

1 WESTERN INTERIOR ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5  
6 VOLUME II

7  
8  
9 McGrath Native Village Council  
10 Community Service Center  
11 McGrath, Alaska  
12 October 12, 2016  
13 9:05 a.m.

14  
15  
16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17  
18 Jack Reakoff, Chair  
19 Fred Alexie  
20 Ray Collins  
21 Timothy Gervais  
22 Jenny Pelkola  
23 Pollock Simon  
24 Robert Walker  
25 Darrel Vent  
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31 Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(McGrath, Alaska - 10/12/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll call this meeting to order. So we have Wayne Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS: I'm going to read this letter in.

On behalf of and with permission of the Village of Holy Cross Tribal Council, Huslia Tribal Council, and the Ruby Native Council, I would like to request a letter of support for their nominations per the Bureau of Land Management's Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACECs. ACECs provide special management for fish and wildlife resources or other important values on public lands. They are also created to conserve or prevent damage to important historic, cultural, or to protect fragile landscapes and sensitive ecosystems. ACECs can be nominated and designated through the BLM's Resource Planning Process or RMP.

The villages of Holy Cross, Huslia, and Ruby, represented by their respective tribal councils, has nominated traditional use areas which they have historically and continue to use for harvest of fish, moose, and other resources necessary for their livelihoods, cultural survival, and wellbeing. Traditional use maps and the required ACEC nomination form have been shared with BLM along with a supporting resolution from the tribal councils. The tribal councils would now like to request a letter of support from the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council be sent to BLM.

The Council may recall having submitted a similar ACEC letter of support for the Loudon and Koyukuk Tribal Councils in December of 2014. Those councils appreciate your support very much.

And if you have any questions, please direct them to me, Wayne Jenkins, Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.

And we thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Wayne. Any  
2 questions on that request. Darrel.  
3  
4                   MR. VENT: I would like to thank Wayne  
5 for, you know, coming to our village over there and  
6 giving us this opportunity to log all this information  
7 on traditional use, the land use. I recommend, you  
8 know, that maybe other villages should try to get the  
9 same kind of information involved with their villages.  
10 So I support this letter.  
11  
12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will  
13 entertain a motion to have a letter drafted in support  
14 of the ACECs for these communities. You want to make  
15 that motion, Darrel.  
16  
17                   MR. VENT: Yes, I'd like to make that  
18 motion.  
19  
20                   MR. ALEXIE: Second.  
21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Fred.  
23 Further discussion.  
24  
25                   I want to be on the record as noting  
26 that we're in support of these ACECs, but I also have  
27 submitted ACECs for areas of critical concern on Bureau  
28 of Land Management lands in the area where I live.  
29 There's another individual in our community that also  
30 submitted, so there are other communities that have  
31 ACECs in the hopper with BLM, and I want this Council  
32 to recognize that also, that this is not the only ACECs  
33 that have been submitted to the BLM, but there's other  
34 communities, including my own that have areas of  
35 critical concern.  
36  
37                   So any further discussion on a letter  
38 of transmittal to the Bureau of Land Management  
39 regarding this ACEC issue.  
40  
41                   MR. COLLINS: Are you going to include  
42 comments on that in the letter?  
43  
44                   REPORTER: Mic, please. Microphone,  
45 please.  
46  
47                   MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. Are you  
48 going to include letters -- mention of other.....  
49  
50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like that to

1 be included in the letter, yes.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Well, then I did  
4 one on the Big River, too, and I think we sent an  
5 endorsement of that before, but if not, mention that.  
6 It's a critical.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

9

10 MR. COLLINS: .....sheefish spawning  
11 area for the whole Kuskokwim River. Something like 80  
12 percent of the sheefish.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The letter could  
15 state that we're endorsing the ACECs submitted by these  
16 tribal councils and other ACECs that are recognizing  
17 critical subsistence resources.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Something to that  
22 effect. Zach.

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25 Through the Chair.

26

27 Mr. Jenkins, would it be possible for  
28 you to briefly elaborate on what are the criteria that  
29 are required to be considered when doing an ACEC  
30 designation?

31

32 MR. JENKINS: Well, the criteria that  
33 -- the decision-making process by BLM as explained in  
34 their nomination form, they use relevance criteria, and  
35 an importance criteria. And I'm sure Bruce can  
36 elaborate further on it.

37

38 The process seems a bit subjective to  
39 me in that relevant and important to whom. So there's  
40 two sides to this equation. There's BLM's view and, of  
41 course, there's the village folks view. I mean, I  
42 think this is all yet to actually be worked out. I  
43 think it's been a challenge for BLM to receive these,  
44 and the complexity of -- ACECs I don't believe were  
45 used in this way in the Lower 48. But when one looks  
46 at the manual, the guidance, it appears that cultural  
47 and historical values were meant to be included. It  
48 doesn't specifically speak to, I don't think,  
49 subsistence. But with the trust relationship that the  
50 tribes have with the Federal Government, and the

1 executive orders that have come down for meaningful  
2 engagement, it would seem that these areas, their  
3 importance, that this might be a good fit, but it  
4 probably would be good for Bruce to also elaborate from  
5 BLM's perspective.

6

7 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Bruce, you've  
10 got comments?

11

12 MR. SEPPI: I do. Just a few short  
13 comments. This is Bruce Seppi with the Bureau of Land  
14 Management, Anchorage Field Office.

15

16 One is that there's two land use plans  
17 going on, Central Yukon, which overlaps into this RAC  
18 area, but also the Bering Sea/Western Interior, which  
19 is out of my office. And we have asked for ACEC  
20 nominations over the past year, and although the  
21 deadline is closed, we're still open to getting them.

22

23 And, in fact, the one for the sheefish  
24 spawning on the Big River is already in the hopper as a  
25 nomination. And that one is an important one, because  
26 that's a resource that as far as we know only sheefish  
27 spawn in that area for a large portion of the  
28 watershed. And that fits the ACEC idea of protecting  
29 important or unique areas.

30

31 Now, we've gotten I think up to this  
32 point 16 ACEC nominations, and the vast majority of  
33 them are based on subsistence use areas from  
34 communities. And so we have to go through this  
35 criteria, this relevance and importance criteria, we  
36 ask the question, and it's -- I don't have it in front  
37 of me, but it's, is the area relevant, or is this ACEC  
38 relevant to protecting resources, and every time it's  
39 absolutely it's relevant, because people are asking to  
40 protect the resources that's importance to their  
41 subsistence uses.

42

43 But when you get into the importance  
44 criteria, it asks the question, is this resource  
45 unique? Is it found nowhere else? And that's the  
46 thing we as resource specialists have to look at. And  
47 I hate saying this to people, but it comes out that a  
48 subsistence use area isn't important, or under BLM's  
49 criteria it ends up being not unique. It's found in  
50 other parts -- all other parts of the state. For

1 instance, moose and moose hunting areas. And so as a  
2 biologist and a specialist, you know, I'd love to tell  
3 everybody, yes, we're going to make this an ACEC, but  
4 it doesn't meet the criteria.

5  
6 So this is coming up in our planning  
7 process, and although subsistence use areas, and berry-  
8 picking areas, and wood-cutting areas, and places that  
9 villages have used and tribes have used for a long,  
10 long time may not fit the ACEC criteria, we're looking  
11 for ways in the land use planning process to  
12 acknowledge these areas and protect them in another  
13 way. And I don't know what that is right now.

14  
15 The other thing about ACECs, areas of  
16 critical environmental concern, it sounds like -- that  
17 title sounds like this is going to be protected forever  
18 and nothing will happen in there. And that's just not  
19 the case. It still allows mining. It still allows all  
20 kinds of resource -- all the resource extraction that  
21 BLM permits, but it recognizes the importance of the  
22 resource in the area and has a higher bar for allowing  
23 resource development in those areas, but it does not  
24 prevent it.

25  
26 So I think a lot of people think that  
27 this designation will stop everything from happening in  
28 there, and it doesn't. And I just wanted to point that  
29 out.

30  
31 There are two land use plans going on  
32 right one out of Fairbanks at Central Yukon, and the  
33 Bering Sea/Western Interior. And it's a very good  
34 thing that communities and RAC Councils are putting in  
35 these ACs, these nominations, because it allows us to  
36 recognize what areas are important to subsistence.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It highlights the  
39 importance of that resource, and it would add to  
40 mitigations if there was -- like the sheefish spawning  
41 area, if they're going to build a pipeline across that  
42 drainage, then they wouldn't be able to do that at  
43 specific times of the year when the sheefish are  
44 present. So it actually adds a layer of protection to  
45 those resources. So I'm supportive of the ACEC.

46  
47 This area that I designated has a lot  
48 of gold lode claims there, but I don't want to see any  
49 camps impeding the dall sheep movement, or any kind of  
50 infrastructure that would impede the dall sheep to move

1 through that range of hills. You know, it might not be  
2 able to stop the people from mining there, but we don't  
3 want them to be building a lot of infrastructure in the  
4 main routes that the dall sheep use to cross that  
5 particular drainage.

6

7                   So these ACECs are an important thing.  
8 The letter should include the support for the ACECs for  
9 these communities, but it also should recognize -- our  
10 letter should recognize the other important subsistence  
11 aspects of ACECs that have been submitted by other  
12 communities. So I would like to see that incorporated  
13 into the letter.

14

15                   Robert.

16

17                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19                   For our subregion, in the TCC  
20 subregion, Holy Cross, Arctic Village, Shageluk, Holy  
21 Cross, I mean, we have something like what they have  
22 further up the river, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Kaltag. We  
23 have graveyards. We have like -- I don't know, upriver  
24 we've got like five different grave sites, complete old  
25 villages that moved -- when the villages moved. Holy  
26 Cross moved across the river to the Deering Slough, and  
27 we have villages here that were abandoned years and  
28 years and years ago, and they're still -- people still  
29 talk about these places, and ACEC would be something  
30 that we would need to have to cover these. And like I  
31 know Shageluk, for instance, never ever heard of this.  
32 Never heard of this, Wayne. So this is something new.

33

34

35                   Jack, I would recommend that we have a  
36 dialogue with all our tribes inside our Western  
37 Interior RAC, and give them an opportunity to do this.  
38 Because I've been hearing -- I've heard this, the first  
39 time, was a couple years ago and I completely forgot  
40 about it until this letter shows up. And I really  
41 appreciate that, Wayne, because that gives us something  
42 more to do to protect that from disrupting our old  
43 grave sites. And a lot of them are not even marked.  
44 They're just that people -- just like here, I mean,  
45 people say this is a graveyard. You look, there's not  
46 crosses. They didn't have religion back then. I would  
47 recommend that we give all our tribes a chance, not  
48 only ours, but the Eastern Interior, too.

49

50                   Thank you, Jack.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the letter  
2 could be also -- because it is to the BLM, a reminder  
3 to republish the notification of ACECs' importance for  
4 -- back to tribes, you know, that there are historic  
5 graveyard areas and stuff that -- for basically a  
6 reminder back to the tribes on what the ACEC process  
7 is, because I don't think the tribes have actually  
8 really evaluated this thing really closely.

9

10                   Fred.

11

12                   MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. I'm really in  
13 support, really in support of this letter here. And  
14 like Robert, it opened minds to say, hey. You know,  
15 Kaltag, there was three big, big villages. You could  
16 still see around that old village, where that old  
17 village was, and then in the middle there, there's  
18 three sites like that at home. Kaltag. And why they  
19 moved was what Kaltag is, cast off. That's where the  
20 king salmon go. So they all moved, because the high  
21 water and the fish and the moose. But there's three  
22 sites that now I'm thinking of that could be designated  
23 like that, protected.

24

25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A reminder to the  
26 Council that we have this map before us, the yellow  
27 areas are the BLM lands. And so that's what we're  
28 talking about. The ACECs would apply to the yellow  
29 lands on this map.

30

31                   MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair. If I could add  
32 just quickly, and Councilman Walker, cultural sites are  
33 important for ACECs, and they are relevant. And they  
34 are important. So any places where there's old village  
35 sites, graveyards, that sort of thing, they will likely  
36 get designated in ACECs if they're brought up, but they  
37 have to be on Federal land as Chairman Reakoff is  
38 saying. We only have a say if it's on Federal BLM  
39 land. But they do qualify, cultural sites.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Wayne.

42

43                   MR. JENKINS: So in working with the  
44 tribes, and to the Council through the Chair, this  
45 question of petroglyphs, and burial sites, and old  
46 village sites came up. And they're actually handled  
47 through the Historic Preservation Act, which is a  
48 separate Congressional act that was passed. These  
49 sites are highly regarded by the Federal Government,  
50 and all land management agencies. And they're



1 extremely sensitive and private. And so I was looking  
2 for direction and talked with folks at BLM, and  
3 internally the tribe has to decide, do they even want  
4 to go there. Do they even want to identify locations  
5 and all. But if they do, and they think they're on  
6 BLM, they can enter into government-to-government  
7 consultation, and have very private discussions about  
8 these areas, how to protect them, how to keep them from  
9 being disturbed.

10

11                   It also brings up what I think is an  
12 important point about the lack of a good way to protect  
13 subsistence use on BLM lands. We have clear direction  
14 from Congress that the past of tribal peoples is  
15 extremely important. What about the present and the  
16 future. Are they not equally important? We have  
17 Native ways of life that are thousands of years old.  
18 People are struggling to try to continue them in the  
19 modern world, to take them forward. Is that of not  
20 equal importance, or maybe even greater importance?  
21 And yet we don't have a clear-cut mechanism for  
22 ensuring the access and the protection of that habitat.

23

24                   And so, you know, there's a hole here.  
25 There's a gap. And I'm sure BLM's doing everything and  
26 the best that they can. They're under-funded, they're  
27 under-staffed. But it's really up to the tribes to  
28 kind of push this point. We're here. We've been here.  
29 And we wish to remain here as best we can.

30

31                   So those are the two points that I  
32 wanted to make around the sites, but then also what  
33 about the future.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we do have a full  
36 agenda, and so we're preaching to the choir on the  
37 importance of this issue.

38

39                   So you've got one final comment there,  
40 Jenny?

41

42                   MS. PELKOLA: Yes, I do have a comment.  
43 When Wayne came in to work with us, we marked all our  
44 trapping areas, and, you know, I thought this was very,  
45 very important to our area, because we still have  
46 trappers that go out, and, you know, our berry picking  
47 areas and things like that, so I think it's very  
48 important for the villages to jump on this and to do  
49 it.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny. I do  
2 think that endorse -- the Western Interior Regional  
3 Advisory Council under .805 of ANILCA, any issue that  
4 affects subsistence, and so this Council is recognizing  
5 that the ACEC process is important to protecting  
6 cultural and subsistence resources, and the BLM should  
7 be aware that those designated areas that the  
8 communities have delineated should have a layer of  
9 consideration about the subsistence use of those areas.  
10 And so that's what this letter's about, and I think  
11 that this Council has deference with the Federal  
12 Subsistence Board, but the Council also interacts with  
13 each individual agency, Federal land managing agency,  
14 so I do feel that this letter should have look -- be  
15 looked at with specific weight by the BLM.

16  
17                   So I would like a question on the  
18 motion on the letter. Any additions to the letter.  
19 Further comments. We need to move along.

20  
21                   (No comments)

22  
23                   MR. VENT: Call for question.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The questions  
26 called. Those in favor of transmitting that letter to  
27 the Bureau of Land Management on the ACECs and  
28 endorsing the letter provided by Yukon River Drainage  
29 Fisheries Association, and recognizing also the other  
30 ACECs that delineated aspects of subsistence resources  
31 signify by saying aye.

32  
33                   IN UNISON: Aye.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
36 sign.

37  
38                   (No opposing votes)

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
41 Appreciate bringing that issue forward.

42  
43                   MR. JENKINS: Thank you.

44  
45                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do want to get --  
46 we've got some people call in. I'd like to know who's  
47 on the phone this morning. Is anybody on the phone.

48  
49                   MR. MCKEE: Hi. This is Chris McKee,  
50 Wildlife Division chief at OSM.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good morning,  
2 Chris. Any others.  
3  
4                   MS. WESSEL: Hi. This is Maria Wessel  
5 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Maria.  
8  
9                   MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, wildlife  
10 biologist, Office of Subsistence Management.  
11  
12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Lisa.  
13  
14                  MR. ALBERTSON: LaMont Albertson,  
15 Director, Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
16 in Bethel, Alaska.  
17  
18                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,  
19 LaMont.  
20  
21                  MR. ALBERTSON: Good morning.  
22  
23                  MS. LaVINE: Robbin LaVine, Office of  
24 Subsistence Management.  
25  
26                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,  
27 Robbin.  
28  
29                  MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of  
30 Land Management in Anchorage.  
31  
32                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Dan.  
33  
34                  MS. HARDIN: Jennifer Hardin, Office of  
35 Subsistence Management.  
36  
37                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning,  
38 Jennifer.  
39  
40                  MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, National Park  
41 Service.  
42  
43                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Good morning, Marcy.  
44  
45                  MS. GLEASON: Christie Gleason, Alaska  
46 Department of Fish and Game, fall season state manager.  
47  
48                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say your name again?  
49  
50                  MS. GLEASON: Christie Gleason.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Good morning,  
2 Christie.

3  
4                   MR. KRON: Tom Kron, OSM. Good  
5 morning, Jack.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going  
8 to be addressing the remainder of the fisheries  
9 proposals, and then we're going to go into the Board of  
10 Game -- a few Board of Game proposals that may need  
11 comment before the conclusion of this meeting.

12  
13                   And so we're going to move into the  
14 next proposal. We covered FP17-01 yesterday. We're  
15 going to go into FP17-02. Go ahead, Scott.

16  
17                   MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair. Members of the  
18 Council. Good morning. Again this is Scott Ayers with  
19 the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage. Next  
20 I'll be presenting Fisheries Proposal FP17-02, which  
21 you can find on Page 56 of your books.

22  
23                   Proposal FP17-02 was submitted by the  
24 Eastern Interior Council, and seeks to allow the  
25 harvest of early run Chinook salmon in Subdistrict 5D.  
26 Few summer chum salmon migrate up as -- upriver as far  
27 as District 5; therefore any subsistence opportunity  
28 provided would likely target Chinook salmon, the  
29 majority of which are Canadian origin. Because few  
30 alternative fish species are available for subsistence  
31 harvest during the summer season, District 5 often  
32 experiences the most restrictive management measures.

33  
34                   In an effort to increase harvest  
35 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users  
36 in Subdistrict 5D, the Council proposed allowing  
37 harvest of the early-arriving Chinook salmon.  
38 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be allowed  
39 to harvest the early-arriving Chinook salmon until the  
40 first pulse of Chinook salmon arrives in Subdistrict  
41 5D, which is often protected by a fishing closure.

42  
43                   If FP17-02 were adopted, it would give  
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users in Subdistrict 5B  
45 the ability to harvest early-arriving Chinook salmon  
46 migrating through portions of Subdistrict 5D without  
47 action from the Federal in-season manager, provided a  
48 surplus is available for harvest.

49  
50                   In times of low Chinook salmon

1 abundance, when conservation actions are required, the  
2 in-season manager may still impose a subsistence  
3 fishing schedule and/or gear restrictions through  
4 Federal special actions. Since 2014 Federally-  
5 qualified subsistence users have been allowed to  
6 harvest the earliest returning Chinook salmon with gear  
7 restrictions. Once the first pulse of Chinook salmon  
8 arrived in the subdistrict, the in-season manager  
9 issued a closer to protect the salmon pulse.

10  
11 If this proposal were adopted, the  
12 Federally-qualified subsistence users in Subdistrict 5D  
13 would have that same opportunity as they've had in  
14 recent years without a Federal special action.

15  
16 OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
17 support Proposal FP17-02. Adoption of this proposal  
18 would result in continued opportunity for Federally-  
19 qualified subsistence users in portions of Subdistrict  
20 5D adjacent to Federal management units to harvest the  
21 earliest returning Yukon River Chinook salmon.

22  
23 Adoption of this proposal would provide  
24 a preference to Federally-qualified subsistence users  
25 to continue harvesting the earlier Chinook salmon  
26 arriving in Subdistrict 5D without a Federal special  
27 action when remaining waters not adjacent to Federal  
28 management units are closed.

29  
30 Thank you.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any questions on the  
33 proposal from the Council.

34  
35 (No comments)

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. So, you know,  
38 I've got a list here, so this tribal consultation did  
39 not occur, so we can't use that category. And that's  
40 going to be an issue on our annual report is this  
41 tribal consultation. I want that to be highlighted for  
42 the annual report.

43  
44 Agency comments. Alaska Department of  
45 Fish and Game. Maria, are you commenting on this one?

46  
47 MS. WESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 Yes, we have comments.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We need to turn that

1 speaker up.

2

3 MS. WESSEL: I'm sorry?

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

6

7 MS. WESSEL: Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have technical  
10 problem here. Go ahead.

11

12 MS. WESSEL: Okay. Thank you. So this  
13 is Maria Wessel with the Alaska Department of Fish and  
14 Game.

15

16 This proposal requests to allow harvest  
17 of early-arriving Chinook salmon in subdistrict 5D  
18 until subsistence fishing is closed to protect the  
19 first pulse of Chinook salmon. State regulations  
20 direct that the subsistence fishery in the Yukon River  
21 drainage be based on a schedule implemented  
22 chronologically, consistent with migratory timing as  
23 the salmon run progresses upstream. Additionally, a  
24 provision adopted in 2013 by the Alaska Board of  
25 Fisheries requires first pulse protection in order to  
26 account for the uncertainty of the pre-season run  
27 projection. This prohibition may be relaxed in  
28 Districts 3 through 6 if run assessment information  
29 suggests sufficient abundance.

30

31 In practice, the fisheries already  
32 being managed to allow opportunity to harvest early  
33 arriving Chinook salmon in Subdistrict 5D in order to  
34 offset the lack of opportunity for Chinook salmon later  
35 in the season when management takes conservative  
36 measures in this district, because there are few summer  
37 chum, and the majority of Chinook salmon caught in this  
38 subdistrict are Canadian origin. Formalizing this  
39 management approach in regulation, however, would  
40 reduce flexibility.

41

42 Additionally, users from Subdistrict 5C  
43 or other subdistricts could travel to Subdistrict 5D to  
44 fish, which may cause concerns in communities on a  
45 local level.

46

47 And we do have area management staff  
48 listening in that can answer specific questions the  
49 Council may have.

50

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Maria.  
4  
5 Any Council comments on the State's  
6 position.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, Federal  
11 agencies. And, Fred, are you going to -- Federal  
12 agency, are you going to comment on this proposal.  
13  
14 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I don't  
15 know that I'm -- I'm not part of the InterAgency Staff  
16 Committee. I'm a manager.  
17  
18 Again, some of you folks are new to  
19 this process, but managers -- this proposal has a lot  
20 of allocative nature, that's the thrust of it. And so  
21 as a manager, I'm disqualified to speak to whether or  
22 not I support it.  
23  
24 But what I can see is that this is a  
25 practice that we are doing, but it is -- again it is  
26 with the consent of other fishermen on the river. It's  
27 not an official thing, but we have talked with a lot of  
28 fishermen up and down the river, and fishermen have  
29 agreed that this is an okay thing to do, and so we've  
30 proceeded that way in our informal management strategy  
31 as we go into the season. And so we do feel we have  
32 public support, and we have been doing this, and it is  
33 a trade-off, but as a manager, I can't say one way or  
34 the other.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question to you  
37 is if -- how would you see that you would preclude the  
38 harvest of the trickle, front end, before the first  
39 pulse. How would -- if the run was projected to be  
40 like way below escapement needs, you may preclude that?  
41  
42 MR. BUE: Certainly, if we feel there  
43 is not an adequate surplus available, or don't  
44 anticipate one being there, then we would preclude it.  
45 Just like other places, if we didn't think there was  
46 enough fish to harvest, we'd exclude those potential  
47 harvests.  
48  
49 When you give a preference, what you're  
50 doing is saying, these guys have a higher priority of

1 fishing. And somebody else may not get to fish, but  
2 these guys will. And that's where the preference comes  
3 in. So as long as people are aware of that.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Yeah. Ray,  
6 you had a comment.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. This  
9 is kind of the situation that McGrath and -- well,  
10 especially Nikolai face in that the salmon have already  
11 made it up that far, but they have -- they're all --  
12 well, it's the only opportunity that some of them have  
13 to catch the salmon, which are an important resource,  
14 because other salmon aren't available, and there aren't  
15 very many fishers in that village, like in, you know,  
16 even McGrath and Nikolai. So what they take out is  
17 probably going to be a small number. And I think they  
18 should have that opportunity, because of how -- they --  
19 you know, if they've been protected all the way up the  
20 river, that's their fish, and it's going to close when  
21 the pulse hits, you know, the numbers hit, so, yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we don't want  
24 to deliberate the proposal quite yet. So we're.....

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Oh, okay. I got ahead of  
27 myself.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have any  
30 Native tribe.....

31

32 MR. COLLINS: I guess the question is  
33 whether they have numbers, anybody have numbers of how  
34 many people are living there that utilize this early  
35 on.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. These would  
38 be taken in conjunction with sheefishing and other  
39 fishing activities. That's the primary harvest.

40

41 So we have Native and tribal. Did TCC  
42 talk to Orville about these proposals, and did you want  
43 to -- did they have any comments on these proposals.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So TCC has no  
48 comments. Inter-tribal -- or InterAgency Staff  
49 Committee. Did they discuss these.

50



1 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. ISC does not  
2 have any comments.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. No comments  
5 from ISC. Other Regional Advisory Councils have not  
6 met on this proposal at this date, and the Fish and  
7 Game Advisory Committees, I don't know that they have.  
8 There's no Subsistence Resource Commission.

9  
10 Is there a summary of public written  
11 comments. Were there any written comments. Let's see.  
12 The score sheet here. None.

13  
14 Public testimony. I don't see anybody  
15 here from the public to speak to this.

16  
17 Council recommendation. The Chair will  
18 entertain a motion to adopt the proposal as written.  
19 Do we have a motion to adopt.

20  
21 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: I'll second.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So moved by Tim,  
26 seconded by Ray.

27  
28 Discussion on the proposal. There is a  
29 conservation concern for this resource, but it's been  
30 the practice of the Department and the U.S. Fish and  
31 Wildlife through a preplanning process of the fishers  
32 on the Yukon. What this proposal would do is if there  
33 wasn't a marginal return, the State may preclude this  
34 harvest, but the Federal subsistence in-season manager  
35 would be compelled to continue unless you felt it was  
36 -- could jeopardize the resource. You could preclude  
37 this.

38  
39 So the in-season manager -- so this  
40 would automatically go basically into an .804 scenario,  
41 and so what my question is, would there have to be a  
42 specific .804. There is a priority for rural  
43 subsistence use on Federal waters, but would we have to  
44 have an .804 specific, or would this just automatically  
45 only allow rural residents to harvest on Federal  
46 waters. That's kind of a question I would like to  
47 understand.

48  
49 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Maybe  
50 George has a better idea, but I think if it's -- it

1 depends on how significant this would be. If it's to a  
2 level that I don't feel comfortable making the  
3 decision, I can defer to the Federal Subsistence Board.

4

5 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

6 George Pappas, OSM.

7

8 We have a team of anthropologists on  
9 line, and in the crowd here, and please correct me if I  
10 go awry here, but as I understand, if the regulation is  
11 adopted, it does not delineate which users on the  
12 river, Federally-qualified user on the river that would  
13 be able to participate in this.

14

15 As some of the comments and concerns  
16 were, if this did happen -- well, you heard from the  
17 State, if this did happen, and only this area was open  
18 by regulation, others from other areas might go there  
19 if it's the only place that is opened. But I do not  
20 see at this time reference about having an .804 to  
21 restrict it just to the residents in the vicinity of  
22 the district being discussed. And please correct me if  
23 I'm wrong there, Robbin.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I just wanted to  
28 get that on the table, on the record as part of our  
29 deliberation. And so any other Council comments on the  
30 proposal in the deliberation of this.

