see in his fishwheel. But I'm sure given the number of  
29 people that go down there and the amount of harvest  
30 that could occur, that it could, you know, it would be  
31 catching fish bound for other up river subsistence  
32 users.

33  
34 MS. DEMENTI: It worries me because  
35 there's people that live off of that fish for hundreds  
36 of years and what would happen to these people if they  
37 can't get their fair share.

38  
39 MR. SARAFIN: Well, you know, as  
40 Federal managers we are looking at the Federal harvest  
41 and concerns of the Federal users, the State is also --  
42 they also look at subsistence as a priority with the  
43 goal of making sure the amounts necessary for  
44 subsistence are met and are provided for. And they try  
45 to control the harvest in the other fisheries to make  
46 sure that occurs. These other fisheries have very high  
47 harvest -- or potential for very high harvest levels  
48 and so they have management plans where they only open  
49 the fishery for periods and then close it and all by  
50

1 design to make sure, you know -- part of it is to make  
2 sure as a priority that the subsistence needs are met.

3

4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.

5

6 MS. STICKWAN: Are you -- do you see  
7 this fishery getting smaller, have you noticed any  
8 smaller fish at Tanada Creek?

9

10 MR. SARAFIN: At Tanada, you know,  
11 there's -- I haven't really noticed it at Tanada. When  
12 we had Long Lake in, there were some years where we had  
13 some small fish come in. Tanada perhaps earlier in the  
14 season has one of the -- some of the stocks come in  
15 that are slightly smaller but then up on the spawning  
16 grounds I do still find some pretty nice large fish  
17 when I'm up sampling for otoliths, so it's -- yeah,  
18 it's hard to access that. Last year's otolith's  
19 samples, you know, may have been somewhat younger in  
20 age class. That's -- it would have been the return of  
21 the year that would go out at a year when the creek  
22 totally dried up. So the smolt going out probably had  
23 very poor survival. Those were the five year fish that  
24 were very short in number, I think, in the overall  
25 Copper River return, I suspect that the drought  
26 conditions of the far up river areas may have had a  
27 substantial effect related to that. Because that was  
28 the predominant age class from Tanada. But we don't  
29 actually measure the fish, we get, you know, visual  
30 going by, you can get a general idea. But we don't  
31 have length data on very many of the fish or weight  
32 data.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dan.

35

36 MR. STEVENS: I just want to make one  
37 more statement. I want to remind everybody here that  
38 when I was growing up I was told that the first batch  
39 of kings that come in is the Tonsina kings. And we  
40 interrupt them at Chitina, they don't get it to the  
41 Tonsina, the Tonsina -- yeah, the lower Tonsina River,  
42 and they're the bigger kings, and we'd like to see them  
43 preserved. That's another reason I'd like to see the  
44 personal use not used at the beginning of the season.

45

46 (Teleconference interference -  
47 participants not muted)

48

49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right. Go

50

1 ahead.

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MR. BLOOMQUIST: I was just going to comment to Dan, that's interesting because I kind of sportfish all the drainages now and now the Tonsina are the -- kind of the last ones to show up so it's changed over the years. You know, they're like Gulkana's first, Klutina and then Tonsina and they're -- at least in river. It's interesting that historically they were the first so maybe that fishery changed it.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Sounds like all the other fisheries, yeah.

Okay, I think we're ready to move on to Barbara and Barbara's report is on Page 40 in the supplemental material.

MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Council members. Judy wasn't able to join us this morning, our wildlife biologist, she had a conflict, but she actually covered the majority of the material about the two caribou herds in -- on the discussion of the wildlife closure review yesterday.

I will say that it was really helpful this winter to have the new GPS collars on the Mentasta caribou. There's a winter hunt, as she mentioned, up in Unit 12, and we were able to have an idea about where the Mentasta animals might be based on those collars without having to go and fly them like the old VHS collars. So that was really helpful.

So if you look at -- so I'm not really going to talk about the caribou, if there's questions about the caribou material, I can try to answer them or check with Judy and get back to you.

So on numbered Page 3 of our report, there's a discussion of the Federal subsistence hunting permits. The Park issues quite a few hunting permits for moose, caribou and sheep -- goat, moose, caribou and sheep in Units 11 and 12. Our Slana Ranger Station Staff also issued permits for the Unit 13 hunt, moose and caribou hunts. And there's tables in the following two pages that summarize the Federal subsistence registration permits that the Park issues along with a table on the joint State/Federal permits for the fall moose hunt in portions of Units 11 and 12.

1 I'll let you review those, if you have  
2 questions I'd be happy to try to answer them.  
3

4 And then on the back page of our  
5 report, I've just provided some information about some  
6 upcoming traditional knowledge and ethnographic  
7 projects that I'm working on. And these are projects  
8 that are just getting started this year so there'll be  
9 more information in years to come. But I have two  
10 baseline ethnographic reports where I have manuscripts  
11 that are a number of years old but they were never  
12 finalized to have reports that are available to the  
13 public so I've gotten some funding to have those  
14 reports edited and then we'll turn them into reports  
15 that we'll distribute to the public. One is an Ahtna  
16 ethnographic overview and assessment. I'm hoping to  
17 work with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission on  
18 getting that work done. And then we have some Park  
19 Staff who are working on the editing and sort of  
20 completion of the ethno history of the Chisana River  
21 Basin.  
22

23 And then there are two traditional  
24 ecological knowledge projects that I'm planning to work  
25 on also with the Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.  
26 One is on the caribou herds associated with the Park.  
27 You heard yesterday that the Park has been convening  
28 some information sharing meetings about the three  
29 caribou herds in the Park, and one of the -- a couple  
30 of the data needs that have emerged from that are just  
31 sort of doing some data (indiscernible) and doing some  
32 traditional ecological work on the caribou herds so  
33 we're -- I got some funding to do that. Another issue  
34 that came out of those caribou discussions was changing  
35 winter, snow and ice conditions and what that meant for  
36 subsistence access. So we'll also be doing some  
37 traditional ecological knowledge interviews on that  
38 topic.  
39

40 And that concludes my report. I'd be  
41 happy to answer any questions.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
44 Barbara. Council, questions for Barbara.  
45

46 Andy's got a question for you Barbara.  
47

48 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you.  
49 Curious there in sheep in Unit 11, what you might  
50

1 attribute why the hunter success rate dropped 30  
2 percent down to six percent from record number of  
3 harvest permits issued.  
4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: So one thing that it's  
6 important to recognize about the permits that we issue,  
7 this is only for the elder hunt. People who are hunting  
8 sheep in Unit 11 during the general season are  
9 reporting with a State harvest ticket. So this is only  
10 a small portion. And when you have such small numbers  
11 of harvest, and small number of hunters, you'll see  
12 these sort of big shifts in the percentages. It just  
13 happened -- but if you look over the long-term trend,  
14 some years the elder -- the participants in the elder  
15 sheep hunt harvest caribou -- or harvest sheep and in  
16 some years they're not successful. So I think the  
17 change from 30 percent to five percent has to do with  
18 the really small number of folks that we have  
19 participating in that hunt and so the percentages vary  
20 more than it would if it was a larger hunt. I don't  
21 think there's necessarily a specific explanation beyond  
22 that.  
23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Barbara, I  
25 think he liked that explanation or is satisfied with  
26 it. So that's good.  
27

28 Anyone else got questions for Barbara.  
29

30 (No comments)  
31

32 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
33 Barbara. Good report.  
34

35 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you.  
36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Next I have  
38 Denali National Park and I got Amy.  
39

40 MS. CRAVER: Good morning, Mr. Chair  
41 and members of the Council. For the record my name is  
42 Amy Craver and I'm the subsistence coordinator for  
43 Denali National Park and Preserve.  
44

45 And yesterday afternoon I dropped our  
46 wildlife report, I think each one of you have that.  
47 And that was written up by our wildlife biologist and  
48 if there's any questions I'd be happy to pass those  
49 questions on and get back with you.  
50

1                   What I'm here to talk to you about is,  
2 we have -- currently Denali has a vacancy on their  
3 Subsistence Resource Commission and that vacancy is  
4 Eleanor's position. And we received -- so it's the  
5 Southcentral RAC appointment on the SRC at Denali and  
6 we received one application for that vacancy and the  
7 applicant is Justin Mason. And I've handed out his  
8 application and he is qualified for that Southcentral  
9 RAC appointment. He's the secretary for the Denali  
10 Local Advisory Committee. So I'm basically here to ask  
11 for a decision from the Southcentral RAC if you want to  
12 appoint him or if there's somebody else that you'd like  
13 to appoint. But that's why I'm here.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I got a  
16 comment from the back here, Amy.

17  
18                   MR. REBNE: My name's Grant Rebne, I  
19 also applied. This is for this RAC.

20  
21                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No, for the SRC.

22  
23                   MR. REBNE: Sorry.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, sorry, Amy.  
26 Okay that was the only application you got?

27  
28                   MS. CRAVER: Correct.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Eleanor, what  
31 happened here, you didn't apply.

32  
33                   MS. DEMENTI: (No microphone) I didn't  
34 apply.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

37  
38                   MS. DEMENTI: And I know that (no  
39 microphone)

40  
41                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Microphone,  
42 please.