31

32 Go ahead, Ray.

33

34 MR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I  
35 said, I think -- I know this gives them preference up  
36 there, but they don't have alternative fish resources.  
37 I mean, on the Kuskokwim, if we allowed it up here,  
38 again there aren't -- downriver villages have reds  
39 coming in, and chums, and so on that are still in good  
40 condition and so on. But by the time they get up here,  
41 the chums aren't edible, you know, and people rely more  
42 on the kings just like they would. And so even those  
43 there's preference involved, I know the State can't  
44 give it, but I would think the Federal could. So I'm  
45 in favor of it.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this proposal  
48 is like six of one and half a dozen of another, because  
49 it's already occurring with the Federal and State  
50 managers. If there was a problem, the Federal

1 manager's still going to close it. So it's sort of a  
2 moot subject. It's like -- it's an unnecessary  
3 regulation as far as I'm concerned. So I'm going -- my  
4 personal vote will be opposed to the proposal, because  
5 I don't feel it's actually necessary, and I don't think  
6 that this proposal has merit. I don't feel that -- if  
7 the resource is in jeopardy to the point where the  
8 State is not going to allow it, then the Federal in-  
9 season manager will probably do the same thing, and so  
10 it's a moot subject. And so I don't -- I feel it's  
11 another regulation that's not actually really  
12 necessary. And so I oppose the proposal myself.

13

14 Other comments in the deliberation.  
15 Were you going to comment, Tim. You're fidgeting over  
16 there.

17

18 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. I'm pretty neutral  
19 on it, because of, as Fred says, it's already  
20 occurring, and I like supporting Eastern Interior on  
21 what they're submitting, but if this is going to add  
22 more regulation to something that's not going to change  
23 the management program, then it's just kind of a waste  
24 of people's time to have a regulation that's  
25 unnecessary.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, my thought on  
28 the issue is that the -- there's been all of this --  
29 all of these pre-season meetings. This has been an  
30 agreed upon subject that's being implemented. How many  
31 years now has this been implemented? Is this the first  
32 year or second year?

33

34 MR. BUE: Actually it's -- we've done  
35 it two years I believe.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this was -- it  
38 basically is like the pre-season planning. The fishers  
39 on the Yukon have agreed that this thing -- and it's  
40 like, we're not satisfied with that. We have to make a  
41 regulation to compel this to happen. It's like, no, I  
42 think that the planning process -- it's violating the  
43 planning process, the pre-season planning process. I  
44 feel that the fishers have decided that. It's being  
45 implemented. Unless there's a real, real big problem,  
46 it's still going to be closed down. So it's a moot  
47 subject. I feel it's an unnecessary regulation that's  
48 already being implemented, because the fishers on the  
49 Yukon have already agreed to this thing. And so that's  
50 already -- it's already happening.

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Fred.

MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I agree with you. You know, we start doing this. Here we've got the whole Yukon that is putting this kind of proposal every year. And every year the RAC, our committee's going to go through this kind of thing. So it's just -- it's just a waste of, you know, resources actually. You're right. It's in place already. And if we see a critically declining, whatever, resource. We've got people out there that will tell us, hey, there's a closure. And just like Robert said yesterday, there's the windows right there, too, you know, that protects this thing. So I'm all in favor of, hey, you know, I'm opposing that. Otherwise we'd be going through this thing every year.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

Robert.

MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair. I'm looking at this as a support for them, because when we ask for their support when we come to our proposals, too, they're going to take a look and say, well, you know, the Western Interior didn't support our proposal. I kind of like don't want to step on them on this. I'd like to just go ahead and just pass it and let them deal with it, because that's out of our area, regardless. And because if we have a proposal to go up there and go to them, and if they won't support it, I mean, how do you show good faith and bad faith here. That's my question. I would support this, because where it goes, you know -- it is another regulation, sure, but it just calls for being a professional courtesy to them.

That's my point of view.

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you can vote your conscious, you know. This is -- it is a democratic system here and all.

Darrel.

MR. VENT: Well, it sounds like that,

1 you know, we're making a decision on their area. Maybe  
2 it would be better if we, you know -- we're trying to  
3 oppose something maybe that they have more information  
4 on. Maybe we could just defer.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we have a  
7 motion on the floor to adopt, and so we can't back out  
8 of that one.

9

10 So any further comments. Jenny.

11

12 MS. PELKOLA: Yes. I feel the same way  
13 as Robert. It seems like we've been working -- you  
14 know, we're getting on the boat together. And then if  
15 we -- I feel like if we voted this down, it will put a  
16 little wedge there. And like you said, they may not  
17 support some of our resolutions in the future.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Eastern  
20 and Western RACs have voted in opposite directions many  
21 times. We don't hold animosity. Like our previous  
22 chair, Ron Sam says, we voice our opinions. We go home  
23 as friends. We're -- we don't hold this stuff  
24 personally. And so I don't -- but I feel that it's an  
25 unnecessary regulation. I don't feel that it's -- I  
26 think it actually flies in the fact of the pre-season  
27 planning process. I don't think that -- you know, it's  
28 basically like the fishers have already agreed to this  
29 thing, the agencies are doing it. I don't think we  
30 need to do this. I don't think we need a regulation to  
31 tell them to do this. And so I just don't think that  
32 it -- but that's the way I'm going to vote. You can  
33 vote however you want to.

34

35 Zach.

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 One point of clarification. It was brought to my  
39 attention that Eastern Interior has not yet met this  
40 fall.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At this point --  
45 Robert.

46

47 MR. WALKER: Yeah. I'm really thinking  
48 here that, you know, if we don't take a -- if the  
49 motion would die, we're not really supporting them,  
50 we're not really going against them. So maybe we'll --

1 I would just recommend to the Board that when we do  
2 come up to a vote, we don't even take a vote, that this  
3 dies here, or we don't, you know, oppose it. I don't  
4 want to oppose something from the Eastern Interior.  
5 And so the motion is made to support, but if we don't  
6 vote, if there's no yeas or nays, Zach, what does this  
7 mean, Zach?

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you can abstain,  
10 you can vote for or against the proposal. I'm going to  
11 vote against the proposal, because we I think it's  
12 adding more regulation that's unnecessary into the  
13 book. They threw this out probably, you know, when  
14 they were -- back when the agencies weren't on board  
15 with this whole thing.

16

17 So that's -- a lot of these -- a lot of  
18 things have happened that the State Board of Fish has  
19 made regulatory changes this last year, and so I just  
20 think it's another layer of regulation that's  
21 unnecessary. The managers are implementing this  
22 already. The manager will close this opportunity  
23 across the board if they think that there's not enough  
24 fish. And I just don't think it's a necessary  
25 regulation.

26

27 So let's just bring it up for a vote  
28 and let the chips fall where they may. And so if the  
29 proposal passes, if we get enough people to pass the  
30 proposal, then when the -- in the justification, I will  
31 -- there will be the supporting language for the  
32 passage, but then we'll have why people voted, myself  
33 voted against the proposal.

34

35 Robert.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Jack, you know, I  
38 mentioned it, too, this last year when we talked about  
39 parliamentary. The Chair doesn't vote on this. The  
40 only time the Chair votes is when there's a tie. And  
41 this is parliamentary here. So, I mean, you're kind of  
42 like leading the board here on how you're going to do  
43 stuff, which I think is not fair to us, because I think  
44 everybody has a chance, to have their own conscious to  
45 vote, Jack.

46

47 So I'll call a point of order on that  
48 one.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Chair never

1 votes on a proposal?

2

3 MR. WALKER: Not according to  
4 (Indiscernible - microphone not on).

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've always voted on  
7 proposals. Every chair I've ever sat under has voted  
8 on proposals.

9

10 MR. WALKER: Fine.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: I'd like to further build  
13 on what Zach said earlier. The Eastern Interior RAC  
14 has not met. They have not voted. There is nothing  
15 here to say that they are going to support this  
16 proposal. You guys are the first ones to take action  
17 on it.

18

19 Robert's Rules of Order, if so many  
20 people abstain from the vote, you are building your  
21 record of justification of your positions here. And I  
22 believe you need five votes in the positive to pass  
23 this proposal in this situation. So, very clear,  
24 you're not -- if you make a vote, you can't justify the  
25 vote based on supporting the Eastern Interior RAC,  
26 because it was submitted by them, we don't know if  
27 they're going to vote for it or not. So I just want to  
28 make sure that's clear.

29

30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What I would like to  
33 convey to the Eastern Interior Council is that I feel  
34 it's an unnecessary proposal. But that's -- they're  
35 not on line with us. When they meet, I would like them  
36 to know that. That's where I was at on this proposal.

37

38 MR. PAPPAS: The record is clear, and  
39 we'll ensure that the coordinator has that information  
40 and provides that information to the RAC when they do.

41

42 Thank you. Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we can -- I'm not  
45 leading this Council. I'm the Chair of the Council.  
46 I'm wanting the Council to have input. I want every  
47 last person at this table to have their voice. And so  
48 you've got your position, Robert, and I've got my  
49 position. Everybody's voicing their positions on this  
50 proposal.

1 Question's called or.....  
2  
3 MR. VENT: Call the question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
6 called by Darrel. Those in favor of the proposal  
7 signify by saying aye  
8  
9 FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we've got three?  
12 Four. Hold your hand up so we can bet a real good  
13 count here. So we've got four for the proposal.  
14  
15 Those opposed, same sign. One. And  
16 then how many abstaining -- or two, three. Okay. So  
17 we've got two -- four, two opposed, and how many  
18 abstentions. Two abstentions. You said we had to have  
19 five? Yeah, it carries with ayes, but you said we had  
20 to have five. So the proposal is void. There is no  
21 position on the proposal.  
22  
23 MR. PAPPAS: It fails.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point it  
26 would be like a new motion for deferral.  
27  
28 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. And, of  
29 course, that vote, that fail. It's four for, two  
30 opposed, and two against. I believe you need five  
31 votes in the positive to support, which did not happen.  
32 So as is, the vote fails.  
33  
34 Thank you, Mr. -- or proposal fails.  
35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point the  
39 Chair will entertain a motion to defer the proposal to  
40 the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.  
41  
42 MR. COLLINS: No, we've already voted.  
43 You just record the vote on there.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- yeah. Okay.  
46 The proposal died. Moving on. FP17-03.  
47  
48 But let the record reflect that this  
49 Council deliberated the proposal thoroughly. There was  
50 dissention on the proposal and why people for, why



1 people voted against, and why people were neutral. But  
2 Eastern Interior Council and the Y-K Delta Council  
3 should understand what those aspects of the  
4 deliberation.

5  
6 And so that's part of the process, and  
7 so I think that that's beneficial to the Eastern  
8 Interior and the Y-K Delta RACs.

9  
10 So moving on to FP17-03, which is on  
11 Page 72. Go ahead, George.

12  
13 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 George Pappas, OSM. I'll be presenting the summary,  
15 the brief summary of 17-03. As you said it's on Page  
16 72.

17  
18 And this proposal was submitted by the  
19 Western Interior Regional -- excuse me, Alaska  
20 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. It seeks to  
21 allow drift subsistence gillnet fishing for chum salmon  
22 in the lower portion of the Yukon River Subdistrict 4A  
23 annually between June 10th and August 2nd.

24  
25 Page 77 of your meeting materials book  
26 has a map that you can barely see of the area that  
27 we're talking about.

28  
29 The proponent's intent is to amend the  
30 current Federal regulations to be consistent with that  
31 of the State regulations for Subdistrict 4A downstream  
32 from the mouth of Stink Creek. And if you look right  
33 in the middle of the map, you'll see what looks like to  
34 say Stink Creek there.

35  
36 The core of this proposal is to fix the  
37 inconsistency between State and Federal regulations  
38 pertaining to Subdistrict 4A.

39  
40 If you'll remember at the all RAC  
41 meeting last year, I presented this information that  
42 the Board of Fish had recently made adjustments, and I  
43 wanted to know if you were interested in submitting  
44 this proposal, and this RAC did. This Council did.

45  
46 In March 2015 the Board of Fish adopted  
47 a new regulation allowing the use of drift gillnets to  
48 harvest summer chum salmon for subsistence purposes  
49 during the Chinook conservation closures during June  
50 10th through August 2nd by emergency order. That was

1 for the upper portion of Subdistrict 4A. In January  
2 2016 the Board of Fish adopted the same regulation in  
3 the lower portion of Subdistrict 4A. The proposed  
4 change would make State and Federal regulations -- this  
5 proposed change we have in front of us would make State  
6 and Federal regulations consistent by allowing  
7 Federally-qualified subsistence users in the lower  
8 section of Subdistrict 4A to have the same subsistence  
9 opportunities as State subsistence users have targeting  
10 summer chum with drift gillnets during times of Chinook  
11 salmon conservation.

12  
13           If adopted, this proposal would make  
14 Federal regulations consistent with State regulations  
15 in the lower portion of 4A. This proposal does not  
16 change any inconsistencies for State regulations in the  
17 upper portions or Subdistrict 4A.

18  
19           When I presented this information to  
20 you last year at the all RAC meeting, I omitted the  
21 upper district differences. So as you'll see in our  
22 analysis there is a recommendation for modification.

23  
24           If this proposal is supported with  
25 modification to include the same regulations for the  
26 upper portion of 4A, it would make all 4A consistent  
27 with State and Federal regulations using a drift  
28 gillnet. However, if this is done in the upper portion  
29 of the district to harvest after August 2nd -- excuse  
30 me. However, if this is done, the upper portion of the  
31 subdistrict is still allowed to harvest chum salmon via  
32 gillnet after August 2nd, so that's another layer of  
33 complexity, while the lower portion does not.

34  
35           So effects on the summer chum salmon  
36 and Chinook salmon are negligible as the State already  
37 allows drift gillnets in 4A during times of Chinook  
38 salmon conservation.

39  
40           The preliminary conclusion from OSM is  
41 to support this modification to include the same  
42 regulatory language for the upper section of 4A.

43  
44           Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45  
46           That concludes our presentation. And  
47 we have our Federal in-season manager here to assist  
48 with answering questions.

49  
50           Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, George.

2

3 Any questions from the Council on the  
4 proposal. It would be the Regional Advisory Council's  
5 proposal, and with the modifications.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no questions.

10 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game comments.

11 Maria.

12

13 MS. WESSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 This is Maria Wessel again with the Alaska Department

15 of Fish and Game.

16

17 This proposal would allow subsistence

18 drift gillnet fishing for chum salmon downstream of

19 Stink Creek in Subdistrict 4A of the Yukon River

20 between June 10th and August 2nd, which would align

21 Federal and State regulations, and allow subsistence

22 users the opportunity to target chum -- summer chum

23 salmon with drift gillnets during times of Chinook

24 salmon conservation. The Alaska Board of Fisheries

25 adopted this regulation in March of 2015.

26

27 Additionally, the modification

28 suggested by the Office of Subsistence Management,

29 adding waters upstream of Stink Creek to the proposed

30 change is consistent with regulations adopted by the

31 Alaska Board of Fisheries in January of 2016. This

32 change would reduce complexities in the regulations by

33 aligning them (indiscernible -- coughing) and ADF&G

34 supports this proposal.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

39 Appreciate those comments.

40

41 And so Federal agencies. Did you want

42 to comment on this proposal, Fred.

43

44 MR. BUE: For the record, Fred Bue,

45 Fish and Wildlife Service in-season manager again.

46

47 This is something that we're already

48 effectively doing by default, our Federal regulations

49 match the State. And unless we decided to implement

50 specifically differences. And so we're already going

1 along wit the State in practice for the most part,  
2 because this -- there is an adequate surplus of summer  
3 chum salmon in this area. And it just helps coordinate  
4 our management.

5  
6 Thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No Inter-Agency.

9  
10 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. The ISC has no  
11 comments.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No comments. So  
14 none of the other Regional Councils have met. The Fish  
15 and Game Advisory Committees have not met that I know  
16 of. And Subsistence Resource Commissions. There are  
17 no written comments. And I don't see any public  
18 testimony here.

19  
20 Regional Advisory Council  
21 recommendation. The Chair will entertain a motion to  
22 adopt Proposal FP17-03 as modified by OSM.

23  
24 MR. WALKER: I move to accept.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A motion to adopt.

27  
28 MR. VENT: Second.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

31  
32 MR. WALKER: .....FP17-03.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel seconded.

35  
36 You have a comment, Robert? Your mic  
37 is on.

38  
39 And Council deliberation. Any  
40 comments.

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: Is this the same thing as  
43 the previous one?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No. This is  
46 basically to allow -- align with Sate regulations in  
47 the same area. And so that's basically what it's  
48 doing. It's not exactly -- it's not the same exactly.

49  
50

1 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.  
4  
5 MR. WALKER: (Indiscernible -  
6 microphone not on.)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn you mic on.  
9  
10 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Talking with  
11 the Grayling Tribe and the Anvik Tribe, the Holy Cross  
12 Tribe. Holy Cross is actually in Y3, so they do come  
13 up to Y4 to fish the lower portion of 4A.  
14  
15 But I believe this was put in for -- to  
16 realign with the State regulation on this driftnet  
17 fisheries for 4A, the lower portion, and the upper  
18 portion of 4A probably uses the same thing, too. I  
19 mean, they have State regulations there, too. So our  
20 tribes are pretty much happy with that. And we would  
21 like to see it work for us, and work for the upper  
22 portion of 4A, too.  
23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Robert, for  
27 those comments.  
28  
29 Did you have comments, Fred, from  
30 Kaltag. This is within your area. Turn your mic on.  
31  
32 MR. ALEXIE: It's good to me. Mr.  
33 Chair.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
36  
37 Ray.  
38  
39 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I have a  
40 question.  
41  
42 As a manager in-season, can this be  
43 modified if there's reason for it? I mean, the State  
44 reg and so on, so that they could, let's say, delay  
45 that, when they could use it or something, if it was  
46 deemed necessary to the resource.  
47  
48 MR. BUE: Yes. Mr. Chairman. As a  
49 manager, I have a authority over time and area fishing,  
50 and so I -- we frequently modify locations and time of

1 fishing periods, and, you know, if we have a fishing  
2 period in lower for -- actually for some of you who  
3 aren't familiar, 4A is a very long district, and so  
4 current management, as we're managing for pulse timing  
5 of fish, where we're harvesting, we'll open lower 4A on  
6 one day and upper 4A on another, because it takes,  
7 what, six or seven days to get -- for those fish to go  
8 all the way through the area, and so to give similar  
9 fishing opportunity, we already do time and area to  
10 quite an extent, and this boundary is already noted,  
11 well familiar in this -- in regulations, so we like it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred, for  
14 that clarification.

15  
16 Any other comments on the proposal,  
17 Council members.

18  
19 (No comments)

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none.

22  
23 MR. ALEXIE: Call for a question.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
26 called. Those in favor of Proposal FP17-03 as modified  
27 by OSM, signify by saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

32  
33 (No opposing votes)

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so  
36 Proposal FP17-04. Go ahead, George.

37  
38 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 Proposal FP17-04 starts on Page 89 in  
41 your book. And I brought this to you at the all RAC  
42 meeting following the Board of Fish adopting a similar  
43 proposal. It was submitted by the Western Interior  
44 RAC, and requests regulations be changed to allow  
45 increased gillnet obstruction of Racetrack Slough of  
46 the Koyukuk River, and sloughs of the Huslia River  
47 drainage in order to provide more effective subsistence  
48 harvest opportunity for northern pike between ice-out  
49 and June 15th. So that helps avoid issues with salmon.  
50

1                   Current Federal subsistence regulations  
2 allow for a fishery at this time, but gillnets may not  
3 obstruct more than one-half of the width of a stream.  
4 The proposed language can be seen at the top of Page  
5 91.

6  
7                   Adoption of this proposal results in  
8 matching the State subsistence regulation changes that  
9 were made at the 2016 Board of Fisheries meeting. And  
10 that proposal that was submitted by locals from Huslia  
11 that were interested in having more opportunity to  
12 harvest pike and didn't feel some of the regulations as  
13 stood were effective enough to increase their  
14 opportunity and efficiency in harvesting northern pike.

15  
16                   OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
17 support this proposal. This would allow Federally-  
18 qualified users the same opportunity as subsistence  
19 users under State regulations. It also would likely  
20 increase the harvest of northern pike and other local  
21 fish species during this time period. And the season  
22 for the gear change would -- and prior to the arrival  
23 of salmon in the system.

24  
25                   Now, one issue that did come up that  
26 dug into was the existing State regulations, what was  
27 adopted. If you look on Page 91, about the top third  
28 of the page, you'll see the black header -- bold  
29 header, existing State regulations. The lower case F  
30 in parentheses indicates, you know, where you can fish  
31 up to half-way across a river statewide -- excuse me,  
32 (f) tells you what you can do. (4) shows that you can  
33 fish up to one-half the width across a channel, and  
34 they have an exception there. It says, except the  
35 Racetrack Slough on the Koyukuk and the sloughs of the  
36 Huslia River drainage, the river's free of ice, the  
37 offshore end of the gillnet may not be closer than 20  
38 feet from the opposite bank.

39  
40                   The new regulations that we're  
41 proposing here pretty much reference the same thing,  
42 but the issue is the say that I have looked at and  
43 identified the State regulations, it may cause issues  
44 for folks that want to fish in a slough that's -- okay.  
45 What if you come across a slough that's 30 feet wide.  
46 So are you going to have only -- your offside -- the  
47 far side of your net can only come within 20 feet of  
48 the other bank, so do you use a 10-foot net? What if  
49 you come across a 22-foot slough, are you going to use  
50 two feet of net?

1                   The information I received from the  
2 Department, that's not the intent. The intent is to  
3 allow up to 20 feet opening on a large slough. And if  
4 you come into a small slough, the regular statewide  
5 regulation for the end would come in place where you  
6 can fish half-way across.

7  
8                   So I would like, if you're interested  
9 in supporting this proposal that you submitted to  
10 clarify on record that that's what you want. You know,  
11 instead of losing opportunity for any stream that's  
12 under 40 feet -- or, excuse me, any slough 40 feet  
13 across, I'd like it on record that you're interested  
14 in, you know, the 20-foot minimum in larger sloughs, or  
15 if it's less than 40 feet, half the distance across  
16 that slough, because I'm not certain too many people  
17 are very effective with two-foot nets.

18  
19                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

22  
23                   MR. VENT: Yeah. He's clarifying  
24 something that I was just going to mention, you know.  
25 Some of these sloughs that we fish across, they're  
26 maybe only 15 feet across, and when the water drops,  
27 they're probably eight feet. So, you know, we're not  
28 making any headway with this regulation here. It sound  
29 -- because, you know, our people -- you know, we try to  
30 take care of predation problem, and you guys are, you  
31 know, putting these regulations in that's making it  
32 harder for us to take care of these predations. And  
33 we're losing a lot of ducks, geese, you know, probably  
34 even Chinook salmon. You know, this is affecting what  
35 we're trying to do to help, and, you know, it's making  
36 it hard for us to get a fishing opportunity on these  
37 pikes.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But Racetrack Slough  
40 you would be able -- that's the current regulatory  
41 change would -- closing it down to 20 feet would  
42 preclude most of the slough, right?

43  
44                   MR. VENT: Well, see, when they put  
45 this proposal in, these areas that the people got  
46 arrested on, those were only 15 feet across, and they  
47 were up in the Huslia River. And, you know -- and I  
48 don't know how they -- they gave it a name for  
49 Racetrack Slough when actually this happened up in  
50 Huslia River. This is, you know, some of the places



1 that we fish for pike in the springtime to try to  
2 limit. And the Spring Camp Slough, that's only like --  
3 this is, you know, off of Racetrack Slough, that Spring  
4 Camp Slough is like eight to 10 feet wide. But when  
5 it's high water, maybe it's 15 feet, but the water  
6 drops so fast, then it's all the way across by the  
7 time, you know -- by the next day.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it does allow  
10 and sloughs of the Huslia River.

11

12 MR. VENT: Okay. That's true?

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's for the reg  
15 -- go ahead, George.

16

17 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah. Through the Chair.  
18 I remember deliberations at the Board of Fish. I  
19 attend that meeting. And this discussions were, what  
20 about the bigger sloughs. What about the Racetrack,  
21 what about the -- and I believe someone indicated that  
22 there's up to 100 feet across. And under the previous  
23 regulation, if it was 100-foot wide, then you can only  
24 put a 50-foot net out for pike and sunfish, it's not  
25 going to do much for you. And then the discussion  
26 moved to let's move to all the way across. Well, there  
27 aren't any regulations that allow all the way across in  
28 that area. So they settled on they'll leave a 20-foot  
29 wide open area at some point in the big sloughs, the  
30 big spots to allow for navigation, safety, what have  
31 you.

32

33 But the discussion of your 10-foot  
34 sloughs, 15-sloughs really, if I remember correctly,  
35 didn't come up as much. But the current regulations,  
36 you cannot -- you can already fish half across that,  
37 and that's fairly efficient in a small slough.

38

39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Robert.

42

43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 George, what is the subsistence length  
46 of a fish net here that the State or the Feds used for  
47 subsistence fishing?

48

49 MR. BUE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Fred  
50 Bue. Again I don't -- effectively I believe it's 150

1 fathoms in aggregate, but with the limitation that no  
2 more than half a channel can be covered, and so that's  
3 for setnets. Driftnets is shorter, but for setnets I  
4 believe it's that. And so some people have multiple  
5 nets out there as long as it's less than 150 fathoms in  
6 aggregate.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pollock.

9

10 MR. SIMON: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I  
11 basically support this proposal. It gives us an  
12 opportunity to take pikes in the springtime. You know,  
13 pikes and our other smaller fish, and pikes eats a lot  
14 of colonized (ph) fish and young ducks and stuff like  
15 that. And we're okay getting set fishnet after breakup  
16 in the sloughs to feed our dogs who gets a little fish.  
17 So I guess it's a good proposal.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

22

23 Darrel.

24

25 MR. VENT: Yeah. Just, you know, this  
26 proposal is what we intended to do, but the thing is  
27 that when we fish these creeks, these are not big large  
28 places, openings. These are places where they come out  
29 of the lakes into the mainstem. And a lot of them  
30 areas are probably 15 to 30 feet. It's not -- like  
31 you're saying, it's not like 100 feet. That's not the  
32 areas that we're trying to fish. We're trying to catch  
33 some to, you know, lower the predation, because we did  
34 have a predation problem with, you know, noticing that  
35 we're taking out most of the ducks and everything with  
36 these fish. I mean all the other species of fish, too,  
37 so we're trying to help out by trying to, you know, get  
38 -- try to get as most we could out of these pikes. But  
39 this right here, it didn't really do what we intended  
40 to do. That's the point I wanted to make.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Board of Fish  
43 final regulation was not what your intention was, but  
44 they did increase -- previously you could only fish  
45 halfway across like the larger sloughs, and so there  
46 was a whole bunch of water going by that you couldn't  
47 preclude. So the did increase it to 20 feet from the  
48 opposite bank like in the larger sloughs, and so this  
49 was more beneficial that way. But we do need to fine  
50 tune the modified language to on small sloughs, smaller

1 than -- what's the distance again, George?

2

3 MR. PAPPAS: It would be if you want to  
4 maintain the statewide regulation for halfway across  
5 the slough, then it would be 40 or less. But if you  
6 just built -- say on the record that you support this,  
7 you know, proposal, modified or just add to verbiage,  
8 the regulatory verbiage, which we can do, you know, or  
9 halfway, whatever is less. You know, halfway across or  
10 whatever is less.

11

12 Now, in the discussions at the Board of  
13 Fish, the original proposal was all the way across the  
14 sloughs and creeks, and the Board of Fish did not  
15 support that, and the Office of Subsistence Management  
16 supported with modification something less than 100  
17 percent across to allow some navigation, because  
18 there's other users up there. And a couple other  
19 issues. But, yeah, we could -- the OSM supported  
20 definitely increasing the opportunity and efficiency of  
21 user -- of fishermen up there, but not all the way  
22 across. I just want to say that for the record, Mr.  
23 Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The modified  
26 language would be on Page 91. All of that language, and  
27 sloughs 40-foot or less would -- could have half the  
28 distance precluded. So after 40 feet, you could still  
29 have half of the slough precluded. That would clarify  
30 the intent of the Council. Otherwise you're only going  
31 to be able to fish two feet or five feet or something  
32 too low.

33

34 So is that agreeable, Darrel.

35

36 MR. VENT: I think we discussed it that  
37 we could go three-quarters of the way across, because  
38 if you're going like 15 feet all the way across, that's  
39 only eight feet, but if you go --if it's 14 feet, 12  
40 feet, you know, there's some opening on both sides.  
41 And it's just that, you know, we needed to clarify on  
42 that. But the thing is the nets drop -- I mean, the  
43 water drops, and you're all the way across, and then  
44 you have to, you know, try to get it reset. So I don't  
45 know. You know, it's -- that's where they got in  
46 trouble was the water dropped on them and they lost  
47 their nets out there. They got their nets taken away.  
48 So, you know, I was just trying to help them, because  
49 they were afraid to set their nets trying to catch  
50 these pike. They don't want to do it no more, because

1 they get their nets taken away.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead, Tim.

4

5 MR. GERVAIS: So what if we modify the  
6 language, say the offshore end of the set gillnet may  
7 not be closer than 20 feet from the opposite bank or  
8 halfway across or perhaps three-quarters of the way  
9 across the slough, whichever is less, so long as it  
10 allows for navigation by vessel or traditional vessel.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.

13

14 MR. VENT: I'd support that if it was  
15 like three-quarters of the way across. That gives them  
16 a little leeway. That way they'd know they'd have to  
17 move it before, you know, because if it's half-way  
18 across, that's a lot of water drop, and you'd be  
19 running out there, you know, maybe every six to eight  
20 hours or something trying to get it adjusted again.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Let me try again. So if  
25 I said the opposite end of the set gillnet may not be  
26 closer than three-quarters of the way to the opposite  
27 bank so long that it -- there is sufficient clearance  
28 for navigation. Without getting into any kind of foot  
29 reference or anything.

30

31 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

34

35 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
36 fish for pike and whitefish every spring in the slough  
37 just to feed my dogs, but I don't try to block the -- I  
38 don't try to put my net all the way across the slough,  
39 if it's near, so I can slant it, so the other side  
40 across the slough is open really near. You have folks  
41 go back and forth, duck hunters and fishermen, other  
42 fishermen go back and forth, so there's a portion of  
43 that creek always open. That's the way we set our net.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. George.

48

49 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We  
50 were just discussing here. I'm unaware of regulations

1 that are established for the Federal subsistence  
2 program with the navigation issues included. I  
3 understand it might be a good justification to build a  
4 record on for part of the reason that if you do go with  
5 the modified proposal and say up to 20 feet across -- I  
6 mean -- or three-quarters of the way across, that would  
7 be the regulation, but actually to add in for  
8 navigational purposes might get -- I'm just -- that's  
9 new to me. But if you build the record like you  
10 already have, just like Simon did, that's part of the  
11 record.

12  
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll see you, Bob.  
16 Robert. Thanks for coming. Recognize Robert Larson's  
17 contribution to the Council meeting. He's got to go.  
18 Thanks, Rob.

19  
20 MR. LARSON: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so, yeah, this  
23 is something that we need to -- we could just say that  
24 the proposed language (f) and/or the -- no greater than  
25 75 percent of the slough's width, which is three-  
26 quarters of the way across. That would allow -- you  
27 know, if it's like 30 feet, that would still allow,  
28 what is that, 25 feet or something else.

29  
30 MR. VENT: It looks like 20 feet.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

33  
34 MR. VENT: 23 or something.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But we do need the  
37 -- I think.....

38  
39 MR. COLLINS: We need a motion to  
40 modify then, too.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we do need a  
43 motion to modify, because we.....

44  
45 MR. COLLINS: I'll so move, and using  
46 the language suggested.....

47  
48 REPORTER: Mic, please.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on

1 there.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: I so move, and using the  
4 language that was suggested of no more than three-  
5 fourths of -- is it in the -- oh. We're only talking  
6 about those two sloughs then.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's the  
9 Huslia.....

10

11 MR. COLLINS: Huslia and Racetrack.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Racetrack slough,  
14 and any slough on the Huslia River drainage. And so  
15 there's a lot of little sloughs on the Huslia River  
16 drainage.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so the little  
21 sloughs is what this.....

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Then on the -- do you  
24 want to say may not obstruct more than three-fourths,  
25 or not be -- yeah, you don't want to say the and closer  
26 then. May not obstruct more than three-fourths of the  
27 slough, providing informa -- what was the one where  
28 boats -- yeah. Providing -- George, you had the word I  
29 think.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George seems to be  
32 uncomfortable with this navigation issue.

33

34 Go ahead there, Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: What if we don't  
37 reference the percent or the three-quarter. What if we  
38 say the offshore end of the net must be set in a manner  
39 that doesn't preclude or doesn't block navigation or  
40 passage of the slough.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn you mic on  
43 there, Darrel.

44

45 MR. VENT: Well, the way it states  
46 right now, that it's only for 50 percent, so we'd have  
47 to clarify, you know, that we wanted a little more,  
48 because if you're only 15 feet, that's like 8 feet  
49 right there, so, you know, if dropped to 12 feet, that  
50 would great, and that's about three-quarters, but maybe

1 to clarify that part, too.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: So, Darrel, you want it  
4 clarified by a percent? I mean, are some of your  
5 sloughs you guys are setting in like five and six feet  
6 wide, like a beaver canal?

7

8 MR. VENT: Some of them are quite  
9 small, and, you know, it's just they come out of the  
10 lakes, so it's just a little drainage. But the ones  
11 that we're trying to clarify was the main ones, and  
12 those are like 15 feet maybe. Some of them may be 20  
13 feet.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: I know it's tough to put  
16 a distance down, because it's all dependent on the size  
17 of the slough.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: And a little six-foot  
22 slough is really not navigable anyways unless you have  
23 a rack canoe or something.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So we're  
26 trying to accommodate customary practices, but we're  
27 getting kind of mired in on this distances. I do want  
28 to accommodate customary practices. A set gillnet may  
29 not be closer than 20 feet from the opposite bank, or  
30 in small sloughs may not obstruct vessel passage or  
31 something to that affect. Something like that. I  
32 think that that would be gray enough for enforcement to  
33 where they won't want to jump down somebody's throat.  
34 So a small slough like that, you're talking about a  
35 small slough, you're not going to go in there with a  
36 river boat, so you're going to go through there with a  
37 canoe. And so we've got to have 20 feet from the  
38 opposite bank and smaller sloughs may not obstruct  
39 vessel navigation.

40

41 So how's that language. Is that good  
42 enough, Darrel.

43

44 MR. VENT: Yeah, I'll go along with  
45 that. I'll probably have to ask them at home, you  
46 know, if this is going to help, because they do want,  
47 you know, to take care of these invasive species as  
48 they consider them. But, yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It will be more than

1 they have right now. It would be greater than 50  
2 percent.

3

4 MR. VENT: That would be greater than  
5 50 percent, that's what they want I think. Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So I think  
8 it's modifying the language as stated at the top of  
9 Page 51, set gillnets my not be closer than 20 feet  
10 from the opposite bank, and smaller sloughs, less than  
11 40 feet, may not obstruct vessel passage.

12

13 Well, you know, the 40 feet was where  
14 you get beyond the 20 feet. You know, you've got 20  
15 feet in the previous, in the halfway regulation, it  
16 would be exceeding the halfway point.

17

18 MR. COLLINS: What if it said three-  
19 fourths.

20

21 REPORTER: Mic, please.

22

23 MR. COLLINS: Under 40 feet, no  
24 more.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. I like  
29 that idea of three-fourths. Streams smaller than 40  
30 feet, no more than three-fourths of the stream may be  
31 obstructed, because that would fit all of those down to  
32 whatever.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, we'll  
35 go with that. So.....

36

37 MR. COLLINS: So I'll move.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....the modified  
40 language would state, for the record, is that -- use  
41 the as found on the top of Page 91, set gillnets may  
42 not be closer than 20 feet of the opposite bank; and  
43 sloughs less than 40 feet, may not preclude more than  
44 three -- than 25 percent of the slough.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: May not obstruct more  
47 than three-fourths of the stream.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, three-fourths of  
50 the slough.



1 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Is that good.  
4  
5 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
6 support proposal 17-04 with the amendments as made.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With modified  
9 language.  
10  
11 MR. VENT: With modification languages.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.  
14  
15 MR. COLLINS: I'll second that.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're on a main  
18 motion. This is to modify the language where we have a  
19 motion on the floor to adopt with modification. This  
20 is to modify the modification further. We have a  
21 second by Ray. Discussion on the modification.  
22  
23 You've got a question? All right. Go  
24 ahead, Tim.  
25  
26 MR. GERVAIS: So, Darrel, there's no  
27 conversation concern. There's a lot of pike and having  
28 a -- extending the regulation over the current half-way  
29 across is not going to create a conservation issue.  
30  
31 MR. VENT: No, we have pretty much  
32 abundance of pike. And, you know, we catch a few  
33 whitefish and stuff there, but mostly we're just trying  
34 to take care of our predation problem. And we do have  
35 abundance of pike in the area. I guess I could  
36 probably speak for some of the other areas, like  
37 Pollock's area, too, you know, they do the same thing  
38 as we do down there, and probably maybe on the Yukon,  
39 too.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And for  
42 clarification, these pike are all used primarily for  
43 dog feed.  
44  
45 MR. VENT: No, we have traditional uses  
46 for making -- you know, we boil them up, and we also  
47 eat them, plus we also will make Indian ice cream, you  
48 know, other things that we use with them, but we just,  
49 you know, want to control all our species.  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I wanted to clarify,  
2 because subsistence is non-wasteful consumptive use, so  
3 that the record reflects this is non-waste consumptive  
4 use.

5  
6                   Any further discussion on the modified  
7 language. That's what we're discussing right now, that  
8 no more than three-fourths of a slough narrower than 40  
9 feet may be obstructed. That's the modified language.

10  
11                   (No comments)

12  
13                   MR. SIMON: Question.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
16 called. Those in favor of that modification signify by  
17 saying aye.

18  
19                   IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now on the main  
22 motion to adopt the proposal as modified and modified  
23 further. Any further discussion on the main motion.

24  
25                   (No comments)

26  
27                   MR. SIMON: Question.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
30 the main motion to adopt Proposal FP17-04 as modified  
31 by the Office of Subsistence Management and the Western  
32 Interior Regional Advisory Council. Those in favor of  
33 the proposal as modified signify by saying aye.

34  
35                   IN UNISON: Aye.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
38 sign.

39  
40                   (No opposing votes)

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The proposal is  
43 adopted as modified.

44  
45                   We'll go to a 15-minute break now.

46  
47                   Go ahead, Fred. You've got a comment.

48  
49                   MR. BUE: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. Thanks.

50

1                   Just for the record, I didn't want to  
2 sidetrack you, but a question Robert had earlier of me,  
3 what was the length of subsistence setnets. I  
4 misspoke. It's a State regulation. What came to mind  
5 was what the commercial limitation is, is 150 fathoms  
6 in aggregate. I'm not certain what the subsistence  
7 regulation is, but I'm fairly confident that it would  
8 be similar if more relaxed than the commercial  
9 limitation.

10  
11                   Mr. Chairman.

12  
13                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My recollection is  
14 something like that, like 150 fathoms in aggregate.  
15 But then there's specific modifications to permitted  
16 areas. But the general regulation is for 150 fathoms I  
17 think. I think you're right.

18  
19                   So we're going to go to a 15-minute  
20 break. We're going to come back at 10:40. We do need  
21 a head count on lunch. How many people want to have  
22 pizza, the restaurant needs to have sort of a head  
23 count for lunch over here. So hold your hand up, those  
24 who want to have lunch.

25  
26                   MR. COLLINS: Oh, it's for dinner.  
27 It's for dinner.

28  
29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, this is for  
30 dinner.

31  
32                   MR. COLLINS: For dinner. My mistake.  
33 It's for dinner.

34  
35                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I thought you  
36 said for lunch.

37  
38                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah. My mistake. It's  
39 for dinner.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is for  
42 dinner tonight. Who's going to have dinner at the  
43 restaurant over here. That would be tonight. Yeah,  
44 for tonight.

45  
46                   MR. COLLINS: I got 10.

47  
48                   (Off record)

49  
50                   (On record)

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're going to bring  
2 the meeting back to order. It's 10:55, and we've got  
3 some more -- we've got quite a bit of agenda today.

4  
5                   So we're on Proposal FP17-05. And,  
6 Scott, are you doing that one? That will be on Page  
7 100.

8  
9                   And, Zach, go ahead.

10  
11                  MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair. As you said,  
12 fisheries analysis FP17-05 can be found starting on  
13 Page 99 of the Council book.

14  
15                  This proposal as submitted by LaMont  
16 Albertson, and requests the Federal subsistence  
17 management plans, strategies, fishing schedules,  
18 openings, closings, and fishing methods for the  
19 Kuskokwim area be issued independently by the Federal  
20 Subsistence Management Program in consultation with the  
21 appropriate agencies and entities.

22  
23                  In conversations OSM Staff had with the  
24 proponent, he clarified his intent by stating that he  
25 wanted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska  
26 Department of Fish and Game, and the Kuskokwim River  
27 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to all work together  
28 annually in the development and implementation of  
29 Kuskokwim River salmon management strategies and plans,  
30 both pre-season and post-season -- or in-season, excuse  
31 me.

32  
33                  OSM's preliminary conclusion is to  
34 defer Fisheries Proposal FP17-05 and revise the  
35 delegation of authority letter from the Federal  
36 Subsistence Board to the Kuskokwim River Federal in-  
37 season fisheries manager in order to address the  
38 proponents concerns regarding collaborative development  
39 of in-season management plans and strategies on an  
40 annual basis in accordance with the goals and  
41 objectives of the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project.

42  
43                  The Kuskokwim River Partnership Project  
44 is intended to provide a mechanism to meaningfully  
45 integrate Kuskokwim River Tribes and Federally-  
46 qualified subsistence users into the decision-making  
47 process for fisheries management on Federal public  
48 waters of the Kuskokwim River drainage. This project  
49 aims to develop unified recommendations for fisheries  
50 management for the Kuskokwim River drainage, including

1 the development of a single management plan and  
2 associated in-season management strategies for the  
3 Kuskokwim River.

4

5 While a signed MOU is in place to  
6 outline how tribal interests will be integrated into  
7 the in-season decision-making process, the second part  
8 of the partnership project, focusing on Federally-  
9 qualified subsistence users, has not yet been  
10 implemented via Regional Advisory Council and Board  
11 action.

12

13 Deferring Fisheries Proposal FP17-05  
14 will provide time for full implementation of all  
15 aspects of the Kuskokwim River Partnership Project, and  
16 possible revisions of the delegation of authority from  
17 the Federal Subsistence Board to the Federal in-season  
18 manager before decisions are made about the necessity  
19 of regulation changes to the Federal subsistence  
20 regulations.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any  
25 questions on the proposal. Ray, have you reviewed this  
26 proposal.

27

28 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

29

30 REPORTER: Mic, please.

31

32 MR. COLLINS: And I think LaMont  
33 is.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You've got to turn  
36 your mic on.

37

38 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I  
39 have reviewed that. I think LaMont is heading in the  
40 right direction, and I think he's on line. We could  
41 ask him for further comments at some point wherever  
42 it's appropriate to.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. Any questions  
45 on the proposal from the Council.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Alaska Department  
50 of Fish and Game comments. Maria.

1 MS. WESSEL: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
2 Chair. Again this is Maria Wessel with the Alaska  
3 Department of Fish and Game.

4  
5 This proposal would authorize the  
6 Kuskokwim area Federal subsistence management plans,  
7 strategies, fishing schedules, openings, closings, and  
8 fishing methods to be issued independently by the U.S.  
9 Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to achieving the  
10 mission and mandates of the National Wildlife Refuge  
11 System, and the Federal Subsistence Management Program  
12 in consultation with appropriate agencies and entities.  
13 The proposal explanation discusses that this regulation  
14 change is not intended to discourage or impede unified  
15 regulation when appropriate.

16  
17 Specificities like this would have to  
18 be detailed out in the delegation of authority letter  
19 that OSM mentioned or in a future protocol subject to  
20 the MOU between the Federal Subsistence Board and the  
21 State of Alaska once it is re-signed by the State and  
22 Federal agencies and boards.

23  
24 The State supports increased  
25 collaboration in order to be aligned when possible, and  
26 would also like to see the ability for more discerning  
27 when closures take place by species, for example, in  
28 the sportfishery. We do appreciate the fisheries  
29 management expertise these past few years from the  
30 Yukon Delta Refuge, and look forward to continued  
31 collaboration on our State-run suite of assessment  
32 projects, and the two weirs run by the U.S. Fish and  
33 Wildlife Service.

34  
35 The MOU was recently signed between the  
36 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kuskokwim River  
37 Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and we would like this  
38 partnership project come to fruition and include the  
39 State at some point.

40  
41 And that's all I have.

42  
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for your  
46 comments, Maria.

47  
48 Any questions of the State.

49  
50 (No comments)

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Federal agencies,  
2 Native tribal organizations. Anybody from the  
3 Kuskokwim want to comment on the.....  
4  
5                   (No comments)  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't see anybody  
8 here that would.....  
9  
10                  MR. ALBERTSON: This is LaMont  
11 Albertson, and I would like to address this if I may,  
12 please.  
13  
14                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will come to you  
15 in a second here, LaMont.  
16  
17                  MR. ALBERTSON: All right. Thank you.  
18  
19                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other Regional  
20 Councils haven't met on this. Did any of the advisory  
21 committees -- did the Kusk -- Zach.....  
22  
23                  MR. FOX: Mr. Chair.  
24  
25                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.  
26  
27                  MR. FOX: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 This is Trevor Fox with the Fish and Wildlife Service  
29 out of Anchorage.  
30  
31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Trevor. Go  
32 right ahead.  
33  
34                  MR. FOX: Yeah. Can you hear me okay?  
35  
36                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you now,  
37 yes. Go ahead.  
38  
39                  MR. FOX: Okay. Thank you. Our refuge  
40 manager from Yukon Delta was planning on calling in,  
41 but he's tied up with the Y-K Delta RAC right now.  
42  
43                  I believe there's a letter addressed to  
44 the Council regarding this analysis or proposal.  
45  
46                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Where would that be,  
47 Zach. Yeah, from Y-K Delta Refuge, Trevor?  
48  
49                  MR. FOX: Right. It would be from the  
50 new refuge manager, Ken Stahlnecker.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have not seen.....

2

3                   MR. STEVENSON: It would be.....

4

5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I -- no. Let's  
6 see now. Where would that letter be. Go ahead.

7

8                   MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, I'm going to  
9 -- I believe that's in the supplemental materials on  
10 the table there. I'll be right with you.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Zach's going  
13 to get that for us. Go ahead, Trevor.

14

15                   MR. FOX: Okay. I can do just a brief  
16 summary of what the letter says, if that's all right.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, please do.

19

20                   MR. FOX: Okay. So after reviewing the  
21 proposal, the analysis, the refuge manager appreciates  
22 the overall intent of the proposal, but ultimately  
23 opposes that proposal.

24

25                   However, we think that this provides an  
26 opportunity to clarify existing regulatory authorities.  
27 And there are various management authorities involved  
28 in the management of subsistence resources in Alaska,  
29 as you all know. In the Kuskokwim area the Federal  
30 Subsistence Board has delegated authority to the Yukon  
31 Delta National Wildlife Refuge manager to issue certain  
32 in-season actions associated with subsistence  
33 fisheries. The delegation of authority letter states  
34 that the Federal manager is responsible for local  
35 management of subsistence fishing Federally-qualified  
36 subsistence users, and includes the authority to  
37 restrict all users in Federal waters if necessary to  
38 conserve healthy fish stocks, or to provide for  
39 subsistence uses in Federal waters. State managers are  
40 responsible for in-season management of State  
41 subsistence, commercial, recreational, and personal use  
42 fisheries in all waters.

43

44                   And when delegating this authority, the  
45 Board stated that the intent was that the refuge  
46 manager coordinate with the Alaska Department of Fish  
47 and Game, and involved Regional Advisory Council  
48 representatives in order to conserve healthy fish  
49 stocks while providing for subsistence uses.

50



1                   And in the manager's -- it's the  
2 manager's belief that this authority provides a  
3 resolution to many of the issues raised in the  
4 proposal, in Proposal 17-05.

5  
6                   Beyond coordination for the management  
7 of subsistence, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the  
8 State of Alaska work together to manage fish and  
9 wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System.  
10 The Service has ultimate management authority of the  
11 resources within the refuge system pursuant to a  
12 variety of statutes; however, effective stewardship of  
13 fish and wildlife resources, various statutory  
14 provisions, and the Department of Interior policy  
15 require close coordination with the State.

16  
17                   The proposal requests that Federal  
18 subsistence management plans, strategies, fishing  
19 schedules, opening, closings, and fishing methods be  
20 issued independently by the Federal Subsistence  
21 Management Program, and such an independent Federal  
22 approach would bring about a massive change in how the  
23 Service contributes to fisheries management on the  
24 Kuskokwim, and it would violate the spirit of  
25 cooperation, and jeopardize the Service's affective  
26 working relationship with the State of Alaska, a  
27 relationship that is vital to the continued affective  
28 fisheries management on the Kuskokwim. And if adopted,  
29 this proposal would require the Service to develop  
30 their own independent management plans regardless of  
31 the level of agreement or cooperation between Federal  
32 and State managers.

33  
34                   However, we feel the proposed  
35 regulation is not necessary as Federal managers already  
36 have the ability to develop independent management  
37 plans, strategies, or objectives. And that's something  
38 you can see within the 2016 Chinook salmon fishery  
39 where the Federal in-season manager and the Kuskokwim  
40 River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission developed their own  
41 harvest objectives.

42  
43                   We find that deferring the proposal  
44 seems unnecessary as the proposed regulatory changes  
45 are not needed to meet the intent of the proposal.  
46 Rather, we think that this action would be counter-  
47 active to a more cooperative management system.

48  
49                   Also the refuge manager supports  
50 updating the delegation of authority letter to provide

1 more clarity for in-season action, and to update any  
2 partnerships. However, this could be completed outside  
3 the regulatory process.

4

5                   So there's a little bit more in the  
6 letter, but that's a pretty good summary I think of  
7 what the letter says.

8

9                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor. Any  
12 questions on the letter from the refuge manager of the  
13 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

14

15                   (No comments)

16

17                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing no questions,  
18 we're going to move down. There was no written  
19 comments, but we have LaMont, the proponent, on the  
20 phone, and he wants to speak to the proposal.

21

22                   Go ahead, LaMont. Are you still there.

23

24                   MR. ALBERTSON: Yes. Yes, I'm here,  
25 Mr. Chairman. And thank you very much. And thanks to  
26 the members of our subsistence management group there  
27 also.

28

29                   I think you heard in the comments  
30 preceding my comments here from different  
31 representatives of different agencies that the issue  
32 that I'm bringing up, it needs to be addressed. And I  
33 think you also heard them say that this needs to be put  
34 off. And I disagree with that. These regulations that  
35 are in effect, they're outdated regulations. They were  
36 outdated 15 years ago, and they shouldn't have been put  
37 into effect to begin with.

38

39                   I think of the 13 management regions  
40 that the Federal Government has right now, only in  
41 three of those management regions do they have a  
42 regulation that requires that Federal management mirror  
43 State management. And it just needs -- now is the time  
44 to address it. If we put this off, if I don't have  
45 your support on this, it will be addressed, but it will  
46 be addressed under emergency situation again when our  
47 salmon numbers drop. And that seems to be the only  
48 time we can really get the full participation of the  
49 Federal Government in protecting our resources is under  
50 emergency situations. And we to move beyond that and

1 become proactive. And we need to have a good fisheries  
2 management program in place earlier in the year, and  
3 not just in reaction, but the reactionary time in the  
4 springtime when our subsistence fishermen are just  
5 making their plans for their summer harvest.

6  
7                   And while I do believe, and the record  
8 states, the printed record that you have in front of  
9 you states that I see full cooperation with the State  
10 of Alaska as being important. Honestly I've  
11 experienced a lot of foot dragging on their part. I  
12 hear no recognition whatsoever of the inter-tribal  
13 fisheries groups recognition, and I am their director  
14 right now. And I have served on the Kuskokwim River  
15 Salmon Management Working Group for many, many years,  
16 and I've been a co-chair for many, many years, and I  
17 was involved with writing our original charter with the  
18 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and I have worked  
19 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for two  
20 summers in the past. So I understand I think they say  
21 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game works, and I  
22 think unless there is prodding through the passage of  
23 this regulations, the State is going to continue  
24 dragging its feet the way it has in the past.

25  
26                   We have some questions about their  
27 methodology, their determinations of escapement on the  
28 Kuskokwim River. We have had a lot of those answered,  
29 those questions answered, through working with Dr. Lou  
30 Cogins and other professionals that the Federal  
31 Government has graciously provided us, but we don't  
32 think that what we've heard so far goes far enough.

33  
34                   And you're aware, just as I'm aware,  
35 that the applicable Federal land management missions  
36 and mandates differ in critically important ways from  
37 the Alaska statutes. And we need your support in  
38 protecting our subsistence participation in this  
39 fishery out here. And past State policies have  
40 discriminated against mid and upriver interests, not in  
41 a malicious way. I don't want to suggest that, but  
42 just the fact that the Kuskokwim has never been looked  
43 at as a unique system. We're lumped in with all the  
44 other rivers in the state, and I understand some of the  
45 reasons for that also. But still we want to be looked  
46 at as the unique fishery we are, and that is the  
47 largest subsistence fishery left on the North American  
48 continent.

49  
50                   We want the Kuskokwim River to be

1 looked at as it is, and I think only by the Federal  
2 Government independently being involved in the  
3 operation will that ever happen. I think that we don't  
4 have the political clout here that other areas have in  
5 the State of Alaska as far as the State of Alaska is  
6 concerned, but we do have the Federal Government  
7 working with us, and we need the Federal Government to  
8 change these regulations, to bring the State to the  
9 table so that we can enter in true negotiations.

10

11 And again I would mention that I served  
12 as co-chair of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management  
13 Working Group, which is a State agency. I serve as  
14 their co-chair and I've watched this process year after  
15 year after year after year. And I cite their record in  
16 2010, 2012, 2013. We've had protest fisheries out here  
17 under their sole management. We do not want to go  
18 through that again. We need for the Federal Government  
19 to step to the plate and honor the spirit of ANILCA and  
20 the .804 regulations, and I don't know how else to do  
21 it other than do it with this regulations that I've  
22 recommend -- that regulates the change that I've  
23 recommended to you.

24

25 And I am certainly available for  
26 questions if anyone has any questions for me.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks LaMont. Any  
29 questions on the proponent's position on this proposal.  
30 Tim -- or let's give Ray a chance here. Ray's on the  
31 Kuskokwim.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

34

35 LaMont, under what was implemented this  
36 last year, the Federal Government is able to put into  
37 place things that, for instance, that affected the  
38 lower river there, but they weren't able to beat it  
39 upriver, because of State management. Can you speak to  
40 that a little bit? In other words, they can do things  
41 that the State can't do, because it's precluded by  
42 State laws. and that's one of the problems here if they  
43 don't come up with an independent plan; is that  
44 correct?

45

46 MR. ALBERTSON: Yes. Yeah. I follow  
47 your question. The Feds manage up to the Aniak River,  
48 which is probably over 200 miles of the Kuskokwim  
49 River, and then above there the State of Alaska manages  
50 the river there. We were able to work collaboratively

1 somewhat this summer. The Federal Government again  
2 came up with their own -- through their staff here,  
3 came up with their own guidelines, which was very good,  
4 you know. We appreciate that. And we think that these  
5 sort of regulations and these sort of guidelines for  
6 our summer fishery should be independently issued by  
7 the Federal Government.