43  
44                   MS. DEMENTI: I know that Jeremy Shoen  
45 (ph) applied, I don't know what happened to his  
46 application. And Grant had applied.

47  
48                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald.

49  
50

1 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This  
2 Council has authority to appoint members to the  
3 Subsistence Resource Commission. I believe Eleanor  
4 Dementi was appointed from this Council to serve on the  
5 Denali SRC so -- and, I'm sorry, Mr. Justin Mason, I  
6 believe he's qualified, he's currently serving on a  
7 local Advisory Committee. But we'll still need to  
8 appoint a member from this Council to the SRC.  
9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Gloria.  
11

12 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if you  
13 had an answer for Eleanor's question. She said two  
14 people applied and what happened to their applications.  
15

16 MS. CRAVER: Maybe they applied through  
17 the Southcentral RAC. Justin is the only application I  
18 received that I was putting forward. So if somebody  
19 applied that went through the Southcentral RAC then I  
20 wouldn't know anything about it. So this is the only  
21 application I received.  
22

23 MR. MIKE: Okay. Just for  
24 clarification on the discussion. This Council has the  
25 authority to appoint members to the SRC so that's what  
26 we're here for. But the two applicants in question, I  
27 believe, we're discussing a separate process, which is  
28 the application period for our nominations cycle for  
29 the Regional Advisory Council nominations for 2019.  
30

31 So, thank you.  
32

33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good  
34 enough. You got any other questions. Amy, any other  
35 comments. I guess we got this one and we need to  
36 consider it.  
37

38 MS. CRAVER: Correct, Mr. Chair.  
39

40 MR. MIKE: Just to keep everybody  
41 clear, Eleanor Dementi's term is ending this year; is  
42 that correct, so she's actually an appointee of this  
43 Council to serve on the SRC so if the Council wished  
44 for her to continue to serve on the Commission seat she  
45 can be reappointed until this Council takes further  
46 action.  
47

48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Eleanor  
49 could be reappointed or we could appoint this other  
50

1     guy, right?

2

3                     MR. MIKE:  It's pretty technical here.

4

5                     (Laughter)

6

7                     MR. MIKE:  But as I stated earlier, the  
8     SRCs are appointed by -- three from the Governor's  
9     office, three from the Secretary of Interior's office  
10    and three from Regional Advisory Councils.  So Eleanor  
11    Dementi is one of the three that's appointed by the  
12    RACs.  And we also have appointments from the Eastern  
13    Interior to serve on the Denali SRC and Western  
14    Interior Denali SRC.  So we have one member from  
15    Eastern Interior, one member from Western Interior and  
16    one member from Southcentral.  So Eleanor Dementi  
17    currently is the only member from this Council that was  
18    appointed to the Denali SRC.  So I believe the Park  
19    Service is appointing charter that they may continue to  
20    serve until the appointing source appoints a new  
21    member.  So I believe that's -- we can appoint Eleanor  
22    Dementi until her term's up and she'll continue to  
23    serve until the appointing sources appoint a new  
24    member.

25

26                    CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:  I'm not sure that  
27    cleared it up for me.

28

29                    (Laughter)

30

31                    CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:  I'll just be  
32    honest.

33

34                    MS. CRAVER:  Not to muddy the waters  
35    more but just for clarification, the Southcentral RAC  
36    has actually two appointments to the Denali SRC.  One  
37    right now is Eleanor and the other one is Jeff Burny.  
38    And his appointment isn't up for, I think, not until  
39    next year.

40

41                    MS. DEMENTI:  When is my time up (no  
42    microphone).

43

44                    CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI:  Okay.  Well, if  
45    I got it right then we could reappoint Eleanor or just  
46    keep her appointed, she stays appointed until we feel  
47    otherwise.

48

49                    MS. DEMENTI:  (No microphone) until

50

1 it's over.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: And then we could  
4 appoint this new guy too.

5

6 MS. DEMENTI: Yeah. (No microphone)

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is that correct?

9

10 MR. MIKE: That is correct, Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

13

14 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Does she want to stay  
15 on?

16

17 MS. STICKWAN: She wants to stay on.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Eleanor you  
20 want to stay on?

21

22 MS. DEMENTI: (No microphone) well,  
23 it's another year.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. DEMENTI: I guess I could do it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay.

30

31 Case settled.

32

33 MS. CRAVER: That's great news.  
34 Thanks, Eleanor, we really appreciate your role on the  
35 SRC so I'm really happy that you're going to stay on  
36 for another year.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So that, Donald,  
41 if she's staying on for another year, we don't need  
42 action, we don't need to appoint, we just need to  
43 appoint this new one, too, Justin, if we want.

44

45 MR. WHISSEL: Greg, I move to appoint  
46 Justin Mason to the Southce -- or, sorry, to the Denali  
47 Resources -- or Subsistence Resource Commission.

48

49 Sorry.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Seconded.  
6  
7 Any discussion.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, the  
12 question's in order.  
13  
14 MR. STEVENS: Are we -- I thought we  
15 already had one, we were trying to get Eleanor on  
16 there, we got two?  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We got Eleanor.  
19  
20 MR. STEVENS: We've got two?  
21  
22 MS. STICKWAN: Eleanor, too.  
23  
24 MR. STEVENS: Oh, okay, you got me  
25 confused, I'm sorry.  
26  
27 MS. STICKWAN: We have two  
28 appointments.  
29  
30 MR. STEVENS: I'm easily confused  
31 today, excuse me.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.  
34  
35 MS. CRAVER: My understanding is that  
36 Eleanor is going to stay on and we have Jeff Burny, and  
37 if the next time around then maybe Justin Mason would  
38 be considered but right now we've got two people.  
39  
40 MS. STICKWAN: How long are these  
41 terms?  
42  
43 MS. CRAVER: I believe they're three  
44 years. I'm not exactly sure. I think it's three years  
45 though.  
46  
47 MR. MIKE: The terms for the SRC are  
48 three years and they may serve beyond three years until  
49 they're notified by the appointing source. So just a  
50

1 quick question for the Park Service, Denali, so as far  
2 as appointing sources, we're currently updated on  
3 appointing sources from Regional Advisory Councils, so  
4 -- so this candidate, Mr. Mason -- okay, I'll have to  
5 think about that. But as far as what we're concerned,  
6 this Council is updated on appointing Eleanor Dementi  
7 to serve on the SRC, so we're done appointing for the  
8 SRC for Denali. So we have a member from -- one member  
9 from Southcentral, one member from Eastern Interior and  
10 one member from Southcentral -- Western Interior.

11  
12 MR. WHISSEL: Mr. Chairman. After  
13 hearing Mr. Mike's comments there, I'd like to withdraw  
14 my motion.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Does the second  
17 want to withdraw also.

18  
19 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, withdrawal.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. It's been  
22 withdrawn.

23  
24 MR. MIKE: Yeah, I just want to make  
25 sure we're updated on that. So -- but just for  
26 clarification, this Council has the authority to  
27 appoint a member from this Council to the SRC for  
28 Denali.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: I think we got  
31 that but I think we got too many appointees, but anyway  
32 Eleanor, you're still on there for now. And we're not  
33 going to appoint anyone else, Amy, so that's it.

34  
35 MS. CRAVER: Okay, thank you very much.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

38  
39 MS. CRAVER: Sorry for the confusion.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. MIKE: I apologize for the long  
44 confusion so I'm just trying to clarify and make sure  
45 we're doing our jobs correctly.

46  
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you.

50

1 Yeah, that was a little confusing to all of us but I  
2 think we got through it.

3

4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, confusing.

5

6 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We want to do the  
7 BLM and then we'll take a little break maybe. Before  
8 she starts, Tom Doolittle, did you want to speak at any  
9 time.

10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: I would be delighted  
12 Greg.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Maybe  
15 after this we'll get you up here or whenever, if that  
16 would be appropriate.

17

18 MR. DOOLITTLE: (Nods affirmatively)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay,  
21 thank you. Go ahead.

22

23 MS. GRAHAM: Good morning everyone.  
24 I'm Marney Graham, field manager for the BLM Glennallen  
25 Field Office. And I'm standing in today for our  
26 wildlife biologist and subsistence coordinator, or AKA,  
27 the expert here at the -- or the expert at the office,  
28 so I'll do my best to give his report and answer your  
29 questions.

30

31 My report -- our report should be in  
32 your supplemental packet. And I don't know if you all  
33 had a chance to review it but basically we continue to  
34 work with the Department of Fish and Game in our area  
35 for Unit 13 for monitoring of populations. We provide  
36 funding each year for population monitoring for moose  
37 and caribou and we're continuing with our funding for  
38 that this year as well. And we also -- a side note,  
39 which isn't in the report, provide population  
40 monitoring funding to the fisheries side of Fish and  
41 Game at that office for Gulkana fish counting tower  
42 population monitoring, so that's on our fisheries side.