8

9                   And so the State does -- they do have  
10 some different regulations regarding who can fish, but  
11 I would suggest that we -- it will be much easier if  
12 the Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, the Kuskokwim  
13 River Salmon Management Working Group, which is a State  
14 organization, the Department of Fish and Game, and the  
15 Fish and Wildlife Service come together and we address  
16 the problems that we have. And we do have some  
17 challenges, but I think we can overcome those  
18 challenges by coming together. And I think unless  
19 there's some action taken on this regulation though  
20 that this will just be put off for the future.

21

22                   And, again, the working group was  
23 established in 1988, and again I was a charter member  
24 when we established that thing. The reason we  
25 established it was to have citizen participation in our  
26 subsistence, and the uses of our subsistence resources,  
27 as well as commercial resources, as well as the  
28 sportfishing resource. And I have been a sportfishing  
29 guide in the past, and I certainly appreciate what the  
30 State -- guidance the State has given us in the past in  
31 helping us get regulations which protected our  
32 resources.

33

34                   But again I think that in order to  
35 force the issue, in order to bring about the sort of  
36 cooperation that we desire, I think this regulation  
37 needs to be passed, and we need to go forward.

38

39                   Last summer I think worked very well.  
40 The Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission, we met every  
41 week again with Dr. Lou Cogins, Ray Born, and Ken  
42 Stahlnecker when he came on board. We had very good  
43 agreements. Not only did we have good agreements, but  
44 we were educated in the process. Their approach to  
45 this process is different than the State. I think that  
46 they see us as full partners as that MOU encourages  
47 them. They listened to our - what we had to say, and  
48 they acted accordingly. And that same spirit is not  
49 there for our Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working  
50 Groups.

1                   As you know, our Federal people live  
2 out here with us. They know about our subsistence  
3 needs. They know about our culture, they understand  
4 our culture. All of the management of Alaska  
5 Department of Fish and Game is transient. They're not  
6 in our region right here. I heard a gentleman  
7 yesterday on your teleconference talking about we were  
8 managed as colonists, and actually that's the case out  
9 here. I hate to say that, but that's what we're faced  
10 with.

11  
12                   And again it worked well with the  
13 Federal Government this summer. I think we sat down at  
14 the table, and we talked about their goals. They  
15 talked about what they had in mind. These conclusions  
16 were reached scientifically, but at the same time the  
17 Federal Government seems to have a great deal of  
18 respect for our traditional knowledge, and local and  
19 customary uses, which we appreciate. And I think a  
20 little bit of that is missing with the State of Alaska.

21  
22  
23                   But again I think by passing this  
24 regulation it will force us all to address some of the  
25 issues that are so important to us in honoring the  
26 obligations the Federal Government has to our  
27 subsistence users out here.

28  
29                   And again I'm still here for questions.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

32  
33                   Tim, any question, comment.

34  
35                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36  
37                   LaMont, so I'm just trying to  
38 understand the issues here. So to abbreviate what  
39 you're saying is with the Kuskokwim Working Group, it's  
40 your opinion or your perception that the State of  
41 Alaska is not taking into consideration enough of the  
42 locals or the fishermen's needs in their development of  
43 harvest strategy? I just -- I'm trying to just get a  
44 better handle on what the crux of the problem is here.  
45 And you said this summer you had good cooperation with  
46 the Federal managers, and I'm just wondering why we  
47 need to go with this regulation as opposed to the  
48 collaborative process that's currently in place.

49  
50                   MR. ALBERTSON: I'm not sure that it's

1 the process that's in place, and I say this very  
2 respectfully, as being fully collaborative. The  
3 Federal Government seems to be willing to -- they are,  
4 in fact, willing to sit down at the table with us,  
5 share the information they've got. And this is  
6 empirical data, data that's based on numbers, the best  
7 that we can do, share their -- the creation of their  
8 models. They tell us why their thinking is the way  
9 that it is. They educate us, as I said earlier, in the  
10 process, and so it's easier for use -- it's easy to  
11 have that sort of collaboration.

12  
13 We do not get the same cooperation from  
14 the State of Alaska. And again I would call your  
15 attention to the 2010, 2012, 2013 when we had protest  
16 fisheries out here, and the State ended up at the end  
17 of the season apologizing for the way that the fishery  
18 was managed. And if we're sitting at that table, the  
19 State of Alaska is sitting at that table, the Federal  
20 Government is sitting at that table, the State's  
21 group, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working  
22 Group, is sitting at that time, that's going to force  
23 compromise. That's not going to have an entity like  
24 the State of Alaska just dictating what the -- how the  
25 fishery is going to be managed.

26  
27 You know, I've been up in this state 50  
28 years. I've served on various boards and worked in  
29 various capacities, and I talk to fellow -- I talk to  
30 fishery biologists and other professionals from the  
31 University of Alaska, Michigan State. I talk to people  
32 all over this country about what we're up against here.  
33 And there's some real questions about the way the  
34 Kuskokwim River is being managed, not by just me, but  
35 by professionals nationwide, and we're trying to  
36 address those as proactively as we can right now, and  
37 the Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission will continue to  
38 try to address those issues. But we just need to have  
39 everybody at the table.

40  
41 We need to let people see what the  
42 Federal Government is trying to do with the Inter-  
43 Tribal Fisheries Commission here, and it's  
44 collaborative, proactive process will work. And I  
45 think that this regulation change will force us to look  
46 at that the way we all look at it, and force us to  
47 implement some changes which the people out here will  
48 be much more comfortable with, and I think which will  
49 allow them to meet their subsistence needs much more  
50 efficiently.

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, a question.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. So your -- this  
4 proposal, 17-05 then, if adopted, it forces the State  
5 of Alaska to accept the management plans and strategies  
6 as dictated by the Federal in-season manager?

7

8 MR. ALBERTSON: No. No, it doesn't do  
9 that. I call your attention to the first page of the  
10 regulation there. The copy that I've got says Page 33.  
11 The proponent, meaning me, wants the Federal  
12 Subsistence Management Program, including the Federal  
13 in-season manager, to work with the Alaska Department  
14 of Fish and Game, including direct participation of the  
15 Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group, and  
16 the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to  
17 determine management strategy for Kuskokwim area  
18 fisheries. I don't think any of the four entities want  
19 to be dictators in this process, but what we want to do  
20 is see some active and meaningful participation. And  
21 heretofore that meaningful participation has not been  
22 on the State side of this issue. It's been from the  
23 Federal side of the issue.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay? Well, I'm --  
26 public testimony. Is there anybody here from the Upper  
27 Kuskokwim that would like to speak to the proposal. I  
28 wanted to give the public the opportunity.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I think we've  
33 covered this, LaMont. So the Council's recommendation  
34 on this proposal. The chair will entertain a motion to  
35 adopt Proposal FP17-05.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: I so move.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
42 And so discussion. Ray, you've worked on this  
43 Kuskokwim Working Group and these various issues. I'd  
44 like to hear your perspective on this proposal.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I think it's  
47 necessary at this point, because as it says, there's  
48 some consultation going, but they're not all sitting  
49 down at the table together to work out a plan for the  
50 river. And there's some things that the State can't



1 do, because of their regulations that can be done. And  
2 also this inter-tribal group that LaMont is heading up  
3 now is a new entity, and it was meant to be a trial in  
4 co-management and so on, but if they're not all at the  
5 same table developing a plan, you know, if they're  
6 consulting with them independently instead of all  
7 sitting down together, you don't have a unified plan  
8 for management on the river.

9

10                   And the problem with the State now,  
11 especially with the cut-back in funding, their managers  
12 come out there during the summer, during the season,  
13 and then they're gone. They're not living out there,  
14 so they're not getting acquainted with or spending much  
15 time in the villages to know what the villages want.  
16 They during the summer do some visits, and they  
17 cooperate in some of the weirs and things like that,  
18 but they're not the same as the Federal agency that's  
19 located in Bethel, and is there working with the  
20 villages. And then there is a turn-over in the State  
21 personnel that they sent out each year.

22

23                   So, yeah, and when the State is working  
24 for a plan, like on escapement and so on, they're  
25 looking at the whole state and trying to apply the same  
26 things, same data out on the river out there. And like  
27 he said, this is one of the major subsistence fisheries  
28 left anywhere in the United States. And the Yukon  
29 probably would come in second on that in Alaska. But I  
30 think their idea was that there would be another tribal  
31 commission established with more cooperation the Yukon  
32 if this works out.

33

34                   So, yeah, I would be in favor of them  
35 -- of supporting this, and letting this process go  
36 forward.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You support the  
39 proposal as written?

40

41                   MR. COLLINS: Yes.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Without  
44 modification.

45

46                   MR. COLLINS: Yes.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any other  
49 Council members comments on the deliberation of the  
50 proposal.

1                   That's been where I've been a little  
2 bit gray is how the inter-tribal commission is going to  
3 work with the Kuskokwim River Salmon Work Group, how  
4 that's going to mesh. I was unclear who was going to  
5 be doing what, whether they were going to sit at the  
6 same table. I was of the opinion, my personal opinion  
7 is that all the entities should be at the same table  
8 and work together towards resolution of differences.  
9 And so, you know, I don't live on the Kuskokwim River.  
10 I look heavily to -- and that's one of the problems  
11 here is that we only have one RAC member that's from  
12 the Kuskokwim River at this time.

13

14                   What happened to Dennis? You know,  
15 Dennis Thomas from Crooked Creek is not here at the  
16 table. We need to have good representation. This  
17 Council needs to have good representation from the  
18 Kuskokwim River. And so when we go for call for RAC  
19 members, we need to publish more strongly for more RAC  
20 representations on the Kuskokwim River. Dedicated  
21 members who want to attend meetings.

22

23                   So have you got an update on what  
24 happened to Dennis?

25

26                   MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. I went to  
27 raise a question. No, I don't have an update on Mr.  
28 Thomas.

29

30                   For point of clarification, do you feel  
31 that the current proposal, 17-05, provides the  
32 necessary clarification or certainty regarding the need  
33 for coordination, or are you saying that there is still  
34 that unanswered need for further clarification.

35

36                   Thank you.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: From my perspective  
39 as watching the Kuskokwim management sort of from a  
40 distance, listening to teleconferences and so forth, I  
41 would like to see collaboration of all the State  
42 bodies, the tribal bodies, and the State and Federal  
43 managers, all coming to the same table. Having  
44 disparent meetings and having it all spread out causes  
45 confusion among the managers and the users.

46

47                   And so if this proposal, and if you  
48 feel that this proposal would bring that more together,  
49 I don't think that it violates the pilot project. I  
50 would like the opinion of Office of Subsistence

1 Management that it -- does this -- would this proposal  
2 violate the pilot project for inter-tribal  
3 consultation? I don't think that it does. I read the  
4 refuge managers position. But, you know, updating the  
5 MOU, this -- that's not going to fix the problem of  
6 bringing all the players to the same table.

7

8 And so I'm looking heavily at Ray  
9 here's position on this proposal. And so do you have  
10 confidence that this proposal, this regulatory change  
11 will actually accomplish what the proponent is asking  
12 for, Ray?

13

14 MR. COLLINS: I don't know if it would  
15 accomplish everything, but it will move it forward to  
16 see a higher level of coordination on the plan now than  
17 the plans being developed independently, or like this  
18 summer where the Feds had to stop in and implement  
19 something that the State couldn't, in that under the  
20 Federal regulations they could designate communities  
21 and harvest levels and so on, where the State can't do  
22 that, because it's allocation.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: So they have a -- all of  
27 the entities have a role. And the inter-tribal thing  
28 is a new thing, and so strengthening their position I  
29 guess, and they do have representation clear up to the  
30 headwaters, too. And the working group is a State  
31 function, so they have the final say on what happens  
32 with the working group. I mean, they come in with the  
33 final proposals there, even though the Fed sit at the  
34 table, too.

35

36 So, yeah, I think that this would move  
37 the process forward. We'll see where it goes, because  
38 it's a new thing that's been created with co-  
39 management. Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray. You  
42 had a comment, Robert?

43

44 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
45 Yes, I really do, and I really think this is a start  
46 for a lot of other things that goes on, because a lot  
47 of the people on the Yukon feel the same way as the  
48 Kuskokwim people, because we think we have been  
49 mismanaged by the State and the Federal Government.  
50 And, you know, it's time to step where you can hear all

1 this tribes, this consultation that I talked about  
2 yesterday between government-to-government. These are  
3 not working, just like Mr. LaMont said. This is old  
4 stuff we've got here, and we're just kind of like --  
5 we're not helping these people. We're just giving them  
6 something that they could start up and show maybe what  
7 they've got to do, where it will work, where we have  
8 failed. We have failed these people literally. The  
9 Kuskokwim, the Yukon, Norton Sound, everywhere. I  
10 really feel that. It's time that somebody else take up  
11 this space here and make it work and come forward and  
12 present it to the Boards, the RAC, the Federal  
13 Government Board, the State Board, and show where this  
14 will work.

15  
16                   So, Mr. LaMont, I really commend you on  
17 this, because I would like to see your whole proposal  
18 if I could. My name is Robert Walker. I live in Anvik,  
19 Alaska. So if you could send me a copy.

20  
21                   And I would support this.

22  
23                   Thank you.

24  
25                   Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the proposal's  
28 before us, 17-05.

29  
30                   And, Tim.

31  
32                   MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I just would like  
33 somebody to clarify. So this proposal's only going to  
34 affect the river from the ocean up to Aniak, and then  
35 there's no Federal jurisdiction above that?

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray, turn your mic  
38 on.

39  
40                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Under -- because  
41 that's where the Federal waters and the refuges and so  
42 on down there. So there is not that Federal presence  
43 up here. But this proposal would affect the whole  
44 thing, because it would be working on a unified plan  
45 for the whole river. And the tribes up here are  
46 represented in this tribal group, like Nikolai and  
47 Telida and McGrath, and so on, are represented on the  
48 group that LaMont is heading up now. So they would  
49 have a presence at the table through that mechanism.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George, you had a  
2 comment there. George.

3  
4                   MR. PAPPAS: Yes. And the Federal  
5 subsistence management on Federal public waters and  
6 lands, they do have to take into account the Federally-  
7 qualified subsistence users who live outside the CSU  
8 upriver. So all decisions that are being made in this  
9 issue as salmon migrate through must consider,  
10 including opportunity, at least have the fish pass the  
11 border of the Refuge to ensure there is fish available  
12 for the subsistence users upriver that are Federally  
13 qualified. So it's a complex question.

14  
15                   No, a Federal special action is not  
16 going to apply 150 miles upriver from the Refuge  
17 border, but it is part of the decision-making process  
18 that they must provide for the Federally-qualified  
19 users that live beyond the border.

20  
21                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that  
24 clarification, George.

25  
26                   Darrel.

27  
28                   MR. VENT: Yeah. I can see where this  
29 is coming from, you know. We always had issues, and our  
30 representation at the village level wasn't there,  
31 because we're only recognized -- I mean, we weren't  
32 recognized. It's just we were utilized, but, you know,  
33 sitting at the table, I think it gives us a greater  
34 opportunity to participate, because if you've got  
35 tribal, State and the Feds all sitting at the same  
36 level, I think, you know, it gives us a little  
37 participation in the process that -- you know, it helps  
38 move around the management.

39  
40                   Thank you.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

43  
44                   Any other comments from Council members  
45 on the deliberation of this proposal.

46  
47                   (No comments)

48  
49                   MR. SIMON: Question.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The questions called  
2 on the proposal. Those in favor of FP17-05 as written  
3 by the proponent signify by saying aye.

4

5                   IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
8 sign.

9

10                  (No opposing votes)

11

12                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Proposal is adopted.  
13 Justification would be it is the feeling of the Western  
14 Interior Regional Advisory Council that this proposal  
15 will bring together all entities on the Kuskokwim River  
16 for fishery management on State and Federal waters, to  
17 work cohesively towards a management objective. Is  
18 that the opinion of the Council.

19

20                  (Council members indicate affirmative)

21

22                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative to  
23 that. So that will go before the Federal Subsistence  
24 Board now.

25

26                  Let's see, we're finished with  
27 fisheries proposals, so Zach.....

28

29                  MR. WALKER: Jack, I had a.....

30

31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead there,  
32 Robert.

33

34                  MR. WALKER: I'm just going to go back  
35 here to FP17-02 really for clarification for myself on  
36 how we want this. We have eight board members here,  
37 two absent Honea and Thomas. And the vote was four yes,  
38 two no, two abstain. Eight board members. I mean, if  
39 I remember parliamentary rules, 50 percent we got in  
40 the yes favor, so I would say that we have, with  
41 clarification from Zach, this passed.

42

43                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach, go ahead.

44

45                  MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Robert.  
46 Through the Chair. after consulting with our folks at  
47 Region 7, it's the understanding that with eight RAC  
48 members, eight votes, we need five to pass. We did not  
49 have five.

50

1 MR. WALKER: Oh, we need five?  
2  
3 MR. STEVENSON: We had four, so it did  
4 not pass.  
5  
6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
9  
10 MR. WALKER: Okay. That was just for  
11 my clarification so I could understand where -- okay.  
12  
13 Thank you.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I understand, but it  
16 had to do with the make-up of the Council, et cetera.  
17  
18 And so my question is, we're at -- we  
19 have an agenda before us.  
20  
21 Go ahead, Zach.  
22  
23 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
24 My understanding is that right now we're on Page 2 of  
25 the Western Interior Agenda, under item 10(b) FRMP  
26 priority information needs. However I understand that  
27 folks at the -- and correct me if I'm wrong, Jeremy and  
28 Bob at the Innoko Refuge need to depart, because they  
29 have a scheduled charter flight at 2:00 p.m.; is that  
30 correct? And I wanted to mention that in the event  
31 that it were possible to have them address their  
32 update, which would be under agency reports, item 12,  
33 before their scheduled departure.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could take you  
36 right after lunch; would that be okay?  
37  
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's find, yeah.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we should  
41 continue with the agenda as this FRMP.  
42  
43 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. Thank you.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do have some  
46 other things. Go ahead.  
47  
48 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 George Pappas.  
50

1                   One of the understanding when we  
2 discussed the original agenda, that you inserted  
3 between the fisheries proposal and FRMP, we inserted  
4 the Board of Game discussions, if you're interested.  
5 And we do have Josh Pierce here from the Department who  
6 is available to discuss this, and I do have -- I  
7 believe we have wildlife staff from OSM on line. If  
8 you want to go that direction, it's available.

9

10                   Mr. Chair.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's right.

13 Thanks, George.

14

15                   And so I do want the Council to have  
16 the opportunity to comment on some -- any Board of Game  
17 proposals. Did you have any proposals that you would  
18 like to discuss, Ray. Did you have any proposals.

19

20                   MR. COLLINS: No.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Josh, did you have  
23 any comments on -- this Council is going to -- will not  
24 meet before the Board has taken up various proposals,  
25 and I wanted this Council to have the opportunity to  
26 comment on any proposals that would be affecting this  
27 region. So do you have any comments there, Josh.

28

29                   MR. PIERCE: Yeah, I'd be happy. Josh  
30 Pierce, Fish and Game in McGrath here. I'm the area  
31 biologist.

32

33                   And Proposals 74 to 82 are the  
34 proposals directly related to my management area.  
35 Those are the ones I'm the most familiar with, so I'd  
36 be happy to answer any questions related to those.

37

38                   There was one in particular that I  
39 would like the RAC to address, and that's Proposal 76.  
40 And we can take these in any order that you guys want  
41 to though.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to -- do  
44 you have the proposal before you.

45

46                   MR. PIERCE: Yeah, I do.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

49

50                   MR. PIERCE: So Proposal 76, there's



1 actually -- well, there are several proposals, like I  
2 said, in our area, but this one in particular kind of  
3 inter-relates with the Federal season.

4

5           So this proposal was submitted by the  
6 GASH AC. And what they're looking to do is lengthen  
7 the fall season for moose for residents. So the season  
8 currently is September 5th to the 25th. And this  
9 proposal would change the season to September 1st to  
10 the 25th. And the GASH AC has been working real hard  
11 in recent years to try to simplify the regulations for  
12 the local users out there. We had two years ago a  
13 registration permit was implemented for the State  
14 season, and the idea behind that was to try to get  
15 better harvest reporting. In that area we historically  
16 had very poor reporting by locals, which really was a  
17 disservice to them. It did not document their  
18 subsistence uses very well at all. So this  
19 registration permit was, like I said, implemented, and  
20 we had the third year of it this year. And since then  
21 harvest reporting is much, much better. So it's really  
22 working pretty well.

23

24           With that, though, there's been  
25 confusion for quite a few years now between the Federal  
26 and the State season, and people are confused about  
27 where they can hunt, when they can hunt, what piece of  
28 paper they need to hunt. And so one of the big  
29 objectives of the GASH, and I think really a lot of  
30 folks, is to try to make it so it's simpler for the  
31 local users out there.

32

33           So this year we combined the State and  
34 Federal permit, and a hunter -- which was a big  
35 improvement in my opinion. A hunter was able to have  
36 one piece of paper to hunt both seasons; however,  
37 there's still the seasons are still different in  
38 duration. The Federal season is August 25 to September  
39 30th, so it's a fair bit longer, which provides, you  
40 know, some more opportunity. But what the GASH would  
41 really like to do is try to get these seasons aligned.  
42 Then a hunter can use now -- or would be able to use  
43 the registration permit, one piece of paper, and most  
44 importantly, they'd be able to hunt everywhere.

45

46           So the reality with the Federal season  
47 in the fall is there are not a lot of Federal lands  
48 that are available along the river itself, and so the  
49 amount of acreage I guess you could say where people  
50 can hunt easily with a boat is not that extensive. In

1 the winter it's a pretty different situation when  
2 people can get around on snowmachines.

3  
4 So what the GASH is looking to do here,  
5 like I said, in summary is lengthen the season.  
6 They're really interested in submitting a proposal at  
7 some point to the Federal Subsistence Board to make a  
8 change to the Federal season, but this is a first step,  
9 and it would add five days to the State season. And  
10 like I said, it's a first step in their goal to  
11 simplify things for the local folks out there.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's the  
14 overview of the proposal. And have you reviewed this  
15 proposal, Robert.

16  
17 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No,  
18 this is the first I've heard of it. I would like to  
19 have a copy if I could, so I could take a look at it,  
20 Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Has the McGrath  
23 Advisory Committee reviewed this proposal.

24  
25 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman. No, we  
26 have not met on this.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the State  
29 is supportive of this regulatory change, Josh?

30  
31 MR. PIERCE: Well, like a lot of them,  
32 we're neutral on it, and that's kind of the position we  
33 tend to take on a lot of these proposals.

34  
35 What we do have though, we just did a  
36 survey last winter in 21E. We had the highest number  
37 of moose we've recorded ever in any of our surveys out  
38 there. The moose population appears to be doing really  
39 well. There's definitely a harvestable surplus of  
40 bulls still available. And so this season extension  
41 would be very much biologically sustainable. It would  
42 add opportunity for all Alaska residents, but certainly  
43 subsistence users as well.

44  
45 Like I said, right now that Federal  
46 season is available. Primarily it's used by the  
47 Village of Grayling. They are definitely the heaviest  
48 user of it. They're the closest to Federal lands, and  
49 in general though, you know if we had a good map here,  
50 hunting from a boat in 21E is pretty restricted in

1 terms of what Federal lands are even available.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Does the  
4 Council want to make a recommendation on this proposal.

5

6 MR. COLLINS: I would move support of  
7 the proposal, because it comes from GASH, from those  
8 communities over there that are mostly affected. And  
9 if they feel it's reasonable. Robert may be able to  
10 speak to that, too, whether he would -- but I assume  
11 the GASH committee met on it, and they submitted it.  
12 Ken Chase, I guess he's not on the line today. He's  
13 the Chair I think still.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. But to bring it  
18 out before us, I would move support of it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So a motion to  
21 support State Proposal 76. Robert.

22

23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 think that maybe we should have Ken on the line here so  
25 he could explain a little more on what the proposal  
26 would be, and how it would benefit us, because we do  
27 have Federal land in our area. We have Innoko Wildlife  
28 Refuge, we have the Bonasila River. We have portion of  
29 Holy Cross where people do go for Federal moose hunting  
30 early, the 25th to the 30th, you know, that gives them  
31 like 30 days, 35 days to do this.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Federal  
34 season would stay in place. This would just strictly  
35 change on the State land areas.

36

37 MR. WALKER: Well, a lot of people are  
38 kind of like divided on this issue here. Our tribes  
39 would be divided on this, because we would look at more  
40 transporters would be coming in earlier. And again  
41 we'd look at wanton waste again, because of the heat or  
42 rain or whatever. This would be our point of view  
43 versus the GASH's point of view, because we're more --  
44 we hardly ever use State land in our area, and Holy  
45 Cross doesn't hardly use State, but they do in their --  
46 excuse me. But I would say it would be 50/50, and I  
47 don't know if I would support an extra five days for  
48 the State on that. It's just -- we're getting more and  
49 more people coming from up in 26 all the way up to  
50 Fairbanks who are coming down now to do their hunting.

1 We have extra -- a surplus of moose, but again how long  
2 is this going to last, you know. I mean, we're getting  
3 more and more hunters every year. It's just getting to  
4 be like tripping over each other here. And transporter  
5 would be in 50 to 100 or whatever. Five days would  
6 just be -- it would be -- I don't want it to be  
7 interesting, but I just want to be careful on how I do  
8 this, because I want to be fair to everybody, but I  
9 have to be fair to our tribes first, before I do to  
10 everybody else. So no disrespect to what the proposal  
11 is, but I would have to vote not on it.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically there's  
14 a motion to adopt, but we haven't gotten a second and  
15 we can't deliberate the proposal.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second it.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion seconded.  
20 And so discussion on the proposal. You've made  
21 comments, Robert, but continue.

22  
23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 didn't get a chance to even -- I don't think any of the  
25 Board members got a chance to read this or look at  
26 this, because I would like us to read this before I  
27 vote on it. And I think that everybody should have a  
28 fair chance to read it before we do any kind of action.

29  
30 Mr. Chair.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Josh, go ahead.

33  
34 MR. PIERCE: Yeah. So I've got a  
35 couple other com -- or I guess comments to throw out  
36 there. So these Board of Game proposals, it doesn't  
37 sound like you guys have seen any of them I guessing.  
38 And, you know, that's something that you guys need to  
39 discuss and decide how you want to deal with that, but  
40 like Jack mentioned earlier, you know, you will need to  
41 get comments in if you do want to. And I don't know  
42 what the deadline is for the comments, maybe George  
43 does, but the deadline will be coming up. This Board  
44 meeting will be in February, and it will affect Region  
45 3, which includes 21E and 19A, 19D, which are the main  
46 areas where you guys have folks on the RAC.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the reason I  
49 wanted to address these, at least have the opportunity  
50 for this Council to address these proposals is because

1 we'll be in -- we'll be meeting half-way through the  
2 Board of Game meeting. Our comments would come in way  
3 too late even if -- at our next meeting. So I wanted  
4 the Board -- or the Council to have the opportunity to  
5 speak, if they had proposals that would highly affect  
6 this region, which there are two proposals that I would  
7 like to discuss that would affect this region. But  
8 this proposal, because this Council is gray on this, we  
9 can vote the proposal down, we can vote it up, we can  
10 vote it sideways, however you want to do it. We do  
11 have a motion to adopt the proposal on the table. We  
12 can vote it -- we don't have a lot of time to spend on  
13 these Board of Game proposals, but I wanted to give the  
14 opportunity, because there's some real issues that  
15 could highly affect subsistence uses in this region.

16  
17 MR. PIERCE: Hey, Jack, just a couple  
18 other things.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

21  
22 MR. PIERCE: Robert's absolutely right.  
23 There is Federal land that is available. I didn't mean  
24 to imply that there wasn't, but it's not nearly as  
25 readily available as it is during the winter hunt. And  
26 as you know, most of the river along the -- or land  
27 along the river is owned by the tribal entities out  
28 there. So with that, these Federal regulations do not  
29 apply on those lands as you know.