43

44 This year with the caribou harvest and  
45 I'll mention it and then we can go -- there's some  
46 graphs in here to explain it a little bit more but the  
47 caribou were largely unavailable during the early  
48 season for the regulatory year 18/19 and 59 animals  
49 were harvested but we did have a very successful late

50

1 season. 63 animals were harvested in the first two  
2 days and to date we've harvested 352 caribou. Which is  
3 about an average harvest. It's pretty much a flat line  
4 for our caribou harvest each year. It goes up and down  
5 a little bit but that's pretty average.  
6

7 Our moose harvest this year, we  
8 harvested 61 bulls, which is down a little bit. The  
9 moose survey conditions were fair for portions of the  
10 unit and other areas there weren't suitable -- it  
11 wasn't suitable to conduct the surveys so our survey  
12 quality is a little bit of concern for the weather this  
13 year. But we just had inadequate snow conditions. And  
14 61 bulls harvested is down slightly but it still trends  
15 with the 10 year average so, you know, it fluctuates a  
16 bit, so it's still within kind of the flat line look of  
17 things.  
18

19 Another thing that we're working on is  
20 a prescribed burn plan for the Alphabet Hills west of  
21 the Gulkana River for habitat improvement. We've been  
22 working with Fish and Game and DNR on that, so we'll be  
23 starting up an analysis of our proposal for that  
24 probably some time this coming fall or winter with the  
25 hope of being ready for being able to conduct a  
26 prescribed burn if it comes into prescription. But  
27 it's a very wet area and it can take years for that to  
28 occur but we want to be prepared to take advantage of  
29 an opportunity to do that. At this point we're working  
30 with DNR and Fish and Game to conduct some baseline  
31 surveys out in that area for habitat so that we'll be  
32 able to look at pre and post burn habitat changes.  
33

34 I also just wanted to brag a little bit  
35 on our harvest reporting with our work with Fish and  
36 Game and also just looking at our Federal subsistence  
37 harvest. We're really -- our harvest -- we have the  
38 highest number of permits issued in, I think, all of  
39 Alaska for subsistence for moose and caribou, and we're  
40 at over 90 percent on harvest reporting. So it's very  
41 high and I just really like to brag on our Federal  
42 subsistence hunters for getting their harvest reports  
43 into us in a timely manner so that we can collaborate  
44 with Fish and Game in-season and keep updating them on  
45 the harvest. So really want to brag on our folks  
46 there. That really helps us.  
47

48 And then, you know, and maybe there's  
49 someone from Fish and Game on line or here today that  
50

1 can speak more to kind of the conditions the last year  
2 and a half and being able to conduct surveys. It's  
3 been limiting and we're hearing that there's some  
4 concern possibly for the caribou population and they'll  
5 know more once they can do surveys in July. But we're  
6 -- you know, there's a possibility we could be asked  
7 this year to look at a sex restriction for the caribou  
8 harvest. And we've done -- you know, looking over the  
9 past 10 years, I know, we have tried that at times to  
10 work with Fish and Game on that. We did a bulls only  
11 hunt in 2009 that, you know, was pretty successful and  
12 in other years we've even done -- where we've done the  
13 encouragement of the take of a certain sex, depending  
14 on what Fish and Game has said would be helpful. And I  
15 would say that we've done very well when we can just do  
16 education efforts. And so right now given that we have  
17 a flat line harvest pretty much each year and usually  
18 our take, I mean if you look over the last 10 years our  
19 bull harvest is usually above 58 percent and it's  
20 usually around 75 percent of the overall harvest, it's  
21 usually 75 percent bulls, you know, we'll probably --  
22 especially for the first season we would want to lean  
23 towards education and request that people, you know,  
24 look at harvesting bulls first when they can rather  
25 than, you know, it's -- our concern is we don't want to  
26 criminalize anybody for an accidental take of a cow, so  
27 in the case where they're trying to harvest for their  
28 family. So that's kind of where we're at. This may or  
29 may not be an issue, we will know more after the July  
30 counts and then we'll consult with people and take it  
31 through.

32  
33 Is there any questions about anything  
34 we're working on here.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any questions.

37  
38 Go ahead, Gloria.

39  
40 MS. STICKWAN: I didn't hear what --  
41 did you say prescribed burns were going to be done in  
42 Alphabet Hills this fall?

43  
44 MS. GRAHAM: No. Thank you. What  
45 we're trying to do first is get the plan proposal  
46 together and then this fall we'll start getting  
47 information out to the public about that plan and  
48 giving opportunities to comment on the plan and review  
49 the plan and then so we'll do our NEPA analysis. And  
50

1 then with the hope of coming to a decision about that  
2 by spring so that any time in the next five to 10  
3 years, if the area came into prescription to allow --  
4 conditions were good for a prescribed burn, we could  
5 conduct a prescribed burn.

6

7 But this fall we'll just begin the  
8 analysis portion of that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Aaron.

11

12 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Just on the burn  
13 stuff, are you guys working on any other prescription  
14 areas other than the -- I just -- I think Bob Toby,  
15 when he was at Fish and Game, he used to call it the  
16 asbestos belt because it's hard to get anything to burn  
17 out there, but, you know, maybe if it doesn't work  
18 there, you can do some -- it seems like the Valley  
19 could use some burn.

20

21 MS. GRAHAM: So actually we had a fuels  
22 management review team come out last year from our  
23 national office and we are pretty excited that probably  
24 over the next five years our office is going to receive  
25 an increase in fuels funding to be able to look at  
26 projects area-wide. We're already having discussions  
27 with DNR and folks at AITRC and we'll continue to get  
28 -- we've had some other conversations but as we learn  
29 more -- we're just kind of starting to learn what that  
30 might look like. We'll be able to talk with our  
31 partners about other opportunities. I mean there's  
32 everything from the potential to do fuels break work  
33 to, you know, be able to provide funding for some  
34 community fuels projects and stuff. So we're pretty  
35 excited that there could be an increase in funding for  
36 that, for our area, it's long needed.

37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other  
39 questions.

40

41 MS. GRAHAM: Oh, and potentially in the  
42 \*Teekle area, there might be some projects. So it's a  
43 narrow corridor that we manage through there and  
44 there's some beetle kill and we've been harvesting  
45 through commercial and personal use some of the beetle  
46 kill wood down there but there might be projects that  
47 could be involved with that that would also help with  
48 habitat, for moose especially.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.

2

3

Any other questions.

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank  
8 you much.

9

10

MS. GRAHAM: Thank you.

11

12

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Tom, you want to  
13 come up and say a few words.

14

15

16

MR. MIKE: Just quickly, Mr. Chair. I  
17 just want to validate the Council's action on  
18 appointing Ms. Eleanor Dementi to the Denali SRC. So  
19 this Council has appointing -- authority to appoint two  
20 members from this Council. We currently have Jeff  
21 Burny from Cantwell appointed by this Council. And  
22 Eleanor Dementi from this Council. So we appoint two  
23 members to the SRC for Denali from this Council. So I  
24 just want to validate your action.

25

26

27

So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29

30

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good to have it  
31 actually validated. Thank you. Thank you, Donald.  
32 Very good.

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Tom, go ahead.

MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 It's actually been a whirlwind tour for me for the last  
35 month and I've been down in Southeast and out in Bethel  
36 for the YK-Delta RAC and then Western Interior  
37 yesterday and I wanted to make part of today as well,  
38 and being in the, you know, the acting job since -- for  
39 the Assistant Regional Director since last July when  
40 Gene Peltola left OSM, and I'll be glad to at least  
41 know that the position is closed for that Assistant  
42 Regional Director job, last week, and so within the  
43 next few months there'll be a selection for that  
44 position so we're moving ahead, even though it'll be  
45 almost a year. But please remember in the Federal  
46 hiring process that it's been taking a long time for --  
47 it doesn't matter whether it was an administrative  
48 assistant or a biologist, it's been a lengthy and slow  
49 process. But at least we'll see some closure to that

1 particular process.

2

3 The most noteworthy thing I have to at  
4 least share, is that all the Council's are meeting and  
5 I'm glad to see you all here. And as a reminder, as I  
6 remind every Council that I've been talking to in the  
7 last month is that you are the heart of our Subsistence  
8 Program. We are a bottom up program from the field.  
9 We are a program that also really depends on your  
10 volunteerism. And I know that one of the most  
11 important things that, at least, we can do is hopefully  
12 give you a comfortable place to be and to be involved,  
13 you know, with our process. Because in many ways I look  
14 at, you know, what you do and that was in reference to  
15 a book that was on my desk the other day and it was a  
16 book titled, Keepers of the Earth. And Keepers of the  
17 Earth was written by, you know, from tribes down South  
18 but it also was very reflective of that it's not just  
19 about the biology that goes on, it's also about the  
20 human dimensions as well. And we bring that  
21 combination of science and social science together to  
22 really make some really great decisions. And you are  
23 all, you know, critical parts of that process and I  
24 want to give my heartfelt thanks to all of you for  
25 that.