30  
31 Also, during the fall Federal season,  
32 harvest -- I don't have the exact numbers, but harvest,  
33 Federal subsistence harvest is extremely low. It's  
34 typically I would say less than five moose taken per  
35 year. So there's not a lot of participation in that  
36 hunt. And this would only affect the State season for  
37 residents. So, yeah, there are a lot more boats coming  
38 down from Fairbanks and stuff. I hear that, too, but  
39 this would not affect transporters in terms of non-  
40 residents, guided users, drop-off hunters from out-of-  
41 state, so it's just for the residents. So those are a  
42 couple other points.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've lost audio on  
45 the conference call?

46  
47 REPORTER: Yes.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And, so, Tim, you've  
50 got a point.

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, a question. Isn't  
2 there some State residents that are still using  
3 transporters for hunting in 21E that fly into the  
4 villages and get transported about?

5  
6 MR. PIERCE: Well, they certainly  
7 could. Yeah, that's certainly something residents could  
8 do as well, but I don't think it's real substantial  
9 with residents anyways. But, yeah, anybody could pay  
10 somebody to take them out in a boat or even an airplane  
11 for that matter.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

14  
15 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. Will you or  
16 Josh read the reg or the proposed reg.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I have the proposal  
19 here before me. Hunting seasons and bag limits for  
20 moose. Lengthen the hunting season for moose in 21E as  
21 follows. 21E, resident hunters, one antlered bull by  
22 registration permit only, extending the season from  
23 September 5th to September 1, and the closing date  
24 stays as scheduled, September 25. Josh gave the  
25 justification for the proposal. And I could read the  
26 entire proposal, but Josh already covered that part.

27  
28 That's the regulatory change. It's  
29 basically moving the season five days ahead, increasing  
30 harvest opportunity for five additional days in the  
31 beginning of the season. That's what the proposal is.

32  
33 MR. PIERCE: Yeah. And one of the big  
34 points, really why the GASH is doing this is it gives  
35 local folks out there, the subsistence users, five  
36 additional days to hunt and not have to worry about  
37 what color block of land they're standing on. They  
38 then are able to hunt anywhere and everywhere starting  
39 on September 1st. So it increases subsistence  
40 opportunity. That's why they were interested in it.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

43  
44 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman,  
45 could someone comment on the registration, how that  
46 takes place? They have to register before they go out,  
47 so it's not available to every resident in the state  
48 unless they're registered, so what's that process?

49  
50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you want to

1 comment on that, Josh?

2

3 MR. PIERCE: Yeah, Ray. So it's  
4 registration permit, that works a little differently  
5 than our permit around here does. This registration  
6 permit is available in the villages, like ours here in  
7 McGrath, but it is also available through the internet  
8 as well, so people can pick this one up more broadly  
9 than the 650 permit that we have. And the other big  
10 difference is it's available during the season as well  
11 versus ours that has a specific time frame with a cut-  
12 off before the season starts.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And one thing I want  
15 to clarify for the Council is, the Native corporation  
16 lands, which is a large percentage of those white  
17 blocks that you see on your map here, are actually  
18 closed to non-shareholders. And so this basically  
19 gives opportunity to harvest on the Native corporation  
20 lands for five days. And it primarily benefits the  
21 local people is what this proposal actually would do.  
22 I want the Council to be aware that the State of Alaska  
23 has management authority on the Native corporation  
24 lands. So that's to clarify that issue.

25

26 So I actually myself support the  
27 proposal, because it gives more subsistence  
28 opportunity, harvest opportunity to local people to  
29 hunt on their Native corporation lands. That's why I  
30 would be supportive of the proposal.

31

32 Do you have a comment, Fred.

33

34 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah. It does not help  
35 the Village of Kaltag by early opening, nor looking  
36 at.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is for 21E,  
39 which is way downriver from Kaltag. That's like --  
40 that's more than halfway down.....

41

42 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, but if we open it elsewhere,  
43 you know, it's going to come -- it's going to trickle  
44 down to the village in 21A. And we're -- you know,  
45 from my perspective as a subsistence user, I oppose  
46 this really strongly.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any --

1 okay. Zach. Well, I hate to take too much more time  
2 here.

3

4 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Through the Chair.

6

7 Fred, could you elaborate briefly on  
8 that opposition.

9

10 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, the reason why I  
11 oppose this is that we're putting some proposals I  
12 think that we want to extend our seasons later, because  
13 of that climate change now. It does not help the local  
14 people at all, because if we go out, we'd have to come  
15 back the same day with our game, because of the black  
16 flies or that little flies, or however you call them,  
17 and the warm weather. Meat does not last. And it  
18 would be wanton waste on our part.

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this  
21 proposal's for 21E. And if you've got your colored map  
22 there, that's.....

23

24 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, I do.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so it does not  
27 affect 21D. I mean, it's -- I don't know that anybody  
28 from Kaltag would go that far down.

29

30 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. It's  
31 going to trickle down. It's always trying to. I think  
32 I've heard different people from different areas  
33 saying, hey, you know, we're going to do this, we're  
34 going to do that, you know, so it's -- the tribe, like  
35 a lot of tribes, we are -- you know, and our tribe is  
36 trying to make it later than earlier.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

39

40 MR. ALEXIE: I mean, regardless of how  
41 you look at it, Mr. Chair, it's going to trickle down  
42 to us, and it's going to trickle down to 21A. And what  
43 this is going to do, it's going to bring more hunters  
44 from where we're talking about down to our area.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So any  
47 further discussion on the proposal.

48

49 (No comments)

50



1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You had a question.  
2  
3                   MR. VENT: Question.  
4  
5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
6 called on the proposal. Those in favor of State  
7 Proposal 76 to extend the moose season by five days to  
8 September 1st to September 25 in Unit 21E signify by  
9 saying aye. Aye.  
10  
11                   Those opposed same sign.  
12  
13                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I personally feel  
16 that 21D proposals would be futuristic. We might vote  
17 those down, but I do feel that the Native corporation  
18 lands will get more benefit, Grayling especially, and  
19 Anvik especially, would have more benefit to be able to  
20 be able that five days next to the river, because those  
21 lands are closed. Nobody else can hunt there, if they  
22 actually are enforced, the closures are enforced,  
23 nobody can hunt there except for the corporation  
24 members. So it actually benefits the local people.  
25  
26                   But we've already passed -- the  
27 proposal failed, so we're going to continue on here.  
28  
29                   MR. STEVENSON: Just to clear up a.....  
30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there,  
32 Zach.  
33  
34                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 To clarify the vote, that was.....  
36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed.  
38  
39                   MR. STEVENSON: Unanimously opposed.  
40  
41                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I voted for the  
42 proposal.  
43  
44                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Thank you.  
45  
46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was one for,  
47 and the rest were against.  
48  
49                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 For me, probably for the other members of the Council,  
5 it's hard for us to make an accurate assessment of  
6 these proposals without any kind of tribal comments, so  
7 I think it's not functioning very well if we don't have  
8 the comments from the appropriate tribes and entities.  
9 I mean, it happened in our fisheries stuff, and now  
10 it's happening as we're going over the Board of Game  
11 stuff.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

14

15 MR. GERVAIS: So we're not getting the  
16 information we need to assess the proposals correctly.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There are two  
19 proposals that I feel that would -- one is Proposal 63  
20 which Proposal 63 -- the Board of Game did not -- has  
21 not allowed the use of aircraft for spotting dall sheep  
22 during the sheep season. And Proposal 63 is to remove  
23 that restriction from spotting dall sheep in Game  
24 Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.  
25 Those areas were closed to spotting dall sheep under  
26 Proposal 207. This proposal would repeal that. That  
27 elimination of spotting dall sheep with aircraft has  
28 had a big effect on reducing the hunting guide's  
29 ability to hunt down every last dall sheep. And I  
30 worked on the sheep work group last winter. There's a  
31 huge push by the guiding industry to repeal that  
32 elimination. But the Board supported it again last  
33 spring, and now again is another proposal to repeal,  
34 and that was a very important aspect of controlling how  
35 the sheep are hunted down by hunting guides with the  
36 use of aircraft.

37

38 So I feel that Proposal 63 should be  
39 opposed by this Regional Council, because there are  
40 people in Unit 24B, 24A, and in Game Management Unit  
41 19C that would be affected by this proposal. So I  
42 would like to entertain a motion to adopt Proposal 63  
43 with the intention of voting this proposal down. Is my  
44 intention. So do I have a motion.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: So move.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion. A  
49 second?

50

1 MR. VENT: Second.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Any  
4 discussion. We discussed this proposal last year, and  
5 so this Council is aware of that issue. So any further  
6 discussion.  
7  
8 (No comments)  
9  
10 MR. VENT: Question.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
13 called on the proposal. Those in favor of Proposal 63  
14 signify by saying aye.  
15  
16 (No affirmative votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same  
19 sign.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the other  
24 proposal that would affect this Council in the northern  
25 part of this region is the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
26 and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. Proposal 102 in this  
27 proposal book, and I'll have to read the proposal, but  
28 it's a proposal by -- let me get to it.  
29  
30 The proposal is from the North Slope  
31 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, one of the  
32 Regional Advisory Councils, is under customary and  
33 traditional use of game, is to evaluate separately the  
34 amount necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk  
35 Caribou Herd. There are two caribou herds that use the  
36 upper portion of Unit 24, and that would be the Western  
37 Arctic Caribou Herd, and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.  
38  
39 What the Board of Game is, there's  
40 amounts necessary, reasonably amounts necessary, of 8  
41 to 12,000 caribou. But what the Board of Game did in  
42 2014 was combine both herds amounts necessary, and what  
43 the Council is requesting is to divide those two herds  
44 so that each herd has an amount necessary.  
45  
46 So the proposal is caribou in Units 21,  
47 22, 23, 24, 26, Western Arctic Caribou Herd and  
48 Teshekpuk Lake Herd have a positive finding, and the  
49 amounts for subsistence use is 8 to 12,000. Species  
50 and units, and caribou in Unit 26A and 24B, Teshekpuk

1 Herd, the proposal is, Teshekpuk herd, a positive and  
2 the amounts necessary for subsistence to be determined.  
3 And what they're trying to get the Board to do is to  
4 divide the amounts necessary, so that Teshekpuk has its  
5 own amount necessary, not lumping it all together with  
6 Western Arctic, which already has an 8 to 12,000  
7 caribou harvest.

8

9                   And so they're trying to get -- the  
10 Teshekpuk Herd is a declining herd, like the Western  
11 Herd, and they're highly relied on by people in the  
12 northern. I hunt Teshekpuk caribou. Pollock is  
13 hunting Teshekpuk caribou, whether they know where they  
14 come from or not. Anaktuvuk pass is hunting those  
15 caribou, and the North Slope villages are hunting  
16 those, Nuiqsut and Barrow. So we need to have an  
17 amount necessary so that the herd is not all lumped  
18 together with the Western Arctic amounts necessary.

19

20                   Why they did that was to camouflage the  
21 amount of use of those two herds, and so they're trying  
22 to constrain the amounts that are necessary. Western  
23 Arctic had to have its own 8 to 12,000 caribou harvest  
24 amounts necessary, and Teshekpuk has to have an  
25 additional amounts necessary for its own herd.

26

27                   Zach.

28

29                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
30 Just by way of context, this point was addressed by the  
31 North Slope Council at the joint North Slope Western  
32 Arctic Caribou Herd, joint RAC meeting at our winter  
33 meeting that was held earlier this year, just so that  
34 that point is not in the record.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

37

38                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the North Slope  
41 Regional Advisory Council is correct in their  
42 assessment that this herd needs its own ANS amount.  
43 And so the Chair will entertain a motion to adopt  
44 Proposal 102 with further deliberation.

45

46                   Robert.

47

48                   MR. WALKER: I want to -- clarify  
49 something for me. Okay. This is a State proposal,  
50 right?

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: State proposal. Do  
2 I have a motion to adopt.

3  
4 MR. VENT: I make a motion.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel motioned to  
7 adopt. Do I have a second.

8  
9 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Second. The Council  
12 has -- I described the issue that the North Slope  
13 Regional Advisory Council is requesting.

14  
15 Any further discussion. Darrel.

16  
17 MR. VENT: Yeah. Just for  
18 clarification, we need to have these two different  
19 numbers, because these are different herds, and they're  
20 getting both hit the same if they were both put  
21 together. That's what you're saying, that we need to  
22 propose this regulation and so on on it, right?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What the North Slope  
25 Regional Advisory Council is trying to get the Board of  
26 Game to do is recognize that there's -- basically the  
27 Board of Game has suppressed the amounts necessary for  
28 subsistence by lumping both herds together. And so they  
29 would actually have to expand the amounts necessary,  
30 because Western's going to retain its 8 to 12,000, and  
31 Teshekpuk is going to have to have its own ANS amount.  
32 And so it's beneficial to subsistence users in the  
33 northern part of this region to have -- for Teshekpuk  
34 to have its own ANS amount.

35  
36 Any further discussion.

37  
38 (No comments)

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can I have a  
41 question.

42  
43 MR. VENT: Question.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question's  
46 called. Those in favor of State Proposal 102 to  
47 determine an ANS amount for Teshekpuk Caribou Herd in  
48 Game Management Units 26A and 24B signify by saying  
49 ayes.

50

1                   IN UNISON:  Aye.  
2  
3                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Those opposed same  
4 sign.  
5  
6                   (No opposing votes)  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  So those were the  
9 two pressing proposals that I had.  
10  
11                  Josh, do you have an additional  
12 proposal from your management area.  
13  
14                  MR. PIERCE:  Yeah.  There's a couple  
15 others that I think Robert would be interested in in  
16 particular.  And then there are -- you know, Ray  
17 submitted a proposal.  There are some proposals as  
18 well, but I don't know that they really affect you guys  
19 that much, so without you having looked at them.  But  
20 if you wanted to talk about intensive management or  
21 bears in 21E, there are two additional proposals, 75  
22 and 77.  
23  
24                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Does the Council  
25 want to take those proposals up.  
26  
27                  (No comments)  
28  
29                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  So the Council  
30 doesn't seem to be -- not having the proposal book.  
31 Those.....  
32  
33                  MR. COLLINS:  Could we ask, is there a  
34 summary of what those refer to?  I mean, intensive  
35 management in what way?  What would they accomplish?  
36  
37                  MR. PIERCE:  Well, I can definitely  
38 give a summary.  The intensive -- so 21E has an  
39 intensive management plan that is not active, but it is  
40 on the books.  It's meant to be a proactive plan.  If  
41 moose numbers were to decline, there was a big moose  
42 management planning group that came out with -- it was  
43 2006 I believe it was.  I don't know if Robert was on  
44 it or not.  It was just before my time.  
45  
46                  But one of the recommendations in there  
47 was to have an intensive management plan on the books  
48 if moose numbers were to decline, so Fish and Game  
49 could respond more rapidly.  So we did that, in 2010  
50 the Board of Game adopted an intensive management plan.

1 It expired this summer. We went to a three-year  
2 regulatory cycle, so it kind of -- we decided we would  
3 wait a year and bring it up at the Board year this  
4 coming winter. So that plan expired. Fish and Game  
5 has submitted a proposal to get it re-authorized  
6 basically, and again it was something that the -- this  
7 management plan was endorsed by the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board and the State Board of Game, and so we're just  
9 trying to follow through with the commitment to keep  
10 that plan in place. That's a real brief summary. I  
11 can give you detail, too.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert.

14

15 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 This is what Randy Rogers put together, if you  
17 remember, because we visited when we were in Fairbanks  
18 at the Federal -- at the State Board of Game meeting  
19 where we had to discuss this issue before we presented  
20 it to the State. And it did pass, Josh, you know,  
21 because we passed it at our Board level here, too.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I remember we  
24 endorsed the IM plan for 21E, and so this Council would  
25 still be supportive. I don't think that we have to  
26 recover the proposals. We'll state on the record that  
27 we're still supportive of the IM plan and continuation  
28 of the plan. It's not a change to the plan; it's just  
29 a continuation of the plan, and so this Council can  
30 affirm. What's the proposal number again?

31

32 MR. PIERCE: So the proposal is 75.

33 And, yeah, if you guys wanted your comments before the  
34 Board to support it or not. But there are a couple of  
35 changes. The area, the shape of the area has changed  
36 slightly. We tried to incorporate further up towards  
37 Grayling so we could benefit those folks as well. That  
38 gets trickier with Federal land. The refuge lands are  
39 up there, but there's a pretty substantial amount of  
40 corporation land as well. So we felt like there was  
41 some opportunity up there.

42

43 And it does also add an option for bear  
44 control as well. And where that came from is research  
45 here, Ray's real familiar with, but in 19D when we did  
46 intensive management here, we had bear removals and  
47 wolf removals, which was highly effective. And in 19A  
48 we at the same time did just wolf control for a number  
49 of years, and we weren't seeing the response in the  
50 population that we wanted to. So based on what we had

1 here in McGrath, we did bear control in 19A as well,  
2 and it's too soon to know yet if that was successful  
3 like we hoped it was, but with what we learned there,  
4 seeing that wolf control alone was not enough in 19A, I  
5 wanted to have that as an option for 21E as well. And  
6 again this is all a proactive approach. It's only if  
7 the moose population were to decline, but we've got the  
8 tools in place to address it if that were to happen.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those additions  
11 to the plan would be acceptable, Robert?

12

13 MR. WALKER: Yes, I believe -- yes, I  
14 would support this, because one of the things, we're  
15 going to -- you're going to be there when this come up  
16 at the Board of Game meeting, so I think that I'll  
17 recommend somebody from this Board go there to testify  
18 on behalf of this Proposal 75, because it's going to be  
19 reinstated back up to where we were 10 years ago. So I  
20 think this would be good for us.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: And I think the program  
27 is significant enough that we should vote on it so I'll  
28 make a motion to adopt Proposal 75.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And do we  
31 have a second to that.

32

33 MR. VENT: I've got a second.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Oh, go --  
36 another just comment.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Yes. Also I would like to  
39 see somebody there from our RAC for Western Interior,  
40 testify on behalf of that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The OSM has not  
43 allowed us to travel to the Board of Game meetings any  
44 more, so there will be respective advisory committee  
45 chairs will be there and speak to that. So Ray is on  
46 their AC, so he can speak to the proposal.

47

48 So the Proposal 75. You've got a  
49 comment there, George.

50



1 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, sir. Ray, if you  
2 want us, OSM, to ensure that you're voice is heard  
3 whether in writing or verbally at the Board of Game  
4 meeting on this proposal, we can forward that  
5 independent of what the OSM's position is. Currently  
6 the proposals aren't vetted, we don't have positions  
7 for any of these proposals. And this particular type  
8 of subject matter is not normally what we have  
9 information on, but if you have a voice, you want to  
10 let it put forth, I will be there, and I'll ensure that  
11 that information is forwarded on to the Board process  
12 during some portion of it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. George is the  
15 liaison to the Board of Game, so he can bring this  
16 Council's position to the Board.

17

18 You had a further comment, Tim.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: No, I don't think so.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to go  
23 to lunch here pretty quick, so let's -- can I get a  
24 question on this proposal.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: I just was curious if TCC  
27 had any opinion on it or.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see none from the  
30 TCC Staff here.

31

32 MR. LIND: Yeah, this is Orville Lind.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, hey, Orville.  
35 Do you have a position on Proposal.....

36

37 MR. LIND: Yeah, I've been here on line  
38 listening to you guys. Been really good discussion.  
39 I'll follow up best I can with the new Chair, whoever  
40 that is. Any support you need for your position, if  
41 you'd just email it to me, or send it to me, and I'll  
42 back up some comments to bring over to the Board of  
43 Game and support it. The only thing we have is an ACR  
44 for the Tanana Manley Road. I'm working on that. They  
45 should be debating that on October 23rd along with the  
46 Ahtna one. I don't really have anything other to add  
47 to that, except that I'd be happy to support whatever  
48 your local hunters want.

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate

1 that, Orville.  
2  
3 So, Ray. Okay.  
4  
5 MR. COLLINS: Question.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've got question  
8 on Proposal 75, the State's IM plan with modification  
9 of area and inclusion of bear harvest. Those in favor  
10 of the management plan signify by saying aye.  
11  
12 IN UNISON: Aye.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.  
15  
16 (No opposing votes)  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, the  
19 proposal is adopted.  
20  
21 Robert.  
22  
23 MR. WALKER: The intent is to reinstate  
24 it, right?  
25  
26 MR. PIERCE: That's correct, yes.  
27  
28 MR. WALKER: That's for the record.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, it's just.....  
31  
32 MR. WALKER: That's for the record.  
33 Mr. Chairman. You should say that.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. The Proposal  
36 75, the Council is supportive of continuation of the  
37 Unit 21E IM project with the modification of area and  
38 inclusion of bear harvest.  
39  
40 So having covered those proposals, it's  
41 20 after 12. Koyukuk and Nowitna wanted to give their  
42 report at 1:00 o'clock. So when do you have to leave  
43 again?  
44  
45 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We have to leave  
46 by two.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: By two. So we'd  
49 come back on the record at how about 1:10, and I think  
50 we can get you covered.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 1:10 means 1:15.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 1:15. Let's call it  
4 1:15. Okay. Zach.  
5  
6 MR. STEVENSON: I also had a request  
7 from Lincoln Parrett with the Alaska Department of Fish  
8 and Game to know what time he should be on the  
9 teleconference to address ADF&G temporary Special  
10 Action 16-03 regarding the caribou in Unit 23.  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can take that  
13 proposal -- Special Action request proposal after  
14 Koyukuk/Nowitna, which should be closer to -- it may be  
15 before two o'clock.  
16  
17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because they're  
20 going to be wanting to be gone by then.  
21  
22 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.  
23  
24 (Off record)  
25  
26 (On record)  
27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Jeremy's going to  
29 give the overview Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko. Go ahead,  
30 Jeremy.  
31  
32 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
33 Council members. My name is Jeremy Havener. I'm the  
34 refuge subsistence coordinator for  
35 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.  
36  
37 And I'll start out today, I've got a  
38 pamphlet before you, and it's got some more biological  
39 information. And I think I covered most of it with you  
40 in the -- at the all RAC meeting, but I'll go over some  
41 of it here today. And then I also have some  
42 subsistence stuff on the back, or towards the back of  
43 it.  
44  
45 But first I'll talk a little about some  
46 staff changes at our office. It's not in here, but  
47 we've had a pretty interesting summer. I think we've  
48 had four positions that we've lost right now. We've  
49 lost a habitat biologist, a fisheries biologist, an RIT  
50 here in McGrath, and an admin officer. So we're going

1 to be pretty busy with that, trying to get things  
2 hired. Right now I'm working on a position in Galena  
3 for an RIT, and I'm hoping as soon as I get back to  
4 Galena from here to have that through to our regional  
5 office and get things moving forward on that.

6

7 The McGrath position, right now we're  
8 doing some work force planning, and we're going to  
9 hopefully plan on getting that moved through as well as  
10 soon possible. So I just want to update everybody on  
11 that.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When will you  
14 publish those RIT openings in McGrath, this winter  
15 sometime?

16

17 MR. HAVENER: I don't have a date right  
18 now. I can't give you a concrete date. With the  
19 Galena one, I'd say it's a safe bet to say that that  
20 will probably happen here with in a month or two.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The RIT for this  
23 Innoko would be any of the GASH villages and McGrath?

24

25 MR. HAVENER: The RIT position for  
26 McGrath, it's going to be stationed here in McGrath,  
27 working at our office. It's called the Willard House.  
28 And so we need somebody that's going to be here in  
29 McGrath to run that station and do outreach and things  
30 like that.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

33

34 MR. HAVENER: Okay. And then in the  
35 pamphlets, we'll go ahead and move through some of our  
36 biological information. So on the front page here are  
37 some general notes from the spring and summer of 2016.  
38 As everybody probably knows, it was a pretty warm  
39 winter, low snow, and we had an early spring.  
40 Waterfowl production was really good this summer.

41

42 Our moose calf survival and twinning  
43 appears to be good so far. Low snow conditions.  
44 Everything looks good there. Lots of young bulls  
45 around this fall. And I've got some check station data  
46 towards the back. And just from what I saw there, I  
47 did see a lot of younger bulls coming out this year, so  
48 it was looking good. Their harvest was up.

49

50 Bears look fat and healthy. Good

1 berries this fall.

2

3                   Beaver cache surveys on the Kaiyuh,  
4 population was robust. And we're starting to see some  
5 hares in the Galena area, which is good.

6

7                   And on to Page 3 is the 2015 November  
8 Koyukuk moose trend survey areas. And on the right  
9 side of the page is a map of the areas that we survey.  
10 There's a couple missing from there. There's the  
11 Nowitna, and, of course, the Innoko Refuge. But on  
12 this map you can see the areas that we are flying and  
13 doing trend surveys. And that's the Huslia Flats area,  
14 Treat Island, Three-Day Slough, Dulbi River mouth,  
15 Dulbi Slough, Koyukuk River mouth. And then on the  
16 Kaiyuh, it's Kaiyuh Slough, Pilot Mountain Slough, and  
17 Squirrel Creek.

18

19                   So on Page 4, the status for the  
20 Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge in 2015. So we  
21 started off with good snow, which is good for  
22 sightability on our moose surveys. The southern units,  
23 so that's going to be Galena, Pilot Mountain, Koyukuk,  
24 and the Kaiyuh, we are seeing an increase still on  
25 moose numbers in that area. Things are looking really  
26 good around the Galena area.

27

28                   Up north in the Three-Day Slough, Dulbi  
29 area, and the Treat Island and Huslia area, we're still  
30 seeing a lower adult population in that area, but I  
31 think we've had some pretty good production this last  
32 couple years. Things seem to be stable. We're keeping  
33 a close eye on it, and monitoring it. We're going to  
34 be kicking off our moose surveys here this November,  
35 and, of course, our wildlife biologist, Brad Scott is  
36 here, and he's going to be overseeing all that.

37

38                   But, anyway, overall the southern area  
39 appears to be growing while the northern area decline  
40 may have stabilized. There's still less adult moose,  
41 but high calf production, and we need to be  
42 conservative with our harvest strategies until recovery  
43 is clear. And this is probably going to take affect on  
44 the Federal subsistence hunt around Huslia, so we'll  
45 publish that stuff this winter, and we'll do our  
46 outreach, and make that decision on that hunt.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One question. Did  
49 the State still issue the same amount of drawing  
50 permits for the any bull hunt in the Koyukuk.....

1 MR. HAVENER: To my knowledge, they  
2 reduced it. I think it was around 2012 they cut the  
3 numbers in half, and I think they're still the same.

4  
5 And I'm going to kind of skip forward  
6 here a little bit, and let's see if we can get over to  
7 the Nowitna and the Innoko.

8  
9 MR. STEVENSON: Which slide are you on  
10 now?

11  
12 MR. HAVENER: Yeah.

13  
14 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.  
15 Which slide are you on now?

16  
17 MR. HAVENER: Oh, I'm getting to that  
18 right now.

19  
20 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

21  
22 MR. HAVENER: I'm skipping forward to  
23 the Nowitna. I mean, actually -- I apologize, I'm  
24 going to actually talk about -- a little bit about our  
25 twinning surveys that we do in May. And it's on Page  
26 10, and you can kind of see on there, for 2016, the  
27 areas that we fly, which are Three-Day Slough, Pilot  
28 Mountain, and Kaiyuh Slough, and Huslia, and the Treat  
29 Island areas. They're kind of all around the 35  
30 percent mark this year, so things are looking pretty  
31 good there. It was down a little bit in some areas,  
32 but overall pretty good.

33  
34 And then for the Nowitna National  
35 Wildlife Refuge, which is on Page 17 it begins, and on  
36 to 18, you can see we are kind of keeping a very close  
37 eye on this area. The last couple years we've had --  
38 we've noticed a reduction in adult moose numbers and  
39 cows in the area. Last year -- or in 2014 I think it  
40 was pretty low snow year, but last year we had good  
41 sightability overall, and we're going to be watching  
42 this area pretty good this year. Production's looking  
43 good, but overall it's low numbers and maybe it gives  
44 us some reason to maybe remain conservative. And I  
45 have check station data coming up here towards the end  
46 of this we can talk about.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The upper portion of  
49 the Novi is -- the moose population is -- is it looked  
50 at as closely?

1 MR. HAVENER: I don't believe so. We  
2 fly the lower portion. I'm not exactly sure where the  
3 State flies, and maybe Brad can comment on that, but  
4 we're definitely flying the lower portion. Uh-huh.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

7  
8 MR. HAVENER: And so just Novi moose  
9 population status points, trend areas show lower  
10 numbers of adults, especially cows and yearlings.  
11 There's excellent calf production. the medium and  
12 large bull numbers are fairly steady, though down a  
13 little, mainly due to lower recruitment the last two  
14 years. Cows are fluctuating up and down, and may be  
15 most influenced by yearling cow recruitment, though  
16 proximity to Deep Creek allows movement issues, too.  
17 Lowest number of cows counted for the second year.  
18 Hunting pressure's remain inconsistent. And, of  
19 course, there was good snow, this last year we did  
20 surveys. And overall the population may have declined,  
21 and there's reasons to remain conservative. And we're  
22 going to be looking at that bull/cow ratio as well,  
23 too.

24  
25 On the Innoko, this is our fourth year  
26 we've done surveys down there. And you can see that  
27 the total moose appear to be going up in our trend  
28 surveys. One thing we did notice from this last year  
29 is our bull to cow ratios were down quite a bit. And  
30 we did hear rumors of some maybe increased hunting  
31 pressure. So we'll be looking at -- we'll be looking  
32 at that this year as well. But overall there's high  
33 bull/cow ratios, 43, so that's still good, but it is  
34 down from I think it was 78 roughly, 75 to 100. High  
35 cow/calf ratio of 61. A good yearling bull/cow ratios,  
36 is at 10. It is a low density population of about 1.75  
37 moose per square mile. And right now healthy high  
38 recruitment and calf survival.

39  
40 And I'll talk a little bit about beaver  
41 cache surveys. We do beaver cache surveys on the  
42 Koyukuk, Kaiyuh, and the Nowitna, and we did surveys  
43 last year on the Koyukuk, and things were remaining  
44 pretty consistent over there. On the Kaiyuh though we  
45 are seeing extremely high densities of beaver cache --  
46 or active beaver caches. And I'm not sure what the  
47 plans are for this year. I think, Bradley, flying  
48 prior to this?

49  
50 MR. SCOTT: Just finished them.

1 MR. HAVENER: Just finished, okay. So  
2 we should have that data sometime soon.

3  
4 So Federal subsistence moose hunt, FM  
5 21-05, this is the Federal hunt that takes place in  
6 Game Management Unit 21E, and it goes from February  
7 15th through March 15th, and has taken place since  
8 2012. And I'm on Page 26, I apologize. And for this  
9 hunt, it is the highest harvest we've had since 2012  
10 when the hunt began. Majority of permits were issued  
11 to Grayling and Shageluk. When I was gathering harvest  
12 reports, I had anecdotal information that they had a  
13 rough harvest in Shageluk and Grayling in 2015, so they  
14 had the majority of the permits -- or the majority of  
15 the permits were issued to those two villages. I think  
16 there was 10 in each one. So we issued a total of 24  
17 permits. Four bulls and four cows were harvested  
18 during the time, well, for the 2015 season, which would  
19 have been this last February and March.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Were there any moose  
22 harvested in that lower 21E, the -- where the customary  
23 and traditional use determination for Aniak, were  
24 anything -- any harvested down there?

25  
26 MR. HAVENER: Yeah. On the next page,  
27 on Page 27, I have information for that. And that is  
28 the Federal moose hunt FM 21-04.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, I see.

31  
32 MR. HAVENER: And there was extremely  
33 low participation this last year. I think we had three  
34 permits issued, and most of those were from Aniak I  
35 believe. And there was one cow harvested on that hunt.  
36 And for that hunt we -- you know, we have an RIT named  
37 Ken Chase, and he goes around and he issues permits  
38 out. He's been meeting the villages. And then also  
39 people have been calling our office, and we've been  
40 issuing those out there as well. And we're trying to  
41 make a little bit of an effort and doing some outreach,  
42 and letting people know the status -- or the land  
43 status is the big issue that we're having. So we put  
44 together some maps and posted those in the tribal  
45 office, and, you know, just general conditions as well,  
46 and we're, you know, just trying to make it a good  
47 effort to get out and do outreach there. So if anybody  
48 has any questions on that, I'm more than happy to help  
49 them out, and they can give me a call at our office.  
50



1                   On the next page, Page 28, is the  
2 Nowitna moose hunt or check station data for this year.  
3 And for those of you that don't know, we've been  
4 running this check station since 1988, and at the check  
5 station we're checking in hunters, so we're, you know,  
6 making sure they've got their correct license, their  
7 permits, going over conditions of the hunt with them,  
8 making sure they know that if they're on a registration  
9 permit, they've got to cut antlers. And we're there  
10 for outreach, but then we're also checking hunters out  
11 and counting the number of moose that are being  
12 harvested there every year. And this has been going on  
13 since 1988.

14  
15                   And we had a good year this year. We  
16 set up on September 1st, and, you know, have a couple  
17 of our staff members help out. We even brought in Lisa  
18 Maas from OSM, so she could see what goes on out there,  
19 and she appeared to have a really good time, so that  
20 was excellent.

21  
22                   But, anyway, for this year we had 117  
23 hunters again just like last year, so hunting pressure  
24 is up just a little bit at the Nowitna. And there was  
25 a total of 39 moose harvested this year, which is also  
26 up a little bit. So the last three years we've seen a  
27 little bit of increase in harvest. And this year like  
28 I said there was quite a few young bulls coming out  
29 that I noticed. I don't have an exact number on it,  
30 but it was definitely a majority of them were smaller,  
31 young bulls.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Like two-year olds  
34 or.....

35  
36                   MR. HAVENER: I would say, yeah, two  
37 and three. Some spike forks coming out.

38  
39                   And then we also do a hunt over there,  
40 it is the FM 21-01, which is a Federal hunt on the  
41 Nowitna Refuge, and it goes from September 26th through  
42 October 1. And right now I still don't have all the  
43 data for that. I'm trying to track down some harvest  
44 reports and get all the information in. But they had  
45 about 13 permits issued out this year. And this was  
46 the first year we've had the villages help issue out  
47 permits, because of a boundary change that took place  
48 this year to help subsistence hunters out, and had a  
49 little bit more access, which was great. And so I'm  
50 trying to track down those numbers right now. But

1 right now we are seeing I think two moose have been  
2 harvested for that hunt.

3

4                   Some things coming up this year, we are  
5 going to be conducting household surveys in Takotna,  
6 Tanana and Nulato for migratory bird harvest. We  
7 haven't done that in quite some time, so right now Ken  
8 Chasey is at a training for it, and he's going to be  
9 traveling around and visiting 10 households in each of  
10 those villages for those surveys, so it will be  
11 interesting to see how that goes this year.

12

13                   And then fire update was the last thing  
14 I had. We had a much slower season this year  
15 thankfully. And on the Koyukuk Refuge we had 58,137  
16 acres that burned. On the Dolvi Flats and on the  
17 Nowitna Refuge, the Big Mud fire totalled 44,539 acres,  
18 for a grand total of 102,000 acres this season.

19

20                   And that concludes my presentation.  
21 And if anybody has any questions, I'd be happy to  
22 answer them.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jeremy.  
25 Ray.

26

27                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah. You mentioned  
28 beaver cache, and you didn't have problems with high  
29 water? I know locally here the water was so high that  
30 I saw very few caches on the river. They're back in  
31 the lakes. But there wasn't much evidence of caches  
32 along the river.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Brad.

35

36                   MR. SCOTT: Thanks for the question,  
37 Ray. My name is Brad Scott, and I'm the supervisory  
38 wildlife biologist for the refuge.

39

40                   And I appreciate the question, because  
41 it shows that you're, you know, clearly in tune with  
42 what's going on over a long period of time, and, yes,  
43 indeed high water is a confounding factor during aerial  
44 surveys. It's the highest water we've ever observed  
45 this time of year during these surveys. So we had to  
46 spend a little extra time. But what we're finding is  
47 there's still caches in the rivers and sloughs, but a  
48 lot of times you can only see the top of the lodge, and  
49 just the tips of the cache. And some of the caches  
50 have actually been blown out, you know, washed

1 downriver a little ways, but we're still finding them.  
2 And our numbers on the Kaiyuh are still extremely high.  
3 It's the highest density we've recorded, and it remains  
4 at that high level. We may have missed a few, because  
5 of the high water, which would indicate that it's even  
6 higher than we think, but, you know, by and large it's  
7 a robust population, and the water creates a challenge.

8  
9           And I can field any other questions. I  
10 appreciate Jeremy doing this. When I get the mic, my  
11 presentation lasts an hour so you can thank him. But  
12 in the future, you know, expect -- like every other  
13 meeting, I try to do a full biological update, and more  
14 than happy to talk about the flying that we do and the  
15 places we get to survey.

16  
17           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question is for  
18 you, Brad, is how did the yearling recruitment look  
19 this -- when you're doing your twin surveys, you see  
20 those yearlings fairly close to cows. Do they look  
21 like they survived fairly well?

22  
23           MR. SCOTT: We do keep track of that on  
24 the data sheets, and it looked excellent. We actually  
25 saw a lot of twin yearlings that were still around, and  
26 lots of yearlings near mom, and a lot of solo  
27 yearlings. So it was a mild winter, and I think, you  
28 know, that indicates preliminarily good recruitment.

29  
30           Their second summer -- we've had a  
31 radio collaring project in the past on these young  
32 moose. So they make it to one year, and that second  
33 summer is also pretty dangerous for them in the  
34 Koyukuk, Kaiyuh Flats area, and the highest mortality  
35 cause during their second summer was actually grizzly  
36 bears, believe it or not, during the summer. And if  
37 they make it to that point where they're 18 months old,  
38 that next fall, then their survivability is very high  
39 for the next 10 years. So it's their first 18 months  
40 that's really -- they're pretty vulnerable. But, yeah,  
41 it looked really good coming into this summer.

42  
43           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My experience is  
44 their first month after they leave mom, they're  
45 oblivious. If you see a yearling in the middle of  
46 July, that's one of the most spookiest moose around.  
47 That thing has been chased by every bear in the  
48 country, so they get beat up big time right after they  
49 leave the mom.

50

1 Any other questions on the  
2 presentation. Darrel.

3  
4 MR. VENT: Yeah, I was looking for the  
5 data on your check station down by Huslia, about for  
6 the numbers for this year on the hunts. I don't think  
7 I see anything on there.

8  
9 MR. HAVENER: Thank you, Mr. Vent.  
10 It's a good question. I don't have that data right  
11 now. It's actually put together from Glenn Stout.  
12 It's run through the Alaska Department of Fish and  
13 Game, so if I speak with him here soon, and I get that,  
14 I'll make sure to try to contact you and get you that  
15 information.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 MR. VENT: Okay. You know, I just  
20 wanted to make sure you get all the data from -- I  
21 guess they had more data from the years before, but I  
22 don't see that on here either.

23  
24 MR. HAVENER: And for future  
25 presentations, I'll definitely try to include that.  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions.

29  
30 MR. VENT: Yeah, just one more.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

33  
34 MR. VENT: Yeah, you mentioned about  
35 this -- we talked about this bull/cow ratio, and the  
36 calving ratio, you know, it shows good right now, but  
37 if we have low bulls, maybe possibly there might be  
38 some, you know, miscalculations, because of over-  
39 harvesting the bigger bulls, maybe it shows  
40 indifference to calves, because the calves don't  
41 survive as good, because of the bull strain that's not  
42 there. So maybe that could be taken into a factor if  
43 you look at it and then we find out we're hurting the  
44 moose. I just want to make sure that it's notes.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question for Brad  
47 is what was the post hunt large bull -- did they -- you  
48 still have large bulls in the population post-hunt?

49  
50 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, that's one of the

1 things we keep track of closely in the fall in comp  
2 count surveys, and trend count surveys. So the  
3 management objective for the whole Koyukuk area and all  
4 the way down to -- for the controlled use area  
5 specifically, the management objective is 30 bulls for  
6 every 100 cows. And that is actually very  
7 conservative. A lot of places manage all the way down  
8 to 20 bulls per every 100 cows. But in the planning  
9 process that occurred in the 90s, everybody agreed that  
10 they wanted that big bull, large bull component, so  
11 everybody agreed on 30 bulls per 100. And Glenn tries  
12 really hard to maintain it above 30. And in the Huslia  
13 area, it's consistently been well above 30, typically  
14 around 40, but it's actually been closer to like 34, 33  
15 lately. Trying to make sure we have, you know, a good  
16 large bull component for breeding, and for, you know,  
17 sort of an organized rutting activities, the theory.

18  
19                   But I have worked other places where  
20 I've seen it managed all the way down to 9 bulls per  
21 100 cows. And everybody agrees that's not healthy, and  
22 not what we're aiming for. Even 20 sometimes in low  
23 density area is kind of questionable. And that's why  
24 Jeremy mentioned on the Nowitna, we've pushed down  
25 close to 20 several times, because the hunting -- but  
26 it's usually localized. It's on the river corridors  
27 where the access is. And if you go away from those  
28 corridors, it's much, much higher. It is on the  
29 Nowitna, and it is on the Huslia, too. And you get  
30 away from the river corridor, we actually have surveyed  
31 the hills sort of surrounding that whole area in the  
32 upper part of the refuge, and it's like 70 or even 80  
33 bulls per 100 cows. Because essentially it's unhunted.  
34 There's just no access to the country.

35  
36                   But the core hunting area, we try to  
37 maintain above 30 for the reasons that you stated,  
38 Darrel. I mean, we're all aiming for that.

39  
40                   MR. VENT: Well, to follow up on that,  
41 you know, you usually had the spring hunt, and I see in  
42 other areas they have the spring hunt, but we're not  
43 allowed our spring hunt any more, because it's low  
44 count on the cows.

45  
46                   MR. SCOTT: Yeah, we have -- we  
47 maintained the Federal part of that hunt up until I  
48 believe it was three winters ago when we saw adult cow  
49 numbers drop in our trend areas, and we -- to be  
50 conservative, we suggested the closure at that point,

1 because -- well, for obvious reasons, protecting that  
2 core component, the reproductive component of the  
3 population. If we see those cow numbers start to go  
4 back up, and we think we can allow a harvest, we'll be  
5 the first one to recommend continuing it. So we want  
6 to maintain it on the books. It's an option every  
7 year. We get to make the decision, and we won't make a  
8 decision until after the November surveys. Right now,  
9 preliminarily, we're leaning towards being  
10 conservative, because the cows have been down for a  
11 couple years. If this is the first year we see a bump  
12 up, then that leads us to think if it continues in that  
13 trajectory, we'll be able to reopen it with a quota  
14 sometime soon. It's just sort of the thought process  
15 that we go through.

16  
17                   But we want to have the data, you know,  
18 in hand before we make a final decision on that. And,  
19 you know, by regulation and for good reasons, our  
20 refuge manager's required to consult with all the  
21 villages, and look at need and how the fall harvest  
22 was, and sort of these other factors beyond just how  
23 the population's doing. But, you know, foremost is how  
24 is the population doing. Can it sustain this harvest,  
25 because -- and this is where I can carry on too long,  
26 and I've have had lots of conversations with Jack about  
27 his. Any time you're harvesting cows in a population  
28 that already has grizzly bears and black bears and  
29 wolves preying on it, any additional mortality of cows  
30 can be the difference, even if it's one or two percent  
31 mortality, it can be the difference between growth and  
32 decline in a population. So it's a very delicate  
33 balance in a natural sort of predator/prey system to  
34 have cow hunts. Now, in places where predators are  
35 managed or suppressed, and in high urban areas where  
36 there just aren't very many grizzly bears and stuff,  
37 you can almost always allow harvest like around  
38 Fairbanks in 20A. It's very easy to maintain a cow  
39 harvest, because their natural mortality rates of those  
40 cows is much higher -- or the survivability is much  
41 higher naturally. So you can afford more harvest by  
42 humans.

43  
44                   So that's the thought process and we  
45 certainly like to allow them where we can.

46  
47                   MR. VENT: Okay. It was just to  
48 clarify things. That means that you're operating a  
49 hunt, the season at a maximum level again this year; is  
50 that pretty much -- you've been -- you know, our people

1 hunt a certain amount and then you have people coming.  
2 Is the level still at the maximum?

3

4 MR. SCOTT: Well, it's -- in a way. So  
5 this is a jointly managed area, because primarily the  
6 State of Alaska sets the permit numbers and the main  
7 regulations for the area. But as I said before, we're  
8 actually trying to keep that at 30 bulls per 100 for  
9 the fall, you know, counts. So theoretically you could  
10 harvest more bulls if you're willing to go down to 20  
11 bulls per 100. We could -- Glenn could allow more  
12 permits, but he's be going below that agreed on  
13 threshold of 30 bulls per 100. And Glenn's been very  
14 conservative about not wanting cow harvest. I can't  
15 speak for him, but I'm trying to just -- I think he's  
16 been here and testified to this effect before. He's  
17 trying to be conservative so that we don't see any  
18 bigger decline in cows in that area, and only allow it  
19 when possible. So I can't say that we're harvesting it  
20 at the maximum allowable rate, but it's as much we feel  
21 like we can allow and live within the management  
22 guidelines that were agreed to in the planning process.  
23 Does that make sense?

24

25 MR. VENT: Yeah. I asked him the same  
26 question last year, and they were operating at the same  
27 level. It wasn't changed. There was no change in the  
28 amount of moose that was tak -- or, you know, the  
29 permits that was allowed.

30

31 MR. SCOTT: It was the same, yeah. He  
32 gave out the same number of permits this year, and  
33 then, of course, the registration permit is an  
34 unlimited number of permits. That's effectively the  
35 subsistence harvest. And I haven't -- we haven't  
36 gotten the preliminary harvest numbers for this year  
37 yet of what came out of Huslia or any of the other  
38 villages, but just anecdotally, it looked like a pretty  
39 good fall, a fair amount of harvest.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was a big  
42 proponent, I worked on that moose management plan for  
43 the Koyukuk, and it was -- I was a big proponent of  
44 maintaining 30 bulls per 100 cows, because it leaves a  
45 lot of older bulls left in the population for your  
46 breeding component. And when we get the deep snow  
47 years like in '08/09, they got real big healthy calves  
48 that can get -- and so we didn't have the kind of  
49 mortalities that we would have had if we had 20 bulls  
50 per 100 cows with primarily young bulls in the

1 population. We'd have a lot of problems. You've got  
2 late-born calves, light-weight calves. Three-year-old  
3 and younger bulls don't do good breeding cows. That's  
4 -- when we did the moose management plan, Glenn Stout  
5 researched all of the data and three-year-old and  
6 younger bulls don't do -- they don't have the same  
7 pheromone, they don't have the same interaction with  
8 cows. They push their estrogen -- look it, you see a  
9 three-year-old bull with a cow, she's kicking the tar  
10 out of that thing. She don't want to breed with that  
11 bull, because he doesn't have the same -- I say it's  
12 like a 14-year-old boy chasing a 35-year-old woman.  
13 She doesn't want to have nothing to do with that kid.  
14 And so we need to maintain the 30 bull-per-100 cow.  
15 And Glenn has been pretty good.

16  
17                   And so I'm a real big advocate for that  
18 so that we maintain a healthy moose population. And  
19 under ANILCA law, healthy populations using recognized  
20 scientific principles. So I'm a big proponent of that  
21 30-bull-per-100 cow to maintain larger bulls in the  
22 population for a breeding component.

23  
24                   Fairbanks is caught for a big moose  
25 decline, because they've got light-weight calves.  
26 They've got 6 bulls per 100 -- or 6 twins per 100 cows.  
27 They've got big-time problems, and they're oblivious,  
28 because they haven't had snow for 25 years here. They  
29 get a deep snow year, they're going to have a huge  
30 mortality. They get four feet of snow in the Tanana  
31 Valley, they're such small stock, late-born calves,  
32 runt calves. Those moose are going to die like flies  
33 on the Tanana Valley. They haven't seen snow since 20  
34 -- or, correction, '92/'93. I'm real concerned about  
35 what Fairbanks has been doing to their moose  
36 population. They've got really poor bull/ cow ratios.  
37 They've got real poor composition down there. But  
38 that's somebody else's area. Let them worry about it.

39  
40                   But where are all those hunters going  
41 to go? They're going to go where -- if their moose  
42 crash on them, they're going to move into the other  
43 areas of Alaska.

44  
45                   All right. Get off this bull/cow ratio  
46 thing.

47  
48                   My question is, what happened with that  
49 telemetry project with the chum salmon on the Koyukuk  
50 River.



1 MR. HAVENER: Mr. Chair. We just  
2 finished that up this summer, our fisheries biologist,  
3 Frank Harris, and he's still compiling the data on  
4 that. And we should have that here pretty soon, and  
5 then at the winter meeting coming up, I should have  
6 that data for you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I think  
9 we've covered your report real well. I appreciate all  
10 the work that Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko's doing. And I  
11 really encourage trying to get another RIT here in  
12 McGrath for this area.

13  
14 So any further final comments,  
15 questions. Tim.

16  
17 MR. GERVAIS: I'd just like to say  
18 thanks for our good work and providing really nice  
19 subsistence harvest opportunity for those communities  
20 by the refuges, and hope it carries on the way it is.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you  
23 very much, safe travels.

24  
25 MR. HAVENER: Thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Zach, we're  
28 going to go to the special action request next?

29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Yes. I have Lincoln Parrett who's offered to in at  
32 2:00 p.m. Would you mind if I took a two-minute break  
33 just to get him on line.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure.

36  
37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there's a  
40 special action request. We do have Staff here that's  
41 going cover this, so we'll go over the overview while  
42 we're getting Lincoln on the line, too. So our Staff  
43 will give us an overview of the special action request.  
44 We've got this whole packet here, this blue, and the  
45 special action request also. And so go right ahead.

46  
47 MR. REAM: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,  
48 members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream, my  
49 English name. My Tlinget name is Kitch-e-too-woo (ph).  
50 I'm an anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence

1 Management in Anchorage.

2

3

I'm going to summarize the analysis for  
4 Special Action WSA16-03 for you today. Each of you  
5 should have two documents in front of you. A copy of  
6 the special action request, and an analysis of that  
7 request. There are extra copies on the table at the  
8 back of the room for anyone that needs one.

9

10

The issue. Last April the Federal  
11 Subsistence Board approved Special Action Request  
12 WSA16-01 and closed Federal public lands in Unit 23 to  
13 the harvest of caribou, except by Federally-qualified  
14 subsistence users until June 30th, 2017. Federally-  
15 qualified subsistence users are residents of  
16 communities listed in Table 1 on Page 7 of the  
17 analysis.

18

19

However, last June the State of Alaska  
20 through the Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
21 submitted a special action request to the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board asking that Federal public lands in  
23 Unit 23 be reopened to caribou hunting.

24

25

The Board has not acted on WSA16-03 for  
26 several reasons, one being that currently the Board  
27 does not have a Chair and cannot take action. The  
28 former Chair, Tim Towarak left the Board in September.  
29 We are asking you to take action on the State's  
30 request, WSA16-03.

31

32

At its fall 2015 meeting, the Northwest  
33 Arctic Council submitted WSA16-01, requesting that the  
34 Board close Federal public lands in Unit 23 to the  
35 harvest of caribou except by Federally-qualified  
36 subsistence users. The Council approved the submission  
37 of WSA16-01, because of the uncertainty of how newly  
38 approved regulations would impact the herd, along with  
39 the State's inability to produce accurate population  
40 estimates for the year due to poor light conditions  
41 encountered during their aerial surveys, and the  
42 degradation of meaningful subsistence activities due to  
43 user conflicts in the region.

44

45

Council members acknowledged that the  
46 special action was a tool provided by them by Title  
47 VIII of ANILCA to protect subsistence uses, and that it  
48 would represent a one-year trial after which the  
49 actions affects would be evaluated.

50

1                   In March of 2016, all 10 Councils met  
2 in Anchorage. The Northwest Arctic and North Slope  
3 Councils recommended the Board approve WSA16-01. The  
4 Seward Peninsula Council opposed the action. The  
5 Western Interior Council abstained from voting on the  
6 action.

7  
8                   At its public meeting in April 2016,  
9 the Board approved WSA16-01, closing Federal public  
10 lands in Unit 23 to the harvest of caribou by non-  
11 Federally-qualified users for the period of July 1st,  
12 2016 through June 30th, 2017 regulatory year.

13  
14                   The Board determined that there was  
15 sufficient evidence indicating that the closure was  
16 necessary to allow for the continuation of subsistence  
17 uses, and for the conservation of a healthy caribou  
18 population as mandated under ANILCA Section .815.  
19 Evidence included public testimony expressed to the  
20 Board by residents of the area, the position of two  
21 affected Councils, the Northwest Arctic and the North  
22 Slope, and the current status of the herd. The Board  
23 concluded that a closure to all but Federally-qualified  
24 subsistence users was consistent with providing a  
25 subsistence priority and assurance that a rural  
26 preference was being provided. The Board also  
27 concluded that the closure recognized the cultural and  
28 social aspects of subsistence activities, which may be  
29 hampered by direct interaction between local and non-  
30 local users.

31  
32                   In the current request, WSA16-03, the  
33 State said that new information indicated improvements  
34 in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Calf production,  
35 recruitment, survival and weight. Adult females  
36 exhibited very good body condition and high pregnancy  
37 rates in 2015 and 2016. And the Western Arctic Caribou  
38 Herd population estimate for fall 2015 was 206,000  
39 caribou, falling within the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
40 Management Plan's conservative harvest management  
41 strategy.

42  
43                   I will refer to the Western Arctic  
44 Caribou Herd as the WACH from now on.

45  
46                   The WACH Management Plan's management  
47 strategies are described in Table 2 on Page 15 of the  
48 analysis in front of you. The proposed Federal  
49 regulations is on Page 3 of that analysis.

50

1 Federal public lands which are  
2 currently closed comprise about 69 percent, or a little  
3 over two-thirds of Unit 23.

4  
5 The regulatory history. As described  
6 in the previous analysis for WSA16-01, since 1988 the  
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Bureau of  
8 Land Management, the National Park Service, and the  
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have discussed,  
10 researched, and implemented regulations to address user  
11 conflicts in Unit 23. Two examples, shown in Map 2 on  
12 Page 6, are the Board of Game's Noatak Controlled Use  
13 Area, and the Noatak National Park and Preserve's  
14 special commercial use area. The Noatak Controlled  
15 use area is closed from August 15th through September  
16 30th to the use of aircraft to transport big game  
17 hunters into the area. In the Noatak special  
18 commercial use area, commercial transporters can  
19 transport caribou hunters only after September 15th in  
20 order to allow a sufficient number of caribou to cross  
21 the Noatak River, Establish migration routes, and to  
22 allow local hunters the first opportunity to harvest  
23 caribou in that area.

24  
25 However, Federally-qualified  
26 subsistence users have consistently reported conflicts  
27 with non-local caribou hunters, and observed aircraft  
28 affecting behavior of individuals and groups of caribou  
29 in areas of Unit 23. This is summarized in the User  
30 Conflict Section of the analysis beginning on Page 35.

31  
32 The biological background. The WACH  
33 Working Group developed a management table for this  
34 herd, which we have repeated in Table 2 on Page 14 of  
35 the analysis. Caribou populations naturally fluctuate  
36 over time. Since peaking at 490,000 animals in 2003,  
37 the caribou population has declined over 55 percent.  
38 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game completed a  
39 photo census of the herd this July, which yielded a  
40 population estimate of 200,928 caribou. The rate of  
41 decline has decreased.