26

27 As you know the nomination process was  
28 slow and had a lot to do with the lapse of funding and  
29 the result of government shutdown that went on for 35  
30 days and so there's been some adjustments in our  
31 program that we had to make. One, obviously is this  
32 late date for these Regional Advisory Council meetings.  
33 Our late date for our Federal Subsistence Board meeting  
34 that will be coming up in April as well. And -- but  
35 we've really made some concessions and one thing that  
36 you'll see at the Federal Board meeting and that this  
37 Council needs to be aware of, is that you will see that  
38 there will be motions made to pass certain fishery  
39 regulations and if those motions are supported by the  
40 Board, you will see a group of those supported  
41 regulations, fishery regulations, also have a  
42 supportive temporary special action that will go with  
43 them. So there actually will be two votes on a  
44 supported action item. And one of the things about  
45 what makes any of our regulations enforceable is that  
46 they're published in a document called the Federal  
47 Register, and so that Federal Register document  
48 wouldn't be published until likely July, and so that  
49 would be a difficulty in enforcing regulations. But if

50

1 we can pass the temporary special actions to go along  
2 with them, they'll be immediately enforceable after the  
3 action of the Board. So that's an important thing to  
4 know, is that, within our process we have the ability  
5 to make sure that when regulations are passed that we  
6 have a mechanism to, on a temporary basis, to make sure  
7 they're enforceable, and then they become permanent  
8 regulations upon their publication in the Federal  
9 Register.

10

11 So that's something that's going to be  
12 a little bit different that you will see.

13

14 I mentioned that Gene had left to  
15 become the Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs for  
16 Alaska last July and so his departure, you know, was  
17 missed by Staff but also he's doing great things and he  
18 sits on the Federal Subsistence Board, so, again,  
19 involvement in Federal subsistence is still there from  
20 Gene.

21

22 We did, in Council coordination, Carl  
23 Johnson joined the private sector to follow his dreams  
24 of running a eco-tourism photographic company called  
25 Alaska Photo-Trek and so I can't begrudge a man for  
26 following his dreams and we'll miss Carl and at the  
27 upcoming Board meeting we'll recognize his service to  
28 the Federal Subsistence Program.

29

30 Some good news is that we have a new  
31 fishery lead at OSM. His name is Gregory Risdahl. He  
32 is the former Refuge Manager for Izembek National  
33 Wildlife Refuge. He used to be the Deputy Manager at  
34 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. And he also was a  
35 Refuge Manager at Kofa National Wildlife Refuge in  
36 Arizona. Greg is close to Alaska, knows the issues and  
37 resources quite well so I'm really happy to have him,  
38 you know, on board at OSM.

39

40 And our Anthropology Division was two  
41 short and now I can say we're only one short. Hannah  
42 Voorhees, who is here today, and if you haven't had a  
43 chance to meet Hannah, she's somewhere back there,  
44 right there, and as I like to always say that with new  
45 Staff, is that she comes highly recommended, and so we  
46 look forward to having Hannah's talent, you know, here  
47 and working for OSM. Hannah was raised in Eagle River,  
48 Alaska. She completed her PhD in cultural anthropology  
49 at the University of Pennsylvania and she maintains a

50

1 focus on subsistence and conservation, you know, here  
2 in Alaska. She has a young family. Her husband works  
3 for the Marine Mammals Division for the Fish and  
4 Wildlife Service as well. And so very happy to have  
5 Hannah on board with OSM.  
6

7 We will see an announcement coming out  
8 soon for the anthropology lead. That has been over a  
9 year, you know, to have somebody replacing Jennifer  
10 Hardin in that position. As you might know Jennifer  
11 has become our policy coordinator so she stayed with  
12 OSM and, again, great to have Jennifer as the policy  
13 coordinator, but, again, a long period of time to be  
14 able to get somebody in to the Anthropology Division.  
15 And really when I look at our program, you know, we're  
16 50 percent the biological sciences and 50 percent the  
17 social science as well.  
18

19 We're hiring two fish biologists.  
20 Scott Ayers here competed for a position and got a  
21 little bit of a promotion, which we're really glad to  
22 have, you know, Scott, you know, still maintaining with  
23 OSM and in the family, so to speak, but, again, we have  
24 a gap with his old job and we're looking to fill that.  
25 And then also Gary DeCossas who was our bio-  
26 statistician went out to the Yukon Delta National  
27 Wildlife Refuge as a fishery biologist and, again,  
28 he'll be emersed in subsistence out there. So that's a  
29 good -- that's good for Gary, but, again, we have to  
30 fill another fishery biologist position.  
31

32 Last but not least, are the two  
33 positions that I count on the most and that's our  
34 administrative assistants, if you don't have somebody  
35 at the front desk that's a tough world to live in when  
36 you're a bureaucrat like me. And so we are getting  
37 authorizations, finally, to be able to hire  
38 administrative assistants. Pam Raygor is on loan to  
39 Mr. Peltola at BIA here for a few months and so I was  
40 down to one, just Mr. Glenn Westdahl, but it looks like  
41 we'll have hiring authorities coming up soon to hire  
42 administrative assistants. The layers from waivers and  
43 approvals from headquarters in DC have come back to the  
44 region and so I think we're all quite optimistic that  
45 the hiring process will be a lot faster and more timely  
46 than it has been in the past. And as you might have  
47 guessed from my previous reports, that this has been an  
48 ongoing issue.  
49  
50

1                   The village of -- the Native Village of  
2 Akiak will be having a public hearing -- well, there  
3 will be a public hearing on a temporary special action  
4 from the Native Village of Akiak and that will be on an  
5 allocative fishery for king salmon, also an .804  
6 determination and whether the fisheries should be  
7 closed to all but the Federally-qualified users. That  
8 hearing will be in Bethel, Alaska tomorrow afternoon  
9 and tribal consultations will be in the morning. The  
10 Federal Board will act on that temporary special action  
11 as well. This special action has come in front of the  
12 Board on various occasions since 2014 in various forms  
13 and the Board has voted, you know, sometimes to have an  
14 allocative fishery and sometimes not, so, again, it  
15 will be up to the Board to decide which way the  
16 direction of that temporary action will go.

17  
18                   Some other good news is that in the  
19 Federal Register the proposed rule for setting our  
20 wildlife cycle has been published in the Federal  
21 Register. Obviously the Councils have met to fit into  
22 that process of providing proposals by the deadline,  
23 which is today, and that is the -- you know, that means  
24 that we're looking at a strong part of our program, and  
25 what we do, which is primarily promulgating regulations  
26 on behalf of the Federally-qualified user and also we  
27 run two large funding programs. One is the Fishery  
28 Resources Monitoring Program and the Partners Program.  
29 And I can say they're going to be just fine and we  
30 actually have funding for them. So that's also the  
31 good news, the Federal budget, as you know, has passed.

32  
33                   That's it in a nutshell.

34  
35                   And hopefully I didn't go on too long  
36 and I think I suffice so Chris doesn't have to get up  
37 here and give another report to you.

38  
39                   And, again, my heartfelt appreciation  
40 for the great work that you do, volunteerism on behalf  
41 of both the Federal Subsistence Board, our program that  
42 helps facilitate the program, and the Secretaries of  
43 Interior and Agriculture. So my thanks to you all.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Tom.  
46 Great update and good information.

47  
48                   Any questions before we let him go.

49  
50

1 We got one here, Aaron, go ahead.

2

3 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Were you in Northern  
4 Wisconsin about 30 years ago?

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Big 10-4 on that.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Tell me a little story.

11

12 MR. BLOOMQUIST: This guy used to come  
13 into my schools when I was a kid and bring all kinds of  
14 crazy animals and he had a lot of influence in me and a  
15 bunch of other kids in the outdoors, so thank you.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. DOOLITTLE: You're very welcome.  
20 That's a piece of history many people don't know that  
21 critter man did exist, didn't he.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE: That's funny.

26

27 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good.  
28 Thank you. Thank you, Tom.

29

30 We're going to go ahead and take a real  
31 short break, 10 minutes top, and then we'll get back on  
32 the agenda and I think next up we're going to have  
33 Alaska DOT Cooper Landing Bypass.

34

35 So go ahead and take 10 and get back.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We're missing a  
42 few, uh.

43

44 (Pause)

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: They must be on  
47 Indian time this morning.

48

49 (Pause)

50

1 MR. MIKE: If you can find your seats  
2 please we're getting started.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
5 Donald.

6  
7 (Pause)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're going  
10 to go ahead and get started. We have with us Cynthia  
11 Ferguson and Kelly Summers, and they're going to do a  
12 presentation here on the Sterling Highway Project 45-  
13 60. And you gals just feel welcome to stand up and do  
14 whatever you want to do and turn on a mic and go ahead  
15 and the floor is yours.

16  
17 MS. FERGUSON: Great, thank you so  
18 much. For the record my name is Cynthia Ferguson. I'm  
19 a project manager with the Alaska Department of  
20 Transportation. I've been with the Department for 23  
21 years now in various positions. Most recently in this  
22 area I was the project manager for the Sterling Highway  
23 58-79 Project which is just west of the Cooper Landing  
24 Project we're going to be talking about today. And I  
25 will be managing the project through the final design  
26 process and getting it to construction.

27  
28 MS. SUMMERS: For the record my name is  
29 Kelly Summers. I am a project manager with the Alaska  
30 Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. I  
31 work in the Preliminary Design and Engineering  
32 Division. And I was the project manager of the  
33 Sterling Highway 45-60 through the environmental impact  
34 statement which was completed last, I guess, spring,  
35 summer, May of '18. And so as far as this project is  
36 concerned, I am sort of the past. I did the  
37 environmental and Cyndy's the future, she's going to be  
38 doing the design. So any future questions would be  
39 directed to Cyndy and any questions about the EIS  
40 itself I should be able to answer or get you an answer.