42  
43 The harvest of caribou from the Western  
44 Arctic Herd has been relatively stable between 1990 and  
45 2013, and is shown in Figure 5 on Page 22 of your  
46 analysis. From 1999 to 2013 the average annual  
47 estimated harvest was 11,984 caribou, ranging from  
48 10,666 to 13,537 caribou per year. Local hunters have  
49 taken about 95 percent of the harvest of the WACH since  
50 the late 1990s. Based on harvest reports to ADF&G, in

1 2012 and 2013 regulatory years, the reported harvest  
2 from the WACH by non-local hunters were 420 caribou,  
3 and 397 caribou respectively.

4

5 We looked at the number of non-  
6 Federally-qualified subsistence users hunting in  
7 different parts of Unit 23 on Map 8 on Page 31. The  
8 darker the area, the higher the use.

9

10 Map 10 on Page 40 shows land status in  
11 Unit 23. The cross hatched areas are Federal public  
12 lands that are currently closed to the harvest of  
13 caribou by non-Federally-qualified subsistence users.  
14 State lands, which have remained open, are indicated in  
15 pink or the darker shade of gray on the copies that are  
16 not in color.

17

18 Current events. The Office of  
19 Subsistence Management held public meetings in Barrow,  
20 Kotzebue, and Nome in July of 2016, and accepted  
21 comments to the Board concerning WSA16-03.  
22 Consultation between tribes and the Board was held in  
23 August for WSA16-03 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
24 Service regional office in Anchorage, in person and by  
25 teleconference. And opportunity for ANCSA corporations  
26 to consult with the Board was also held in August at  
27 the regional office in Anchorage, in person and by  
28 teleconference. Comments from these meetings are  
29 described beginning on Page 44 of the analysis in front  
30 of you.

31

32 The Northwest Arctic Council met last  
33 week in Selawik and voted unanimously to oppose WSA16-  
34 03.

35

36 Currently pending are also two  
37 proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game by the  
38 Noatak, Kivalina, and Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game  
39 Advisory Committees. The proposals to be considered to  
40 in January of 2017 seek an extension to the boundaries  
41 of the Noatak Controlled Use Area.

42

43 The effects of this proposal. If the  
44 Board approves WSA16-03, Federal public lands in Unit  
45 23 will reopen to caribou hunting by non-Federally-  
46 qualified subsistence users. In its request to the  
47 Board, WSA16-03, the State said that new information  
48 indicated improvements in caribou calf production, but  
49 calf production has likely had little influence on WACH  
50 population decline. Decreased calf survival through

1 summer and fall, and decreased recruitment into the  
2 herd have likely contributed to the population decline.  
3 New information indicated improvements in WACH caribou  
4 recruitment, survival and weight. Recent research  
5 demonstrates that 2015 and 2016 cohorts make up a large  
6 proportion of the. Because of their young age, they  
7 remain somewhat vulnerable to difficult winter  
8 conditions. Evaluating the over-winter survival rates  
9 of the large cohort of 2016 will help to put  
10 demographic potential of this cohort into context.

11  
12 Increased cow mortality has likely  
13 affected herd decline. New information indicated that  
14 indicated that adult females exhibited very good body  
15 conditions and high pregnancy rates in 2015 and 2016.  
16 And new data demonstrated decreasing annual cow  
17 mortality rates in three of the past for years.

18  
19 Results of a July 1st, 2016 photo  
20 census survey resulted in a WACH population estimate of  
21 200,928 caribou, and results of this census indicate an  
22 average annual decline of five percent per year between  
23 2013 and 2015, which represents a lower rate than the  
24 15 percent annual decline experience between 2011 and  
25 2013. While there is substantial uncertainty in the  
26 harvestable surplus estimates, the overall trend is  
27 decreasing as the population declines. If population  
28 projections and harvest estimates are accurate, the  
29 harvestable surplus is likely already being exceeded.

30  
31 The preliminary OSM conclusion at this  
32 time is neutral on temporary Special Action Request  
33 WSA16-03. This analysis has demonstrated that there  
34 are many valid arguments for both supporting and  
35 rejecting WSA16-03; however, data gaps also exist that  
36 hinder a complete understanding of the complex  
37 biological and anthropological components surrounding  
38 this issue.

39  
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the  
41 Council. I'll try to answer any questions that you may  
42 have for me. Lisa Maas, our wildlife biologist I  
43 believe is also on the line, as well as Lincoln  
44 Parrett, the State's caribou biologist.

45  
46 Thank you.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
49 Joshua.  
50

1                   Any comments on the Special Action  
2 Request. Zach, you've got a comment.

3  
4                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
5 Just to provide some additional context. The Northwest  
6 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council who met in  
7 Selawik last week, did receive letters of endorsement  
8 and appreciation regarding the closure initiated under  
9 Special Action WSA16-01 submitted by the Native Village  
10 of Noatak who pointed out the closure helped to reduce  
11 user conflicts and enhance the migration back to its  
12 normal conditions after the closure.

13  
14                   Additionally, Mr. Parrett, who I  
15 believe will be speaking momentarily, pointed out that  
16 as indicated on Page 15 of the materials provided by  
17 Dr. Ream, the current population presently is close to  
18 or near 200,000 in the herd. And you'll see that on  
19 this table found on Page 15. And that on the left-hand  
20 column is under the conservative level of management.  
21 And he wanted to pointed out that there some additional  
22 considerations that may need to be entertained for the  
23 population to drop below that 200,000 threshold.

24  
25                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26  
27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for the  
28 supplements, Zach.

29  
30                   Pollock.

31  
32                   MR. SIMON: Yeah. Pollock Simon, Sr.  
33 from Allakaket. I sit on our caribou working group, we  
34 have annual meeting in December. This action were taken  
35 during the last meeting. Board members were concerned  
36 about the declining caribou herd and they want to  
37 preserve the caribou for future years, and so that's  
38 how this proposal came about. And I'm a board member  
39 of Koyukuk River management. We have board members  
40 from around the coast and there's only one vote.

41  
42                   We have another annual meeting  
43 December, so we'll probably it up then.

44  
45                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
48 Darrel.

49  
50                   MR. VENT: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 Just some information that, you know, from what I  
2 observe and what I hear from over around Kobuk and  
3 Ambler area. It's that the caribou, you know, seems to  
4 be going further and further away from its migratory  
5 routes, because of over-harvesting. I know that  
6 they've been talking about this caribou going back up  
7 into Kobuk Valley and they're going up into the  
8 mountains, and they're not coming down out of there.  
9 They're kind of staying up there because of predation  
10 and all the hunting that's -- the hunting pressure that  
11 they were seeing. So I guess, you talk about that, you  
12 know, they go shorter and shorter routes when they're  
13 getting over-harvest. So I guess that's what's being  
14 observed. And I think the people are trying to, you  
15 know, do what they could just to preserve what they  
16 got.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

19  
20 Any comments on the special action  
21 proposal. Questions.

22  
23 (No comments)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, and so  
26 we're going to move to Alaska Department of Fish and  
27 Game. Lincoln.

28  
29 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. Thanks, Jack.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Want to push that  
32 down, that mic down a little more.

33  
34 MR. PARRETT: I guess what -- are you  
35 ready for me?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're ready for you.  
38 We're trying to adjust the mic so we can hear you a  
39 little better. Go ahead and speak.

40  
41 MR. PARRETT: Okay. I'll give it a  
42 shot.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sounds good. Go  
45 ahead. Go right ahead.

46  
47 MR. PARRETT: Can you hear me now?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can hear you fine.  
50 Go ahead.



1                   MR. PARRETT: Okay. All right. I'll  
2 just try to be very brief here. I think that the  
3 State's sort of view point, there are two big parts to  
4 the original WSA and this WSA16-03. One is about  
5 conservation and caribou populations, and the other is  
6 about user conflicts.

7  
8                   I think from the user conflict  
9 perspective, we're just very interested in your helping  
10 us at this point. You know, there was a concern that  
11 there would be crowding on State lands and things like  
12 that. So we're just curious as to how people felt like  
13 things went. And I was able to get a bit of feedback  
14 on that when I was in Selawik a week or two ago. So  
15 that's one part of it. We're still interested in  
16 hearing how that went. We're interested in seeing  
17 where hunters redistributed themselves and things like  
18 that, whether that information will come in now or  
19 until later in the winter, you know, that information  
20 kind of comes in slowly. So we're looking to evaluate  
21 that, and hopefully by the time the Western Arctic  
22 Working Group comes to meet we'll have some more of  
23 that information ready, and we'll be ready to talk  
24 about some of that, and think about some of that.

25  
26                   Speaking of the Western Arctic Working  
27 Group, you know, we are very interested in that group  
28 kind of being the group that brings together this whole  
29 area on this whole range of the herd, all the RACs and  
30 all the ACs. And so we really are going to rely  
31 heavily on that group to produce recommendations for  
32 us. That plan, the Western Arctic Working Group plan,  
33 we're trying to stick to that as close as we can. And  
34 so as long as that population is over 200,000, we feel  
35 like we can probably afford the historical harvest,  
36 which is about 12,000. So if we're harvesting about  
37 12,000, as long as that population is above 200,000,  
38 that's probably going to be okay.

39  
40                   If that population falls below 200,000,  
41 we're going to be interested in some new conservation  
42 measures. And what those might be are really up to the  
43 ACs and the RACs (indiscernible - teleconference fading  
44 out) bag limits, they could be annual bag limits like  
45 they have in Unit 22 now. There's lots and lots of  
46 options. It's hard for me to probably go over them  
47 over the phone, but that's sort of where we're at.

48  
49                   As long as we're above 200, we think we  
50 can afford the current harvest, but when we dip below,

1 we're going to try to stick to that plan. We're going  
2 to try to change things a little bit, and change how we  
3 want to harvest those caribou.

4

5 So that's all I have for now if anybody  
6 has any questions.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I'll start  
9 with questions. My question, how did the State come up  
10 with a population that quickly when previously it took  
11 months to count the photo censuses? Have you changed  
12 the methodology of photo censusing the herd? Have you  
13 gone to satellite imagery, or -- something's changed,  
14 because it took months for them to count all the little  
15 caribou dots.

16

17 MR. PARRETT: Yeah. I'll tell you one  
18 thing, I worked my ass off. That's a big part of it.  
19 I didn't go hunting this fall. That's a big part of  
20 it. We changed our staffing, and we -- people worked  
21 their ass off to get this done. And so that's what we  
22 did. We didn't necessarily change the methodology, we  
23 just changed when we did it, because normally we would  
24 have other thing to do, but we just moved it to the  
25 very top of the list, and moved it on top of people's  
26 personal time and their personal priorities, and that's  
27 what we did. So that's how we did it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see. And so  
30 previously I saw data where the bull/cow ratio was down  
31 around 38 or 39 bulls per 100 cow. What kind of a  
32 composition do you have for bull/cow ratio?

33

34 MR. PARRETT: We are -- actually right  
35 now as we speak, there's a helicopter in the air I'm  
36 sure working on that stuff. Jim Dau is out flying  
37 today with a spotter plane. We've got a couple days of  
38 that so far. So I can't tell you quite yet what that's  
39 going to be, but we're working on it right now.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another question I  
42 had. Herds where I live, Teshekpuk migrated quite a  
43 bit earlier than normal. Did the herd, Western Arctic  
44 Herd migrate normal than the last few years, and was  
45 there more exposure of the herd to harvest in September  
46 than has previously been occurring?

47

48 MR. PARRETT: I may have to ask you to  
49 re-ask that question. I think it was something about  
50 was Teshekpuk Herd migration normal the last couple of

1 years?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question was did  
4 the -- for the Western Arctic Herd. Teshekpuk migrated  
5 earlier than it has been. My question for you is did  
6 the Western Arctic Herd migrate in September at higher  
7 numbers and was exposed to higher harvest in September  
8 when primarily bulls would be harvest, than it has in  
9 recent years.

10

11 MR. PARRETT: Okay. You know, that  
12 would be a tough thing for me to, you know, really know  
13 the answer to right now. What I would say is last year  
14 it probably was maybe not early, but more normal, if  
15 you can say that, you know. Gradually it's been  
16 getting later and later and later over the years. We  
17 have data on that. And last year it seemed like it was  
18 maybe a little more normal and not so late I guess is  
19 what I would say. If that answers your questions.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For 2016 or 2015?

22

23 MR. PARRETT: '15 and then I think '16  
24 -- you know, they're both not extremely late or early  
25 to me. So, yeah, I guess they seemed pretty normal,  
26 and maybe earlier than you expect based on the trend  
27 that we've been seeing, you know. Things have been  
28 getting later and later and later, and this is not  
29 really consistent with that. It's more normal I guess  
30 I would say.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, where I'm  
33 going with this is if the herd migrates more into  
34 October, hunters will avoid bull harvest, because the  
35 bulls -- you can't eat bulls. And so hunters will  
36 avoid bull harvest in October. They'll shift more to  
37 cows. So if the herd is migrating in September, then  
38 you can anticipate much higher bull harvest. And if  
39 the herd's comp last year was 39 bulls per 100 cows, it  
40 would have shifted a lot more pressure into the bull  
41 component.

42

43 And the question is, under the special  
44 action request, is non-local hunters want to come and  
45 hunt primarily bull caribou. So my questioning is  
46 revolving around maintaining a healthy bull/cow ratio  
47 for the Western Arctic Herd. We've had poor  
48 recruitment, so we're going to have a lag in larger  
49 adult bulls in this population. So I'm a little bit  
50 concerned about this bull/cow ratio, and how much

1 harvest occurred in September on the bulls.

2

3 MR. PARRETT: Well, I.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so this is an  
6 important question that I would like the Department to  
7 develop for further -- for the Federal Subsistence  
8 Board, is get a better idea of what the harvest was on  
9 bulls this year, because they are migrating earlier,  
10 and the bull/cow ratio was below the management  
11 objective last year. And so the request is for  
12 additional bull harvest is what this request is  
13 actually going for. And can we afford to take more  
14 bulls from the population. That's the line of my  
15 questioning. I'm not satisfied with the answer I've  
16 gotten so far.

17

18 MR. PARRETT: Well, let me say, Jack, I  
19 think the logic that you laid out makes a lot of sense  
20 to me, and I don't disagree with any of that logic.  
21 And I think the question you asked me is, you know,  
22 what happened, and I don't think we know that quite  
23 yet.

24

25 As you asked about, you know, the  
26 bull/cow ratio and what we know about it right now, I  
27 would say that something that you said, if I understood  
28 you correctly, is that there's some missing cohorts in  
29 there so, like, for example, we would imagine that  
30 there's not going to be very many medium sized bulls  
31 right now, mostly big bulls and small bulls and that  
32 does make sense. I think that that -- is -- does  
33 appear to me what we're seeing so far, the reports that  
34 are coming in the last few days.

35

36 I don't know what the bull/cow ratio is  
37 quite yet.

38

39 But I agree with you, that, if that  
40 bull/cow ratio does continue to slide that's going to  
41 become a bigger and bigger factor to what we consider  
42 in terms of management and, in fact, it's below the  
43 management objective, 39 per 100, but that's also a  
44 very high management objective. And so in terms of  
45 adjusting our habit harvest strategy and trying to pull  
46 back on the bulls a little bit more than we have, I  
47 think you're absolutely right, it's those results that  
48 are coming in right now that'll determine what our  
49 strategy ought to be here coming into the future.

50

1                   So I appreciate the question and I  
2 totally appreciate the logic that you have there I just  
3 don't know the answer yet.

4  
5                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I understand. And I  
6 appreciate you working, quote, your ass off, to come up  
7 with that population. But the population is very close  
8 to the preservative level in the management plan. So  
9 I'm also concerned about that population being that  
10 close to the preservative level.

11  
12                   I want other Council members to have  
13 questions, if you would like.

14  
15                   Other Council members.

16  
17                   Darrel.

18  
19                   MR. VENT: Yeah, we're -- if they  
20 estimated that, you know, there was a 50-something  
21 percent increase in the population that was like  
22 400,000 and now we're down to about 200,000, and  
23 they're trying to accommodate hunters. Like Jack said  
24 that's right on the border line here. I mean we need  
25 to probably reevaluate what is going on here, it's not  
26 -- if it's not working, you know, we can't just allow  
27 them to do the same amount of hunting, we have to take  
28 measures and I think that's what our decision is going  
29 to be here now.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.

32  
33                   Tim.

34  
35                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Jack. I have  
36 a question. I'm seeing a lot of discussion here in the  
37 paper, Page 33 to 39, they're talking about the herd  
38 behavior being changed by aircraft overflight and I was  
39 curious to know like how many air transporters are  
40 operating in the area and how many hunters that they  
41 were bringing in before the Controlled Use Area was set  
42 up.

43  
44                   MR. PARRETT: Is that a question for  
45 me.

46  
47                   MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

48  
49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

50

1 MR. PARRETT: Yeah, okay, I could give  
2 it a shot. I guess, you know, since those Controlled  
3 Use -- the Controlled Use Area was set up in 1988 and  
4 I'm sure that that displaced some people and to where  
5 they went. At that time, though, we were still seeing  
6 some of the highest numbers of visitors and hunters,  
7 even when that was first instituted. Since that time  
8 the, like current days, we've seen about a 60 percent  
9 drop unit-wide in Unit 23 in the number of visiting  
10 hunters and that's sort of a combination of, we think,  
11 probably some economic factors, the fact that the bag  
12 limits have been reduced several times, you know, now  
13 it's just one bull and the seasons a bit shorter than  
14 it used to be, so it's gone down to some extent. But  
15 obviously there's still enough people there and they're  
16 in places where user conflict has not gone away by any  
17 means.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.

20  
21 Tim.

22  
23 MR. GERVAIS: No.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,  
26 Lincoln.

27  
28 Joshua.

29  
30 MR. PIERCE: Mr. Chair. I think  
31 Lincoln could talk to this more but I wanted to point  
32 out that the 200,000 number within the WACH Management  
33 Plan is not a magical number. He can tell us more  
34 about where that was derived, but I think that would be  
35 useful for the Board to consider. And also the fact  
36 that the WACH Management Plan does not make that  
37 threshold the only trigger for picking and choosing  
38 between the various modes of management.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Can you  
43 illuminate that issue for us, Lincoln.

44  
45 MR. PARRETT: Well, yeah, I guess, you  
46 know, the plan is some what simplistic, you know, and  
47 it was that way on purpose as far as I understand. You  
48 know I wasn't really involved in crafting it but one of  
49 the big elements to the management plan just really  
50 wants to emphasize that depending on the trends that

1 you're in, if you're stable or increasing or decreasing  
2 you really want to probably have a different strategy,  
3 you know. And then along with suggested harvest rates,  
4 they've got some suggestions on what you might want to  
5 do to reduce that. And so we're taking it pretty  
6 seriously in terms of, you know, we're going to try to  
7 stick to the 200,000. I think if the bull/cow ratio,  
8 as you were saying, Jack, if that got really whacked  
9 out and got really low, we would maybe not use the  
10 200,000 threshold as, you know, the gold standard.

11  
12 And I think it's important to remind  
13 everybody and acknowledge that 200,000 is in no way a  
14 magic number, it's not super significant biologically,  
15 it happens to be coincident with about what six percent  
16 and 12,000 caribou to harvest, that kind of just works  
17 out that way but really there's a lot of things to  
18 consider, and that's what Zach was alluding to, you  
19 know, it's bull/cow ratio, it's the health of that  
20 population, what we anticipate it to do. And to be  
21 honest with you, there's some really good signs right  
22 now. There are some very good signs, the weights we  
23 collected this year were the second highest that we've  
24 ever seen, you know, the only one that was higher was  
25 last year. The adult female mortality rate that we saw  
26 over the winter last year was the lowest we've ever  
27 seen since we started looking at it, so there's some  
28 really good signs.

29  
30 With that being said, of course, we are  
31 very close to that threshold and we're taking that  
32 seriously.

33  
34 So we're trying to walk a line here  
35 between acknowledging that there's still a lot of  
36 caribou and there's a lot of caribou to harvest but  
37 that could change pretty rapidly and we need to  
38 prepare, you need to prepare, everybody that harvests  
39 these caribou needs to prepare for a plan to reduce  
40 harvest if we have to do that in the near future.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you for that.

43  
44 I am personally a strong proponent of  
45 maintaining healthy bull/cow ratios. Western Interior  
46 region has the Mulchatna Caribou Herd within our  
47 region. That herd went from 200,000 to 28,000 in a 10  
48 year period. The primary reason was the bull/cow ratio  
49 fell to 14 bulls per 100 cows with one bull per 100  
50 cow. All cow caribou produce calves typically in a

1 week to 10 day period and it takes more bulls for  
2 breeding than it does moose [sic]. So I'm a proponent  
3 of maintaining healthy bull/cow ratios especially when  
4 you've had some -- because bulls don't live as long as  
5 cows, and especially since we lost basically several  
6 cohorts of calf recruitments. So I'm concerned about  
7 the composition of large bulls in the population. So  
8 I'm going to state that on the record that I am  
9 concerned about the larger bull component in the  
10 population for breeding in the Western Arctic Caribou  
11 Herd.

12  
13                   And so your boss was at the Federal  
14 Subsistence Board, Lem Butler, telling the Board that  
15 large bulls were for aesthetics in the population,  
16 well, I distinctly disagree with him on that issue,  
17 distinctly. Mulchatna is a template of how to destroy  
18 a caribou herd. You shoot all the large bulls out of  
19 the herd, you cause reproductive failure. The  
20 recruitment goes down, those younger bulls can't keep  
21 up with that breeding stress, you have high winter  
22 mortalities on younger bulls, I am real concerned about  
23 bull/cow ratios. Not a little bit concerned, I'm real  
24 concerned about that.

25  
26                   And I'll maintain my position on that  
27 reproductive abilities of caribou, because caribou have  
28 to breed in a short period of time because they're cued  
29 in on specific cotton grass blossoming periods and they  
30 have to calve when they have high protein. I live in  
31 caribou country, I know a hell of a lot about caribou.

32  
33                   And so I feel the Department should pay  
34 a little bit closer attention to the science on  
35 bull/cow ratios. I would like to see some data  
36 presented accumulated from reindeer herders in  
37 Scandinavia where they specifically breed large bulls  
38 to 15 cows. I've talked to real reindeer herders that  
39 have herded reindeers for hundreds of years and there's  
40 specific protocols to breeding range for caribou,  
41 reindeer, same animal.

42  
43                   So I'm real concerned about this  
44 bull/cow ratio, I'm not a little bit concerned, I'm  
45 real concerned about what actually is going on with  
46 that component.

47  
48                   And so at the working group level I  
49 would like to see break out on composition of the bull  
50 component, what the bull component is, and what the



1 composition is. You can have 35 yearling bulls, that's  
2 not going to do a hell of a lot for your breeding  
3 component. And so I'm real concerned about that issue.

4

5 So I'm just going to state that -- I'm  
6 stating that on the record, I want the working group to  
7 address that, I want the Department of Fish and Game to  
8 address that issue and so that's why I'm speaking.

9

10 You have a comment on what I'm saying  
11 there, Lincoln.

12

13 MR. PARRETT: No. I guess I would say,  
14 again, that, you know, I totally agree with your logic  
15 there. I think sometimes maybe there's less support  
16 for some of these ideas but I would also agree that  
17 more attention should be paid to it. I don't think we  
18 totally understand, you know, for example we may have a  
19 management objective for X number of bulls per 100  
20 cows, but is that sufficient or not, you know, I don't  
21 know that that's, you know, extremely well understood.  
22 And I think what you're talking about is just leaning  
23 on the conservative side of things and I can appreciate  
24 that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we've  
27 discussed this with the Department probably long  
28 enough.

29

30 Do we have any written comments.

31

32 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Lincoln, what is the open  
37 season for this caribou.

38

39 MR. PARRETT: It depends on where. It  
40 varies a lot. You know like in Unit 22 they're open  
41 year-round and off the top of my head I can't remember  
42 when cows open up. But it varies from time and place  
43 and residents and non-resident, it's actually varies  
44 very over the entire range of that herd it varies quite  
45 a bit.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I appreciate your  
50 being on the line there Lincoln, I'm not roasting you,

1 I'm just concerned about the caribou themselves.

2

3 MR. PARRETT: I hear you, Jack, I  
4 appreciate it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I need  
7 Federal agency comments.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any Federal agency  
12 comments.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any tribal comments.  
17 Do we have any tribes that have commented to the  
18 Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council.

19

20 MR. HUNTINGTON: Jack, this is Orville.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Orville, go ahead.

23

24 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yes, I just wanted to  
25 support you in your comments as well a Fish and Game, I  
26 thought those were good comments what you guys were  
27 saying.

28

29 The only thing you left out was the  
30 large component of climate change involved here and  
31 probably has a bigger effect on bull caribou than it  
32 does on the young ones that, the females and the calves  
33 are probably doing okay but at that time of year when  
34 climate change has the biggest impact it's when the  
35 bulls are rutting, or post-rut. So I think we need to  
36 be careful and just be conservative in our management  
37 and I think we probably need some more studies out of  
38 the university, and like you said, those reindeer  
39 studies. Those are really good ideas for future  
40 management and I appreciate it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
43 Orville.

44

45 Zach.

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 To your question, as I stated previously, at the  
49 Western -- pardon me, Northwest Arctic Subsistence  
50 Regional Advisory Council meeting which was held in

1 Selawik last week, letters of support were submitted to  
2 the Northwest Arctic RAC on behalf of the Native  
3 Village of Noatak wherein tribal council supported the  
4 closure and stated that it was beneficial to reducing  
5 user conflicts and helping to reestablish the normal  
6 migratory pattern of the herd prior to the user  
7 conflicts.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so  
10 other Regional Councils. So the Northwest Arctic  
11 unanimously opposed the special action request WSA16-  
12 03.

13  
14 Any Advisory Committee comments.

15  
16 Zach.

17  
18 MR. STEVENSON: No, Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And go ahead,  
21 Josh.

22  
23 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
24 just wanted to point out that on Page 49 of the  
25 analysis we did summarize our tribal consultation,  
26 which took place on August 4th, 2016. There were  
27 several tribes in attendance and the tribal comments  
28 were largely in opposition to WSA16-03 to reopen Unit  
29 23.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I appreciate  
32 that.

33  
34 I didn't realize that tribal  
35 consultation had occurred on this one.

36  
37 And so written public comments.

38  
39 MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair. Those are  
40 also summarized beginning on Page 44 of the analysis  
41 for meetings in Kotzebue, Nome and Barrow.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

44  
45 MR. SHARP: Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead.

48  
49 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with BLM.  
50 You passed over -- you went by the agency comments very

1 quickly and I wanted to chime in briefly with respect  
2 to BLM's perspective, I guess a little bit, and perhaps  
3 remind the Council.

4

5           The temporary regulation that's in  
6 place is due to expire at the end of June and then the  
7 full regulations will come back into place where there  
8 are no Federal lands closed. I think BLM's perspective  
9 is probably to try to bring this back into the  
10 sideboards within the management plan and to point out  
11 that the plan recommends that, you know, harvest  
12 restricted to residents only in some Federal land to  
13 non-qualified users may be necessary to close. I think  
14 that's probably the direction BLM would like to see  
15 this move.

16

17           The expectation is that the special  
18 action, it was submitted shortly after the Federal  
19 Board acted, a good part of the season is lost and  
20 certainly to out of state hunters, but this is more  
21 trying to focus on how to move forward with the  
22 expectation there's certainly positive news from the  
23 State with respect to some of the biological  
24 information that they've collected. But right now  
25 either all opened or all closed is a real difficult  
26 option to work with I think with respect to the three  
27 land management agencies that are there in addition to  
28 the state. I think our focus and perhaps some of the  
29 RACs focus should be, how do you move forward when the  
30 population is right at that borderline conservative  
31 preservative management prescription and perhaps  
32 recognize are there some Federal lands that can remain  
33 open and some that should be closed to minimize that  
34 user conflict. And, again, this falls back to the work  
35 group and the Unit 13 working group to try to minimize  
36 those conflicts and still provide opportunity. And,  
37 again, to keep within the sideboards of the plan.