41  
42 So with that I have a little  
43 presentation and I'm just going to go up there and try  
44 to project enough for everyone to hear. If I'm not  
45 loud, please tell me, I can get loud.

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MS. SUMMERS: So thanks for coming. So

50

1 the environmental impact statement for the Sterling --  
2 (getting her a microphone)

3

4

Thanks.

5

6

7 So our EIS went out for public review  
8 in March of 2018 and we did receive a signed record of  
9 decision by Federal Highways on May 31st of 2018, which  
10 started the statute of limitations, which then expired  
11 on November 5th. So the purpose and need -- anyway you  
12 can't really see the top of my thing there, but the  
13 purpose and need of the project was three-fold, to  
14 reduce highway congestion, bring the highway up to  
15 current standards and increase safety. And, of course,  
16 if anybody's driven through there they know the  
17 challenges of this piece of highway, we've got curved  
18 narrow highway, driveways, lots of conflict between  
19 through and local traffic and, of course, all the  
20 tourists that come down there for the fishing and the  
21 scenery, and, of course the cultural and recreational  
22 resources.

22

23

24

So in the EIS we evaluated four build  
alternatives in detail. And I have them all on this  
map here.

25

26

27

28

The first one was the Cooper Creek  
alternative. It sort of bypassed the populated area to  
the south.

29

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31

32

The G South alternative was sort of a  
northern bypass.

33

34

35

The Juneau Creek alternative went the  
farthest away from the existing alignment.

36

37

38

39

And then the Juneau Creek variant was a  
slight variation of Juneau Creek designed to avoid  
impacts to the wilderness.

40

41

42

And the EIS, of course, examines the no  
build alternative as well.

43

44

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46

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48

49

So in deciding which alternative was  
best the Federal Highways and DOT weighed the impacts  
and the benefits and tried to find a solution that had  
the least overall harm. And there's obviously no good  
solution. All the alternatives had impacts,  
significant impacts, which is why we were doing an EIS.

50

1                   So this is our thinking process and why  
2 we did not select the Cooper Creek alternative, the one  
3 that went to the south. It left -- it routed the  
4 highway, all the traffic through the most populous  
5 area. It had the most impacts on noise and it left the  
6 congestion through the downtown area. There was a lot  
7 of private property acquisition that was required for  
8 this alternative. And it performed the worst from a  
9 traffic perspective. And, of course, it kept all the  
10 highway in close proximity to the Kenai River.

11  
12                   So this is why not the Juneau Creek  
13 variant. So the variant, while it avoided the Kenai  
14 National Wildlife Wilderness it bisected an important  
15 cultural land that was selected by CIRI and we were  
16 told the land was not replaceable and it could not be  
17 mitigated. And, of course, the values, it was the  
18 cultural -- oops, sorry, the heart of the archeological  
19 district was that land that was selected by CIRI.

20  
21                   So the preferred alternative, in 2015,  
22 the Department and Federal Highways issued a draft EIS  
23 that identified the G South alternative as the  
24 preferred alternative. And we received so many  
25 comments from agencies that it actually changed the  
26 weighting of how we valued the Kenai River. So G South  
27 was no longer preferred because of the comments that we  
28 received about impacts to bear, the bear refugia, sort  
29 of in the southern Juneau Creek area, the new bridge  
30 over the Kenai River was seen as something that was  
31 just not desired or mitigatable at all.

32  
33                   So now we came out with the final EIS  
34 in May of '18 with the Juneau Creek as the preferred  
35 alternative and it moved the highway away from the  
36 Kenai River, separates the different uses of traffic  
37 between the local and the through traffic and it  
38 largely avoids impacts to the Wildlife Refuge,  
39 designated Wilderness, the CIRI selected property and  
40 private property and it performed the best from a  
41 traffic perspective.

42  
43                   So here's the map of how we are moving  
44 about 10 miles of the highway further away from the  
45 Kenai River. So the wilderness is still there but  
46 there was an unrelated land swap that during the draft  
47 document Federal Highways did not see as reasonable  
48 foreseeable, but then between the draft and final we  
49 received letters from Federal agencies saying they do  
50

1 intend to act on this land swap and so that the Juneau  
2 Creek would no longer need wilderness land, it would  
3 just be buying private property.  
4

5 There's a land selection in Unit 395  
6 that had been a concern, DNR decided to go ahead and  
7 pass that to the borough independent of this project.  
8

9 So the Juneau Creek alternative  
10 features. There's a new bridge over Juneau Creek and  
11 it's high up in the valley. There will be no water  
12 impacts. There's tunnels to accommodate existing  
13 Forest Service roads. There's a trail underpass for the  
14 Slaughter Gulch Trail. And then we are proposing to  
15 replace what they're calling the Safety Trail. We  
16 learned about that late in the EIS process. But  
17 there'll be a pedestrian foot path from roughly Quartz  
18 Creek to where it'll connect to the existing pedestrian  
19 facility going into Cooper Landing.  
20

21 So the red ones there were the  
22 underpasses, the purple ones just popped up are  
23 wildlife underpasses and if topography can permit it,  
24 an overpass and, of course, we're counting the bridge  
25 as allowing wildlife passage underneath it. And we are  
26 going to have a Forest Service designed trailhead west  
27 of the Juneau Creek bridge and then east there'll be a  
28 little pullout for skiers, and then down near Mile Post  
29 55.5 there will be another pullout.  
30

31 And as compensatory mitigation for  
32 crossing the Resurrection Pass Trail, the trail will  
33 actually be rerouted underneath the bridge at Juneau  
34 Creek. The Department has agreed to include pedestrian  
35 passage on the Snow River bridges, which is in the same  
36 water shed, but it is removed from the project area.  
37

38 So construction cost estimated at  
39 roughly \$280 million. Construction could begin, talk to  
40 Cyndy about that.  
41

42 (Laughter)  
43

44 MS. SUMMERS: And it will likely be  
45 built in phases, depending on available funding and  
46 permit restrictions.  
47

48 So, again, this was our timeline.  
49  
50

1 We did receive the record of decision,  
2 the statute of limitations expired and they are in  
3 design. So we have a project website that I believe is  
4 still up and we have a lot of documents on there if you  
5 want further information.

6

7

And that's it for the past.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

MS. FERGUSON: And now to the future.

12

13

(Laughter)

14

15

16

MS. FERGUSON: Hi, I'm Cynthia Ferguson  
and I'll be the project manager as the project moves  
into design, as Kelly had said.

17

18

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So we did receive from Federal Highways  
authority and funding to move into the final design  
phase on March 1st of this year. In the interim while  
we were working through that process we did work with  
US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop the area that  
would be included in the land swap that Kelly mentioned  
with the transfer -- swap basically is some of the  
wilderness area that will become CIRI land in exchange  
for CIRI land that is over at the intersection of the  
Killy and Kenai Rivers that will be added to the Refuge  
and become wilderness. So there'll be no net loss to  
the Refuge, but then that property would become  
essentially private property that could be acquired for  
the project.

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Probably the next steps that people  
will notice out on the corridor is survey collection.  
We did have a lot of, you know, high level survey  
information collected as part of the preliminary design  
and now we need to collect the detailed design  
information so we can do right-of-way base mapping. We  
should put out an RFP shortly for services for a  
consultant to collect that information for us. And as  
Kelly said, we're pushing forward to try to get to  
construction, hopefully in 2020 but that is dependent  
on funding and other factors. We are looking at  
innovative techniques to maybe speed that up.

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1 reconstructing on existing alignment.

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So I really appreciate everybody letting us come here today to do this presentation and with that we'll turn it over for any questions.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're going to start with questions, I get to get one first.

How long is the project, once you start construction, how long is it to build.

MS. FERGUSON: It's going to depend on how we phase the project. During the preliminary design they did develop financial plan and initial plan, which had the project I believe in six phases, taking approximately six to eight years to complete.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: That answers that, good.

Go ahead, Ed.

MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, a couple questions. One, I assume it's too late for any more public involvement.

MS. FERGUSON: No, during the final design process there'll be additional public comment, or, you know, we usually do at least two, you know, perhaps more depending on the level of interest, public meetings to show the presenter -- usually it happens at say a 30 percent design level and a 70 percent design level to get input from the public.

MR. HOLSTEN: Well, the reason for asking, I know a real bone of contention in Cooper Landing is the compensatory mitigation issue. And a lot of people were wondering how a pedestrian walkway is being proposed across the Snow River to compensate for mitigation on Resurrection Creek.....

MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

MR. HOLSTEN: .....trail. A lot of people think it would be better for mitigation efforts is to somehow put pedestrian overpass -- or not overpass -- pedestrian access across the bridge across Kenai River that would.....

1 MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. HOLSTEN: .....tie in Resurrection  
4 Creek to the Russian River trail system that goes all  
5 the way down into Seward.

6

7 MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

8

9 MR. HOLSTEN: It seems a lot of the  
10 public, and I know our local planning commission in  
11 Cooper Landing was really upset with how that came  
12 about, the Snow River mitigation.

13

14 MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

15

16 MR. HOLSTEN: I don't know if you have  
17 an answer to that, why that was picked over some other  
18 issues. Yes.

19

20 MS. SUMMERS: So the Snow River  
21 mitigation, the concept was presented to the Department  
22 by the Forest Service, which is the Federal agency with  
23 jurisdiction over the trail there, the Resurrection  
24 Trail and so the Federal Highways made the decision  
25 that the Resurrection Trail is subject to the  
26 stipulations of ANILCA, the Alaska National Interest  
27 Lands Conservation Act, and so once they made that  
28 decision, Forest Service saw, you know, in actuality,  
29 the trail is not being touched, we're putting a bridge  
30 over it, but they saw that as such a desecration of the  
31 trail that they wanted some kind of mitigation for an  
32 equally important long distance trail which they chose  
33 the Iditarod, and Iditarod, and they saw the pinch  
34 points in Iditarod as those Snow River bridges. So the  
35 idea of the mitigation came -- was presented to us by  
36 Forest Service as the agency with jurisdiction.

37

38 So that's where it came from.

39

40 MR. HOLSTEN: Yeah, I knew where that  
41 was coming from. But you could probably expect some --  
42 little bit of public outcry according to those  
43 mitigation efforts.

44

45 MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

46

47 MR. HOLSTEN: I know you kind of threw  
48 a bone to the community by putting in this little  
49 safety trail section, I mean there's already a trail

50

1 that somewhat exists all the way to Sunrise Inn, so I  
2 think the community feels, yeah, they got tossed a  
3 little bone, you know, we'll have a little, a mile or  
4 two of safety trail versus a connection of the  
5 Resurrection Creek Trail up over and down to Seward.

6

7

MS. FERGUSON: Uh-huh.

8

9

MR. HOLSTEN: So just expect that a  
10 little bit. But, anyway, glad to see this EIS, how  
11 many years has it been going on, 40.

12

13

(Laughter)

14

15

16

MS. FERGUSON: I believe the process  
16 started in November 1975, if I'm not mistaken.

17

18

19

MR. HOLSTEN: Well, good luck, thank  
19 you.

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Good questions,  
22 Ed. Any other questions for the gals here.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you  
27 very much for coming. Very informative and I guess  
28 we're going to have more to come.

29

30

31

MS. FERGUSON: We appreciate it, thank  
31 you very much.

32

33

34

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

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36

37

Alrighty, next I got the Alaska  
36 Department of Fish and Game.

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MS. DUBLIN: Good morning everyone. My  
39 name is Robin Dublin. I'm new to the Division of  
40 Subsistence. I don't know if there's anyone from Fish  
41 and Game on the phone. So is there anyone from Fish  
42 and Game on the phone.

43

44

45

(No comments)

46

47

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49

MS. DUBLIN: Okay. I'm the southern  
47 region program manager. And my region is basically all  
48 of Southcentral, South Western and Southeast Alaska.  
49 We've got six researchers and we provide information to

50

1 all of you whenever you need, anything you need just  
2 let us know, and also the Board of Game and the Board  
3 of Fish.

4  
5 We also do a number of different social  
6 science research projects. Our biggest thing is doing  
7 comprehensive surveys that look at the different uses  
8 of fish, game and plant material in a community. And  
9 so our researchers go and talk with folks, they spend a  
10 fair amount of time, sometimes surveys can last up to  
11 two hours talking to people about their use. All of  
12 that information is kept confidential but it's pulled  
13 up into a larger report that informs decisionmakers and  
14 communities about how that use, what that use is, and  
15 what that use is, in terms of change over time.

16  
17 So we're -- and I apologize, I didn't  
18 have a formal presentation ready so I'm just kind of  
19 winging it here. But if there's -- if you ever have  
20 questions that we can provide answers to I definitely  
21 can be the contact person. My predecessor, Brian  
22 Williams, you may have met in the past, and so I'm the  
23 new person.

24  
25 I'm just going to cover a few things  
26 here.

27  
28 We're currently, our Staff, of seven,  
29 we have 21 projects in the central and southern regions  
30 of the state. Currently we're doing what we call a  
31 comprehensive survey in Port Graham and Nanwalek, so  
32 that's asking about all different uses of fish, game  
33 and plant material. In the last five years we've done  
34 these kinds of surveys for Seldovia, Nanwalek, Port  
35 Graham, Tyonek, Alexander Creek, Skwentna, Chenega Bay,  
36 Tatitlek, Cordova and that's kind of in part of the  
37 world and we've done them in other places, we're doing  
38 on in Kodiak right now. So we work with a number of  
39 different agencies and organizations to make that  
40 happen. So a shout out of thanks to OSM, Alaska  
41 Sustainable Salmon Fund, a number of different Native  
42 organizations that we work with. Currently we're doing  
43 some great work with BBNA and so I'm always looking for  
44 different partners to do projects with. We also work  
45 with the different divisions within Fish and Game. We  
46 work with NOAA and RCS. And then about 45 percent of  
47 my budget comes from the State of Alaska's general  
48 fund. So that's kind of how we get to do what we do.

49  
50

1                   And I just wanted to let you know that  
2 any way in which I can provide information or be a  
3 conduit of information, I'm going to go ahead and leave  
4 my business cards for each of you and I look forward to  
5 meeting with you in the future.

6  
7                   So any questions for me.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Questions.

10  
11                   (No comments)

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Robin,  
14 thank you.

15  
16                   MS. DUBLIN: All right, thank you.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

19  
20                   MS. DUBLIN: Have a good day.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Was there anyone  
23 else on the phone there, DeAnna, or others from the  
24 State that you know of.

25  
26                   MS. PERRY: (Shakes head negatively)

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: No. Okay. We  
29 did OSM, Tom gave us a report. We got future meeting  
30 dates. We need to confirm our fall 2019 date and  
31 location. And I'm going to turn that over to either  
32 DeAnna or Donald.

33  
34                   I think we had a tentative date in  
35 place in the back there and they're going to confirm it  
36 and there might be a location change.

37  
38                   MR. WHISSEL: I have a conflict.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: You have a  
41 conflict, that sounds like the world.

42  
43                   MR. WHISSEL: I have a very important  
44 conflict that we should all probably have.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

47  
48                   MR. WHISSEL: Are we up for discussion  
49 on those dates.

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, let's see  
2 what he comes up with for a date.  
3

4 MR. MIKE: We can start off first with  
5 confirming our fall 2019 meeting. That was tentatively  
6 scheduled for October 2 and 3 in Seward. Your calendar  
7 is on Page 130 in your meeting materials. So if the  
8 Council can confirm their fall 2019 meeting date of  
9 October 2nd and 3rd.  
10

11 MR. WHISSEL: So those dates conflict  
12 with the joint conference of the American Fisheries  
13 Society and the Wildlife Society, which they're having  
14 a joint meeting for, I think, the first time ever. I  
15 think that's something everybody in this room may be  
16 very interested in heading to Reno to attend and I plan  
17 to be there to present some moose work and Mr. Piche  
18 plans to be there to present some fisheries work. So  
19 it would be wonderful if we could adjust the timing of  
20 that meeting. Those dates are September 29th to  
21 October 3rd are the dates of that joint meeting.  
22

23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Donald, comments,  
24 I guess the biggest question, I guess the Seward,  
25 that's going to determine when we can be there and when  
26 we can't, right.  
27

28 MR. MIKE: Right. Fall, I think we can  
29 agree on fall, it might be a safe time for everyone to  
30 travel rather than in the wintertime. But as far as  
31 the conflicting meeting schedules for the Council  
32 members, if the Council wishes to move up or down your  
33 meeting dates, you can discuss it among the Council or  
34 if you want to keep the dates as is.  
35

36 Thank you.  
37

38 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm just  
39 looking at it, we don't have a lot of leeway to move it  
40 unless you moved it to the end of September and  
41 September people are still hunting through the 30th,  
42 usually, so that was the conflict before that I recall.  
43 Then we got the Western Interior, we got Southeast, we  
44 got Fairbanks, we got -- yeah, we got a pretty tight  
45 schedule there actually.  
46

47 MS. PERRY: Mr. Chair. I would just  
48 encourage you to look at the calendar on the screen,  
49 that's the latest. There have been a few meetings  
50

1 since the calendar was put in your meeting book.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

4

5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Maybe October 9th and  
6 10th, can we overlap.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Later the weather  
9 gets bad to Seward.

10

11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: October 9th and 10th  
12 perhaps.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The 10th is, I  
15 think it's my 49th anniversary, I think I could get  
16 away with it.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's not the 50th  
21 yet, but it's close.

22

23 MS. STICKWAN: I think that's our SRC  
24 meeting date, in Copper Center.

25

26 MR. MIKE: When is the SRC meeting?

27

28 MS. STICKWAN: He's checking but I  
29 thought it was the 9th and 10th.

30

31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John Whissel's  
32 got a conflict with the 29th through the 3rd, I think,  
33 or something like that.

34

35 MR. WHISSEL: To the 3rd, yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: So that takes out  
38 that whole week pretty much. I see the 10th and 11th  
39 would work, I guess, does that work for everyone. 10th  
40 and 11th work. Daniel, 10th and 11th of October work  
41 for a fall meeting.

42

43 MR. STEVENS: I'm not sure. I was  
44 trying to find out when Wrangell-St. Elias had set  
45 ours, I can't remember when we set ours.

46

47 (Teleconference interference -  
48 participants not muted)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

2

3 MR. STEVENS: So I'm.....

4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair. This is  
6 Barbara Cellarius.

7

8 MR. STEVENS: Thank you, Barbara, glad  
9 you're here.

10

11 MS. CELLARIUS: Yes, so I was just  
12 pulling up the notes from the SRC meeting, we have the  
13 8th and 9th with an alternate of -- of October with an  
14 alternate of the 29th and 30th so we have a choice of  
15 two dates that the SRC identified.

16

17 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, then I  
18 think the 10th and 11th would probably work. Except  
19 you got to explain to my wife if I got to be there,  
20 it's our 49th anniversary so.....

21

22 MS. STICKWAN: If we have to drive  
23 where's it going to be. Where's the meeting going to  
24 because we have to drive.

25

26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. The Council at  
27 its fall meeting selected Seward and.....

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: We have to drive  
30 from.....

31

32 MR. MIKE: ....we were having a public  
33 hearing.....

34

35 MS. STICKWAN: .....Copper Center.

36

37 MR. MIKE: .....on non-rural also. But  
38 if the Council wishes to change the meeting venue, you  
39 have the.....

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: We have to drive -- we  
42 have a meeting.....

43

44 MR. MIKE: .....ability to do so.

45

46 MS. STICKWAN: .....on the 9th and we  
47 have to probably meet all day and then we have to drive  
48 to Kenai, that's a long drive after wor -- I mean after  
49 5:00. I mean from Copper Center to Kenai in the

50

1 evening it's a long drive.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. For those people  
4 that are having to drive a long ways, you know, we can  
5 do your travel authorization a day earlier so you can  
6 spend a night in Anchorage and continue on the next day  
7 so that's an option.

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: We also have two dates  
10 -- two possible dates for the SRC meeting identified,  
11 if there's a conflict we could hold the SRC at a later  
12 date if needed.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: The reason for  
15 the Seward and this is quite a debate, Aaron, we try to  
16 move around and we did Copper Center a couple times,  
17 but the Seward we have the rural determination coming  
18 up there at Moose Pass, and so that was kind of the  
19 reason that venue was picked.

20

21 Okay.

22

23 Gloria, would that work if you got to  
24 come in and maybe Barbara will work with you guys on  
25 the date up there and you came in the 9th and then  
26 headed down for the -- a day early or something like  
27 that.

28

29 MS. STICKWAN: Well she said 8th and  
30 9th is the possible date so we'd be meeting that day,  
31 possibly, unless we changed it to the 29th and 30th.  
32 We're already having two days of meeting so I don't  
33 know if will take two full days and then have to drive  
34 then the night of the 9th, I don't want to drive at  
35 night time.

36

37 MR. WHISSEL: Barbara just mentioned  
38 that that meeting could be changed to the 29th to  
39 accommodate us.

40

41 MS. STICKWAN: Well, I sure hope it can  
42 be changed.

43

44 MR. STEVENS: Barbara, was there --  
45 excuse me, Chair, I'm sorry.

46

47 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Dan.

48

49 MR. STEVENS: Barbara, was there a

50

1 reason we -- wasn't there a reason -- there was going  
2 to be a member gone on the end of the September if we  
3 had to change it?  
4

5 MS. CELLARIUS: Well, doing the meeting  
6 at the end of September is difficult with the end of  
7 moose season so we typically meet -- the Commission  
8 typically meets in October. The -- we do have -- there  
9 is an advantage to having the SRC meet before the RAC  
10 because if the SRC has comments on wildlife proposals  
11 we could share them at the RAC meeting.  
12

13 But we actually have some new members  
14 that I need to -- I haven't had a chance to poll the  
15 entire SRC, we had some folks missing from this last  
16 meeting, about their availability for different meeting  
17 dates. So that's something that I will do once the RAC  
18 finalizes its schedule.  
19

20 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Yeah, we  
21 can go ahead and the 10th and 11th possibly will work  
22 because otherwise we're going to have to stick with the  
23 schedule and we'll miss John. I don't know what other  
24 option you got, not much, according to the schedule  
25 there.  
26

27 (Pause)  
28

29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, do you want  
30 to try for the 10th and 11th.  
31

32 MR. MIKE: 10th and 11th in Seward is  
33 that right.  
34

35 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yep.  
36

37 MR. MIKE: Okay.  
38

39 MR. HOLSTEN: If it's the 10th and the  
40 11th I'll probably have to phone in, I'll probably be  
41 out of state then.  
42

43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Will you be here  
44 on the 3rd.  
45

46 MR. HOLSTEN: Oh, yeah.  
47

48 MS. STICKWAN: Okay, I'll make a motion  
49 to have the next meeting on October 10th and 11th in  
50

1 Seward.

2

3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Is there a second  
4 to that motion.

5

6 MR. WHISSEL: Second.

7

8 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
9 and seconded to have it the 10th and 11th in Seward.

10

11 Any other discussion.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question.

16

17 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.

18

19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All in  
20 favor of fall meeting the 10th and 11th in Seward, aye.

21

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

25

26 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes.

27

28 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah,  
29 unfortunately, Ed, every time we make a change it  
30 throws someone off and I think, you know, we all have  
31 important meetings I realize that, I got a full  
32 schedule. I don't even look at it, I just schedule this  
33 one first, but, anyway, 10th and 11th is kind of  
34 inconvenient for me too, but we'll make it work so  
35 sorry about that Ed. Ed's going to have to call in  
36 but, okay, we'll stick with that date.

37

38 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39 And if any members need to travel a day early, please  
40 let me know and I'll make the accommodations.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got one  
45 other one, we got to select the winter meeting date and  
46 location. Do we need to do that, do we got the  
47 schedule.

48

49 (Pause)

50

1 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: What's the wishes  
2 of the Council. Do we have a tentative date picked or  
3 not, okay, we usually do it early March. It looks like  
4 that second week of March is available, or we could do  
5 it the end of February. What's your preference.

6  
7 DeAnna, any.....

8  
9 MS. STICKWAN: Second week of March.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: .....preference.

12  
13 MS. STICKWAN: The second week of  
14 March.

15  
16 MS. PERRY: I'll be tied up with the  
17 Southeast meeting the last week in February.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I hear the  
20 second week of March looks good.

21  
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I probably won't go  
23 the second week of March.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We got one guy  
26 who can't make the second week of March, I don't know.

27  
28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That's the only week I  
29 got my kid for the whole six months.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: How about 4th and  
32 5th of March.

33  
34 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: That's better.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: 4th and 5th work.

37  
38 MR. BURCHAM: I'll speak up for Dennis  
39 Zadra, I know he commercial fishes and they start  
40 longlining around mid-March.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, while  
43 you're speaking for him tell him we're going to meet  
44 the 4th and 5th of March.

45  
46 (Laughter)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, the  
49 4th and 5th of March I think is pretty good.

50

1 MS. SELANOFF: I'll make a motion to  
2 have the winter meeting the 4th and 5th of March.  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: In Anchorage, I'm  
5 assuming.  
6  
7 MS. STICKWAN: In Anchorage, yes.  
8  
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
12 and seconded the 4th and 5th of March in Anchorage.  
13  
14 MS. STICKWAN: Call for the question.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been  
17 called for.  
18  
19 All in favor aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Michael and  
24 Dennis I haven't heard you on the phone, so you guys  
25 just got consent.  
26  
27 Thank you.  
28  
29 MR. OPHEIM: I agree.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Last order of  
32 business we have closing comments.  
33  
34 MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair, if I may.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: We were just done  
37 with OSM.....  
38  
39 (Laughter)  
40  
41 MR. AYERS: I know you were.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: .....we figured  
44 Tom did good, we figure we've had enough of that.  
45  
46 MR. AYERS: The boss called.....  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead,  
49 you got.....  
50

1 MR. AYERS: .....and so I followed.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, go ahead.

4  
5 MR. AYERS: When he says jump.....

6  
7 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

8  
9 MR. AYERS: So, Mr. Chair, Members of  
10 the Council. This is just a really brief update on the  
11 fisheries program happenings since our last meeting.

12  
13 As for the fisheries regulatory cycle,  
14 as Tom mentioned earlier, and pretty much stole my  
15 thunder on this, the meeting's been delayed until next  
16 month, as such we won't take action until that point in  
17 time and there will likely be a series of temporary  
18 special actions to enact things earlier.

19  
20 For our Partners for Fisheries  
21 Monitoring Program, we recently closed a notice of  
22 funding opportunity for the 2020-2023 cycle. The  
23 Partners Program is for strengthening Alaska Native and  
24 rural involvement in the Federal Subsistence Management  
25 by providing funding for biologists or social  
26 scientists or educator positions in Alaska Native and  
27 rural non-profit organizations with the intent of  
28 increasing organizations ability to participate in  
29 Federal Subsistence Management. A total of 14  
30 proposals were received from perspective partners and  
31 the review committee has met to evaluate proposals and  
32 notification letters will be sent out soon.

33  
34 And the third component is the  
35 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update. The 2020  
36 notice of funding opportunity closed on March 15th and  
37 for that cycle it's anticipated that there will be \$1.5  
38 million available for the first year of new projects.  
39 The next step in this process is for the Technical  
40 Review Committee to meet and the results of that review  
41 will be presented to the Council here at the fall 2019  
42 meeting.

43  
44 And I hope that was brief enough.

45  
46 If you have any questions, please let  
47 me know.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good.

50

1 Didn't mean to cut you off but, anyway, we kind of did.

2

3

Questions.

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

8

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,  
Scott. Very good.

9

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12

13

Okay, now at this time I'm going to go  
around the table here and we'll start -- Dan do you  
want me to start, or do you want me to start with the  
phone people.

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How about Michael or Dennis, one of  
you, we're on the closing comments, one of you want to  
start.

19

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MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I'll start. I  
apologize for not being there in person. It sounds  
like it was a good meeting there. Some good  
presentations. And the new meeting dates and locations  
sound great so hope to see everybody then.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,  
Michael.

Dennis.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Milo, you want to  
speak for Dennis.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you.

Go ahead, Diane

MS. SELANOFF: Alrighty then. Well, it  
was a good meeting. The dates we selected make it  
easier for me to travel. I'm sorry that not  
everybody's going to be able to make those dates, too,  
but I like the location, very cultural, recognize  
subsistence. I've been staring at those seagull eggs  
out there and I know I'm going to have seagull eggs

1 pretty soon. But, anyway, good meeting.

2

3

Thank you.

4

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good, thank  
you.

7

8

9

Eleanor.

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11

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13

MS. DEMENTI: I thought it was a great  
meeting. A lot of information being given like from  
different areas, you don't really know about, and I  
thought that was pretty great.

14

15

16

Thank you.

17

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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MR. STEVENS: I want to thank you for  
the time. I want to thank everyone in the audience  
that's came and given us their presentation and I want  
to thank you for it. It's good information. And thank  
you for this wonderful meeting and we'll see you in  
Seward.

28

29

Thank you.

30

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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MS. STICKWAN: It was a good meeting.  
Thank you for the RAC members for the unanimous vote  
and thank you Donald and DeAnna for your work and OSM  
Staff and everyone being here.

39

40

41

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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Andy.

MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, great meeting.  
Really impressed with the wealth of knowledge amongst  
all the program Staff, everything, from all the  
different places and welcome to the new faces and glad  
to be encouraged about the knowledge base that's also  
coming on the Board there with the new people.

1 Thanks.

2

3

CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: John.

4

5

6 MR. WHISSEL: I'm just happy to be  
7 here. This has been a good experience for me. I'm  
8 really pleased to start serving on this Council. I  
9 appreciate you guys working with me on that meeting  
10 date, and I'd really like to encourage everybody to go  
11 to that meeting that conflicted me out of our original  
12 dates because it's sure to be really good. And I look  
13 forward to the next one.

13

14

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

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Ed.

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The Wrangell-St. Elias -- and this has  
to do with my industry, not necessarily my personal  
guiding stuff, but the Wrangell-St. Elias Park guide  
concessions came out last week, I guess, and there's  
some new stuff in there that I think should concern

1 people of the Copper Valley that are subsistence users.  
2 There's been horses used in Wrangell-St. Elias since  
3 before the Kennicott Copper Mine, over 100 years, in  
4 all of the guide concessions at some point in time, not  
5 necessarily in the recent future, but they've limited  
6 horse use to just six out of the 16 concessions in the  
7 new prospectuses. And I don't know if it's an  
8 appropriate time now or maybe -- well, it would have to  
9 be now, I guess, for us to write a letter, and I'll  
10 give you some background on it in a minute, requesting  
11 that the current level of allowable horse use, which  
12 there are some concessions that don't use them, but  
13 can, be maintained. And the reason is, is that, most  
14 of the places the horses go are really remote. They're  
15 not places subsistence users can get to but most of  
16 that meat comes back to the community. You know, the  
17 McManns, they probably dump nine or 10 moose into the  
18 Gulkana, Gakona, Glennallen area, you know, Kelly Vrem,  
19 probably a half a dozen or so into Chitina and  
20 surrounding areas down there. The Ellis' up by Nabesna  
21 and Mentasta bring some stuff although they've cut way  
22 back. They're one of the ones that horses have been  
23 eliminated from their concession area but they did use  
24 them before they cut back 15 or 20 years ago at some  
25 point. And I think it's important when you look at the  
26 grander Wrangell-St. Elias Park, there's only -- I don't  
27 remember exactly what the numbers were but if I'm  
28 thinking right there are about 30 to 35 Federal  
29 subsistence moose that come out of that entire unit and  
30 guided hunters and outfitters probably provide a  
31 similar number to that, to the local community. And a  
32 lot of those would be dying on the hoof without the use  
33 of horses because it's just so remote. You're not  
34 packing, nobody else is hunting there, and without  
35 horses you're going to kind of conflict people around  
36 airstrips and stuff.

37  
38 So if that's something the committee  
39 would be willing to take up I'd be glad to work with  
40 Greg or somebody to write a quick, short, down and  
41 dirty letter. If not I'm fine with that too.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,  
46 Aaron. A good thought. What's the Council's thought.  
47 I know our coordinators, DeAnna and Donald, we could  
48 submit letters of that nature I'm assuming if we want,  
49 and so it's up to the Council here if you want to

50

1 support that to keep the current number.

2

3 I look at it and just my personal  
4 thought, real quick, I mean right off the top of the  
5 cuff is if it supports, you know, the locals with more  
6 meat or whatever I would be in favor of it. So that's  
7 the way I would look at it. But, anyway.

8

9 Go ahead, Gloria.

10

11 MS. STICKWAN: I was wondering if we  
12 could hear from Barbara what the number is.

13

14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Barbara did you  
15 hear the discussion here just recently?

16

17 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, I did hear the  
18 discussion. I have not had a chance to look at what  
19 the prospectus says so I shouldn't comment at this  
20 point. I was out of town last week and I'm just trying  
21 to get caught up so I'm afraid that I would have to get  
22 back to you on that question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think it  
25 kind of got -- it's a new subject for all of us a  
26 little bit, I mean caught off guard, but it sounds  
27 reasonable, Aaron, it does, yeah.

28

29 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, sorry about that  
30 guys. You know it was something that it just came up  
31 and frankly it's been a surprise to everybody. The  
32 prospectuses are three years late, they were supposed  
33 to be out three years ago and there's been absolutely  
34 no public input. It's been totally secret in the  
35 development of the new prospectuses and this is the  
36 first time, as far as I know that they've limited horse  
37 use. There's some other limitations too but I don't  
38 want to dig into the weeds with this committee.

39

40 So, anyways.

41

42 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, John.

43

44 MR. WHISSEL: I'd just say that that's  
45 sort of a thing that happens in Cordova as well, where  
46 outfitters will go remote with clients who are looking  
47 for experience more than meat and then deliver that  
48 meat back to the community. My concern, I guess, is  
49 why they're limiting it and if there's some resource

50

1 being impacted and that's driving the rationale or if  
2 it's just people don't like seeing horses. Yeah, I  
3 mean it seems like a pretty reasonable request to me  
4 and we're here to make sure people get enough food, if  
5 that's an important food source for those communities,  
6 as it is in Cordova, I'd firmly support something like  
7 that.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any other  
10 comments.

11  
12 (No comments)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Aaron, if you  
15 want to introduce a motion to write a letter I'd  
16 entertain it.

17  
18 MR. BLOOMQUIST: Yeah, I move to write  
19 a letter to the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve to  
20 maintain horse use in the current prospectuses as it  
21 was in the previous prospectuses for hunting guide  
22 outfitter concessions.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Very good. Is  
25 there a second to that.

26  
27 MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
30 and seconded. Any other discussion.

31  
32 (No comments)

33  
34 MS. STICKWAN: Question.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Question's been  
37 called for, all in favor aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed.

42  
43 (No opposing votes)

44  
45 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Now I get to make  
46 my comments. A couple closing comments, I do too want  
47 to thank all the participants, a lot of work goes into  
48 these meetings, a lot of time and effort and dedication  
49 and all the people. I do want to recognize both Aaron

50

1 and John, our new members, and great contributors for  
2 just starting out, very good, I appreciate that and I  
3 think everyone else does too.

4

5 Eleanor, you're volunteerism is  
6 outstanding. You're back for another year, that's  
7 good.

8

9 And the one thing I would just remind  
10 everyone is that, you know, the Board -- the Council  
11 here, the Southcentral RAC, we could submit proposals  
12 and if you see a proposal that you want to entertain or  
13 bring before the Council, you know, you could work with  
14 OSM or work with whoever to build that proposal. One  
15 of the things I have heard, I heard concern of  
16 dipnetting in boats and other things. And the proper  
17 way to put that forth is you go ahead and start a  
18 proposal and we'll sure as heck entertain it and see  
19 what we could do with it.

20

21 So just as a reminder.

22

23 Other than that I don't have a whole  
24 lot, I'm not going to be long-winded. So I think it  
25 was a great meeting and thank everyone and a motion to  
26 adjourn is in order.

27

28 MR. WHISSEL: Move to adjourn.

29

30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

31

32 MS. SELANOFF: Second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: It's been moved  
35 and seconded to adjourn.

36

37 Any questions.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Hearing none, all  
42 in favor aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: All right, we  
47 stand adjourned. Thank you guys.

48

49 (Off record)

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
 ) ss.  
STATE OF ALASKA )

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

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THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of April 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22