38

39           One of the difficulties that sort of  
40 comes up is that the Board is not a signatory to the  
41 plan. The land management agencies are, but the  
42 Federal Subsistence Board is not. And so it creates a  
43 little bit of a difficulty manoeuvring between the  
44 dual management scenario that we find ourselves in.

45

46           But I think that's probably BLM's  
47 perspective is to try to keep this within the plan,  
48 and, again, try to work with folks to figure out where  
49 we can minimize conflict and provide opportunities.

50

1 Thanks, Jack.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those  
4 comments, Dan.

5

6 And this special action request is  
7 actually a moot subject because the primary focus would  
8 be in the fall hunt and the fall hunt is over for the  
9 non-subsistence user, so in reality the expiration of  
10 the special action 16-01 is, you know, we're just  
11 beating a dead horse here. They're not going to get  
12 what they want, it's just a point of order or something  
13 with the State.

14

15 After June 1 there would have to be  
16 another special action request for an additional  
17 closure until -- but this winter with the Western  
18 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, working through the  
19 issues it would be advantageous to maintain the closure  
20 as it is now because the hunting season's over, there's  
21 not going to be any non-resident hunters coming there  
22 to hunt caribou now, it's all done now. And so I think  
23 that the work group can address some of the issues that  
24 these -- this was a good exercise in identifying issues  
25 that are problems with this herd and what these  
26 different Councils feel about this herd, so I don't  
27 feel that this was an invalid exercise. I do think it  
28 was advantageous for the Department to come up with a  
29 whole bunch of current biological data and I really,  
30 really appreciate all of the hard work that Lincoln has  
31 done to get this data but I don't -- but I'm still  
32 unsure of the bull/cow ratio.

33

34 So I oppose this special action  
35 request, personally.

36

37 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
38 adopt Special Action Request 16-03. My intention is to  
39 vote against it.

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

42

43 MR. VENT: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Tim,  
46 seconded by Darrel.

47

48 Any further discussion on this special  
49 action request.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 MR. WALKER: Question.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
6 Those in favor of Special Action Request WSA16-03  
7 signify by saying aye.  
8  
9 (No aye votes)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
12 sign.  
13  
14 IN UNISON: Aye.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thank you for all  
17 your participation, Lincoln, and other people on the  
18 call there, Dan.  
19  
20 MR. PARRETT: Okay, thank you, Jack. I  
21 appreciate the (indiscernible) sounded really good.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
24  
25 So where are we at here, Zach.  
26  
27 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 Next on the agenda items we had Mr. Trevor Fox standing  
29 by to address Item 10c at the mid- to bottom section of  
30 Page 2 on the agenda. Review and discussion of the  
31 Kuskokwim River Partnership Project MOU and formation  
32 of the subcommittee.  
33  
34 Trevor, are you on the line.  
35  
36 MR. FOX: Yeah, I'm on the line.  
37  
38 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Thank you,  
39 Mr. Chair.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Trevor.  
42  
43 MR. FOX: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 Can you guys hear me okay.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can we turn up his  
47 volume somehow.  
48  
49 Go ahead, try it again.  
50

1 MR. FOX: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I somehow  
4 have to have my mic on, we're getting a bad feed, but  
5 okay go right ahead.

6

7 MR. FOX: Okay. This should be  
8 relatively short and really, you know, this will be a  
9 timely discussion based on what we talked about  
10 Proposal FP17-05 specifically about needing to bring  
11 everyone to the table in regards to Kuskokwim  
12 fisheries.

13

14 We've heard some comments earlier about  
15 the successes of the memorandum of understanding  
16 between the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Kuskokwim  
17 River InterTribal Fish Commission, and now we're  
18 working toward implementation of the second part of the  
19 Kuskokwim Partnership Project.

20

21 So you have some materials in your  
22 meeting book of what we've worked on up to this point  
23 with the subcommittee but now what we're really looking  
24 at is to bring all of the entities together, including  
25 the two affected Councils together to make sure that  
26 everybody's on the same page as we're moving forward.  
27 And so we would -- basically what we're asking for is  
28 for your Council and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council to  
29 identify a point of contact to be part of discussions  
30 moving forward on how to successfully implement the  
31 second part of the Kuskokwim Partnership Project. And  
32 so that's really where we're at. If folks want more of  
33 an update on the subcommittee or anything like that, I  
34 can certainly do that, but like I said, really, we're  
35 just looking to bring everybody back together to make  
36 sure everybody's in agreement moving forward in the  
37 second part, which is a way to provide input into the  
38 management decisions by all user groups with the MOU  
39 and the Fish Commission and bringing in tribal input.

40

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Trevor. Has  
44 the Council reviewed the MOU with the Kuskokwim River  
45 Partnership Project.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My main question is  
50 the Regional Advisory Councils appoint membership to a

1 joint subcommittee, at what point will this Council  
2 make that appointment.

3

4 Trevor.

5

6 MR. FOX: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 So we're still working through the  
9 process and trying to decide what this final group is  
10 going to look like. The subcommittee, as it stands, if  
11 it's carried forward as written in that subcommittee  
12 charge, you know, there would be a representative from  
13 each of the two affected Councils and then other  
14 representatives and that would be whenever this is  
15 fully implemented. We're working to try to get this  
16 implemented as soon as possible but, you know, right  
17 now it's more of an opportunity to bring everybody back  
18 to the table and make sure everybody's in agreement  
19 moving forward.

20

21 There was a lot of focus earlier on on  
22 that MOU with the Fish Commission, and, you know,  
23 that's a separate part of the process, it doesn't  
24 directly involve the RACs, although the Fish Commission  
25 can certainly interact with the different Councils, but  
26 that's a separate process. So we're just trying to  
27 reassess right now as we move forward.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I see.

30

31 Any other comments.

32

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments from  
37 the Council members.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've read through  
42 this MOU and the Council's participation in the project  
43 would also occur during the in-season management.

44

45 Trevor.

46

47 MR. FOX: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.

48 So that's one thing we would like to discuss with  
49 everybody, is, you know, with the MOU and the Fish  
50 Commission, there's a lot of input into in-season



1 management through those weekly meetings and the way  
2 that the subcommittee would allow some input into the  
3 system is, you know, the subcommittee provides input  
4 directly to the Councils themselves and not the in-  
5 season manager. So sort of looking at bringing  
6 everybody together we want to have those discussions  
7 and make sure everybody's sort of okay with the way  
8 we're moving forward. But it is more limited --  
9 Council input into in-season management is more limited  
10 and it ties to the existing meeting schedule so your  
11 winter meetings happen prior to the fisheries and the  
12 next meeting is in the fall, post-season, so that's  
13 basically where the input comes in.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I see. That's  
16 what I wanted clarification on.

17

18 So I see that there's a lot of work  
19 here. I don't see anything that I disagree with with  
20 this MOU. Do any other Council members have comments  
21 on the MOU at this point.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see -- people seem  
26 to be satisfied with the MOU process, what would you  
27 like our Council to do, affirm your progress so far,  
28 Trevor.

29

30 And Tim has a comment.

31

32 Go ahead.

33

34 MR. FOX: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35 As far as the MOU, I mean that's fine and in place so  
36 that'll continue the same way next year, I mean there  
37 could be some minor modifications but that would be  
38 discussions with the Fish Commission. Really, what  
39 we're asking for is for your Council to identify a  
40 person that you would like to represent the Council as  
41 we have these subsequent discussions on the Phase II  
42 part, which is currently the subcommittee.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I would like  
45 to have somebody from the Kuskokwim River representing  
46 us and that happens to be only poor Ray here.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who's overworked as

1 it is.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Ray, are you  
6 willing to represent the Council on this.

7

8 MR. COLLINS: How often does it meet.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on,  
11 please.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: How often are the  
14 meetings.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are they face to  
17 face meetings or teleconferences, Trevor.

18

19 MR. FOX: Through the Chair. Yeah,  
20 we're trying to see what works best for all the  
21 different groups so, you know, we're asking the same  
22 thing of the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Council and then,  
23 you know, there's other entities that could be  
24 included, including the State of Alaska, so we would  
25 check with whoever the representative is and see what  
26 works best, if it's, you know, phone conversations, I  
27 feel it would most likely be over the phone or bringing  
28 somebody into Bethel to have a meeting.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're agreeable  
33 to represent.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Ray is agreeable  
38 to represent. I would like to have provisions for  
39 teleconferencing in if he has a travel conflict or  
40 something. Is that all right, Trevor.

41

42 MR. FOX: Yeah, that sounds fine, thank  
43 you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay. So Ray  
46 will represent the Council in this process. So that  
47 completes this portion of our agenda.

48

49 Thanks so much, Trevor.

50

1 MR. FOX: Yes, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're on -- so  
4 where are we at here, the FRMP.

5

6 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, we're  
7 on Item 10B on Page 2 of the agenda, Fisheries Resource  
8 Monitoring Program, Priority Information Needs on Page  
9 115 of your meeting books.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead.

12

13 MR. AYERS: Mr. Chair. This is Scott  
14 Ayers again with OSM in Anchorage.

15

16 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
17 Program materials, as Zach stated, start on Page 115 of  
18 your Council book. I'm here to provide you with a  
19 brief overview of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
20 Program. This portion of my presentation is not an  
21 action item. There have also been copies of materials  
22 distributed to all of you for the second part of this  
23 discussion, it's these ones that are colored in green  
24 and yellow, I put them up there yesterday afternoon,  
25 that say Yukon region priority information needs and  
26 Kuskokwim region priority information needs.

27

28 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
29 Program was established in the year 2000. One of its  
30 purposes is to provide information for the management  
31 of subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands in  
32 Alaska. We encourage partnership between tribes, rural  
33 organizations, universities and Federal and State  
34 agencies. Since 2000 the monitoring program has funded  
35 453 projects statewide. You can see a complete or  
36 ongoing -- completed or ongoing projects for the  
37 Kuskokwim region on Page 117 of your Council book, and  
38 the Yukon region on Page 120.

39

40 The state is divided into six regions  
41 for the purposes of the Monitoring Program, which are  
42 the following:

43

44 Northern Alaska.

45

46 Yukon Drainage.

47

48 Kuskokwim Drainage.

49

50 Southwest Alaska.

1 Southcentral Alaska.  
2  
3 Southeast Alaska.  
4  
5 For each of the six regions, OSM Staff  
6 works with the Regional Advisory Councils, Federal and  
7 State fisheries managers and land managers to ensure  
8 the Monitoring Program focuses on the highest priority  
9 information needs for management of Federal subsistence  
10 fisheries.  
11  
12 This is where you come in.  
13  
14 Input and guidance from the Regional  
15 Advisory Councils are used to develop the priority  
16 information needs by identifying issues of local  
17 concern and knowledge gaps related to subsistence  
18 fisheries.  
19  
20 The Program requests new projects every  
21 two years.  
22  
23 When the call for proposals is issued,  
24 two primary types of research projects are solicited.  
25 Harvest monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge  
26 projects and stocks, status and trends projects.  
27 Selected projects can run from two to four years. A  
28 Technical Review Committee evaluates and rates each  
29 proposed project based on five criteria.  
30  
31 Strategic priority.  
32  
33 Technical scientific merit.  
34  
35 Investigator ability and resources.  
36  
37 Partnership and capacity building.  
38  
39 Cost benefit of the project.  
40  
41 Regional Advisory Councils provide  
42 recommendations and public comment is invited.  
43  
44 The Federal Subsistence Board takes  
45 into consideration recommendations and comments from  
46 the process and forwards the successful proposals on to  
47 the Assistant Regional Director of OSM for final  
48 approval and funding.  
49  
50 We are here today to work with you and

1 lead up to the new notice of funding opportunities for  
2 projects starting in 2018.

3

4                   During the All Council meeting this  
5 spring we began discussing addressing the priority  
6 information needs for your region. Staff took notes  
7 from the discussion during the spring meetings and some  
8 Councils formed working groups to better address the  
9 needs of their area.

10

11                   The following portion of my  
12 presentation is about priority information needs for  
13 your region. For shorthand I'm going to call these  
14 PINS for the rest of the presentation. This is an  
15 action item.

16

17                   As the Council covers two regions I'd  
18 first like to discuss the Kuskokwim region PINS and  
19 then follow that with a discussion of the Yukon region  
20 PINS.

21

22                   There have been 94 projects funded in  
23 the Kuskokwim region since the start of the program in  
24 2000 amounting to over \$25 million worth of research.  
25 There were 10 separate projects funded during the 2014  
26 cycle, which would receive their last year's project  
27 funds in 2017. There were four projects funded on the  
28 2016 cycle which could continue up until 2019. The  
29 handout titled Kuskokwim River Priority Information  
30 Needs lists all of the PINS for the 2014 and 2016  
31 cycles, and those are shown in bold at the end of each  
32 listed PIN here, which years they were formed.

33

34                   Don Rivard gave a brief presentation to  
35 the Council on PINS during the spring meeting this year  
36 in Anchorage. At that meeting a motion was unanimously  
37 adopted to continue using the following two PINS that  
38 were common to both regions for 2014 and 2016 and these  
39 are highlighted in yellow on the handout.

40

41                   Additionally PINS from the 2016 call  
42 that were not funded would also be forwarded for 2018  
43 and these are highlighted in green.

44

45                   I believe this is a good list for the  
46 Kuskokwim area. I do have one suggestion to alter the  
47 first PIN above, which is stated, reliable estimates of  
48 chinook, chum, sockeye and coho salmon escapement by  
49 generalizing the word, salmon -- generalizing to salmon  
50 and adding the word, harvest, to the end of this PIN;

1 it would then read: reliable estimates of salmon  
2 escapement and harvest. We have funded in-season and  
3 post-season harvest surveys for a number of years in  
4 the region without a specific PIN and we're looking to  
5 keep our funding as transparent as possible and this  
6 would, I believe, help achieve that.

7

8 For the Yukon region there have been  
9 115 projects funded since the start of the program in  
10 2000 that have amounted to over \$22 million worth of  
11 research. There were 10 separate projects funded  
12 during the 2014 cycle and there were four projects  
13 funded under the 2016 cycle.

14

15 The handout titled Yukon River Priority  
16 Information Needs lists all of the PINS for the 2014  
17 and 2016 cycles.

18

19 Don Rivard's presentation during the  
20 spring meeting also covered these PINS. The same  
21 motion was unanimously adopted to continue using the  
22 PINS that most of the regional projects that were  
23 common to both regions in 2014 and 2016, and, again,  
24 these are highlighted in yellow on this handout. And  
25 PINS from the 2016 call that were not funded would be  
26 forwarded for 2018 and these are highlighted in green.

27

28 Similar to the Kuskokwim, I would  
29 suggest adding the word harvest to the end of that  
30 first PIN so that it would read reliable estimates of  
31 salmon escapement and harvest. This would then apply  
32 to the in-season management teleconferences that we've  
33 helped fund for a number of year without a specific  
34 PIN, and, again, continue our aim of transparent  
35 process.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you would like  
40 the Council to adopt the modified language, reliable  
41 estimates of salmon escapement and harvest in both the  
42 Kuskokwim and Yukon PINS.

43

44 MR. AYERS: That's correct.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's  
47 agreeable to the Council.

48

49 (Nods affirmatively)

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The Council seems  
2 affirmative to that.  
3  
4                   Other actions you would like us to take  
5 on these.  
6  
7                   MR. AYERS: Nope.  
8  
9                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Just an update on  
10 those PINS. Appreciate that update. This Council  
11 worked on this issue at our last meeting. And so thank  
12 you.  
13  
14                   George.  
15  
16                   MR. PAPPAS: Yes, Mr. Chair. If I read  
17 the agenda correctly we'd be moving on to the MOU  
18 briefing between the -- the briefing found on Page 123  
19 between the State and Federal teams that are working on  
20 right now. Is that okay with you, Mr. Chair.  
21  
22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Yes, go right  
23 ahead.  
24  
25                   MR. PAPPAS: Page 123, the document --  
26 this document builds upon the July 18th, 2012 draft MOU  
27 which incorporated recommendations from the Regional  
28 Advisory Councils, the Subsistence Resource Commissions  
29 and the Advisory Committees. The subcommittee working  
30 on the MOU is made up of representatives from OSM, BLM,  
31 Forest Service and the State. I believe OSM, we have  
32 Theo, BLM I believe was Dan Sharp and correct me if I'm  
33 wrong there, Dan, Forest Service is Tom Whitford. Both  
34 of those gentlemen are on the ISC and the State is Jill  
35 Klein.  
36  
37                   The intent of this MOU is to provide a  
38 foundation to build on with the State to coordinate the  
39 management of fish and wildlife resources for  
40 subsistence uses on Federal public lands in Alaska.  
41 It's not expected to address the variety of issues  
42 between the Federal program and the State but provide a  
43 framework to that specific issues may be worked on in  
44 the future.  
45  
46                   We'd like for you to review this  
47 document and provide your comments and recommendations,  
48 both for the subcommittee and to be presented to the  
49 Board. If I remember correctly, you have seen -- this  
50 is the result of which you reviewed and provided input

1 for several years ago and I believe part of that was --  
2 the review process from the Secretary was to take a  
3 look at this and also the previous MOU with the State  
4 expired. So right now I do not believe we have an MOU  
5 in place with the State.

6

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Has the  
10 Council looked through this MOU.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There are probably  
15 some comments this Council could make and should make  
16 on this MOU.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: One point I agree  
21 with is on Page 126, Item 121, cooperatively review  
22 existing and develop needed Federal subsistence  
23 management plans. This Council has requested  
24 management plans for wildlife resources and annual  
25 reports and, you know, basic biological standards for  
26 populations. So I do feel there is a need for that.  
27 And I'm happy to see that this MOU is recognizing that.

28

29 We were previously told that the  
30 Federal Subsistence Program relied strictly on State  
31 management plans and they were trying to avoid that  
32 issue.

33

34 Other comments from the Council.

35

36 Go ahead, Robert.

37

38 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
39 was just curious after reading through some of it here,  
40 it just actually what it does is give the State a green  
41 light to take moose on Federal land with their  
42 whatever.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to clarify  
45 that, George. This MOU recognizes the differences of  
46 management objectives under State and Federal and this  
47 does not secede anything to the State of Alaska and the  
48 State does not secede anything, but it's basically to  
49 work towards more compatible management with the State  
50 and Federal government. That's my read on the MOU.



1                   The primary objective is to have the  
2 most cohesive that's possible with the differentials in  
3 the two programs; is that a decent analysis, George.

4  
5                   MR. PAPPAS: Yes. And as a matter of  
6 fact I can't wait to get the transcripts back because  
7 that's a very excellent summation.

8  
9                   Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10  
11                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Darrel.

12  
13                  MR. VENT: Yeah, just looking at this,  
14 I know State has some information -- some idea of what  
15 intensive management, you know, like if we had a  
16 problem with predators or something, I don't see  
17 anything on here with the State and Federal on that  
18 issue.

19  
20                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You want to address  
21 that IM issue with the MOU.

22  
23                  MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. I would defer  
24 to one of the members of the MOU subcommittee for some  
25 of those discussions. I believe we might have Dan  
26 Sharp, possibly Jill Klein on line, I'm uncertain if  
27 Theo's on line. Are any members of the MOU  
28 subcommittee available to discuss this subject matter.

29  
30                  MR. SHARP: Mr. Chair. This is Dan  
31 Sharp with BLM.

32  
33                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Dan.

34  
35                  MR. SHARP: Yeah, the intensive  
36 management issue was probably one of the sticking  
37 points where the previous MOU initiative was derailed.  
38 The Federal Subsistence Board has its predator  
39 management policy and somewhat sticks to that and I  
40 think the State was, under the previous administration,  
41 was pushing heavily for an intensive management  
42 cooperative, sort of approach, and the Federal Board and  
43 the representative agencies were sticking to the  
44 policy. That's sort of the summary of it.

45  
46                  There is a predator policy issued by  
47 the Board and that's the Board's policy. The State has  
48 its intensive management prescriptions. And triggers  
49 and that's sort of where things are is trying to reach  
50 agreement, that was one of the sticking points

1 previously and I think we're trying to move past that.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Dan. Does  
6 that cover that issue Darrel.

7

8 MR. VENT: (Nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Another comment I  
11 would have is in the guiding principles, Page 125, No.  
12 6 promotes stability in fish and wildlife management  
13 and minimize unnecessary disruption to subsistence use  
14 and other uses of fish and wildlife resources.

15

16 There is a disparent system. The State  
17 system is maximum sustained yield. And the Federal  
18 system, under Title VIII of ANILCA is maintaining  
19 healthy populations of fish and wildlife using  
20 recognized scientific principles and that is not to the  
21 maximum, that's maintaining healthy populations using  
22 recognized scientific principles. And so I think there  
23 should be a realization between the State and Federal  
24 systems that the Federal system should be more  
25 conservative, not cutting right to the fine edge of  
26 maximum but within healthy sustained yield, maintaining  
27 the bull/cow ratios, maintaining populations, so that  
28 the hardship is not shifted to the subsistence users if  
29 a conservation issue arises.

30

31 And so more often than not,  
32 conservation issues arise from harvesting to maximum  
33 without a padding of the resource with, you know,  
34 healthy populations. If you're cutting it right down  
35 to the wire on 20 bulls per 100 cows on moose and you  
36 got a deep snow year and you lose a lot of your bulls,  
37 you're over the edge, we're in conservation, we're  
38 going into a whole scenario of conservation, which  
39 burdens the locals users. The mobile, non-rural  
40 hunters that can move throughout the state and do  
41 randomly, urban hunters, the rural hunters are fixed  
42 with the burden of conservation for that mistake. And  
43 I would like to see the State and Federal system  
44 understand that there is a difference, and that the  
45 State Board process should not jeopardize the healthy  
46 populations. Because the State has violated their  
47 management objectives many times, 19A, right down to --  
48 how many -- there's Josh back there, 19A the bull/cow  
49 ratios got right down below any management objective  
50 ever seen down around eight bulls per 100 cows on moose

1 in 19A, that's unconscionable. We should have never  
2 been there. We would never be in this Federal drawing  
3 permit, Tier II permits, we would not be there.

4

5                   And so the MOU should be a firm  
6 understanding that the Federal system is truly to  
7 maintain healthy populations so that the rural  
8 residents do not have to endure hardships during  
9 reconstruction of populations because of overharvest.

10

11                   Any time you see eight bulls per 100  
12 cows on moose, that was a management problem. Bulls  
13 don't just die off right down to eight bulls per 100  
14 cows, that's a human induced mortality factor.

15

16                   That's my comment on that.

17

18                   Promote stability issue.

19

20                   Robert.

21

22                   MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24                   George, just reading through here on  
25 this, this is something I brought up yesterday when we  
26 had our Boar comments, is that, none of this either  
27 pointed at the Tanana Chiefs or AVCP or tribal  
28 consultation with, you know, it's just like a direct  
29 right from here right to the State, I really believe  
30 there should be some kind of hearings here so people  
31 can sort of understand and read this where all of a  
32 sudden we're giving something away without talking to  
33 these people. I mean people who have been here 10,000  
34 years, they should have a say here too.

35

36                   That's my point of view and I really  
37 think that.

38

39                   You know you can't just have hearings  
40 in Fairbanks or Anchorage, you got to have hearings out  
41 there in rural Alaska right into the villages, and I  
42 want this recorded, too. I'm concerned that we don't  
43 have a voice, hardly, other than just our RAC Boards.  
44 I represent four tribes and these guys represent a lot  
45 of other tribes too, you know, and I represent a lot of  
46 other tribes too and they'd like to have a -- I mean  
47 they'd probably like to read this, too, and I'm not  
48 even going to vote for this yet because until something  
49 has come up -- when you look at the back page, 128, you  
50 don't see any kind of a tribe signature to be put here,

1 you don't see TCC, you don't see AVCP, or Kawerak or  
2 anybody, I mean this is just thrown here, right out to  
3 where -- to me that's a slap in my face, and slap in  
4 all the tribes face.

5  
6 So, Mr. Chairman, you know, I mean I'm  
7 -- I can't support this because I don't think we should  
8 be doing something like this to our 237 tribes we have  
9 in the state and that's my thought.

10  
11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12  
13 George.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a comment,  
16 George.

17  
18 MR. PAPPAS: No, I don't have a comment  
19 for you on that, just the briefing materials, you see  
20 what I have, and this is incorporated -- you know,  
21 Regional Advisory Councils, Subsistence Resource  
22 Commissions and Advisory Committee comments, and that's  
23 what I have.

24  
25 But you are correct in the statement  
26 that on Page 128 those signatures are the signatures of  
27 the agencies that are involved in this MOU and your  
28 notes have been -- or excuse me, your comments have  
29 been built into the record here.

30  
31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32  
33 Except, possibly Mr. Sharp or other  
34 members of the subcommittee, was this brought up or  
35 discussed or addressed or do you have an answer.

36  
37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment,  
40 Dan.

41  
42 MR. SHARP: I'm sorry, the gentleman  
43 speaking was sort of far from the microphone, I was  
44 straining to hear and I have ear buds in and if he  
45 could restate the question I'd sure give it an attempt.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The primary  
48 question, if I can make a synopsis, was that the tribes  
49 were not -- are not being consulted on the MOU process,  
50 that would be the primary question.

1 MR. SHARP: I'll sort of remind  
2 everyone this is sort of a restarting the same process  
3 that I think we spent about a year and a half going  
4 through multiple consultations with respect to this  
5 MOU. I believe the tribes have been previously  
6 consulted but the efforts stalled a good part of a year  
7 ago under a different State of Alaska Administration  
8 and there's renewed interest to pick it up again.  
9 Again, this has been to the RACs, gosh, I believe maybe  
10 three meetings. This is perhaps the fourth meeting  
11 where this MOU has been put in front of the RAC.

12  
13 So this is a new discussion. We're  
14 trying to refine it. And, again, trying to recognize  
15 that perhaps there are new people across the table from  
16 us with respect to the Federal and State side but,  
17 again, it's -- I think there's been some vetting on  
18 this and, again, trying to point out the different  
19 this, and how we got here, I don't want to relive  
20 history but there is a history of this MOU agreement  
21 and the discussion and how the RACs have had the  
22 opportunity to use it. With respect to tribes, I'd  
23 have to go back and look at what the record shows but  
24 this has been in play for awhile here and we're just  
25 trying to breath some new life into it because I  
26 believe both our respective Boards believe it's an  
27 important step to take.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Dan.

32  
33 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

36  
37 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, my comment to  
38 Robert is, one signatory on here is the Chair of the  
39 Federal Subsistence Board and a second signatory is the  
40 Regional Director of the BIA so I don't find that it's  
41 exclusionary at all to the tribes. I think those are  
42 two of the best advocates that the tribes have  
43 regarding subsistence harvest.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want to state for  
46 the record, this is a document between the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska and we, as  
48 Regional Advisory Councils, advise the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board and so we're advising -- we're  
50 supposed to be looking at this document and advising

1 the Federal Subsistence Board on issues that may -- we  
2 may want to highlight, that's what the question is.

3

4           The tribal consultation issue. It's a  
5 good issue to bring up, and so they should reevaluate  
6 whether they want to move into that, but this Council  
7 is making comments on this document. If the tribes  
8 want to comment on it the Regional Council can comment  
9 to that effect and that can be another comment. And  
10 they've taken that comment, they're taking these  
11 comments right now. We're commenting right this  
12 minute. All of this stuff is transcribed.

13

14           So we want to comment on anything that  
15 you think should happen, you know, you want tribal  
16 consultation, that's going on the record.

17

18           You have a comment, Robert.

19

20           MR. WALKER: Yes. You know, when the  
21 Federal government did take over the subsistence issue  
22 from the State here, you know, a lot of red flags went  
23 up because people didn't know why, why the Federal  
24 government moved in because again there was no  
25 consultation with the tribes. And, now, I mean I see  
26 red flags here that's going up right here because I'm  
27 going to question this and I'll bring it to our tribes.

28

29           But one of the issues that's really  
30 going to bother me is are we going to turn this back  
31 over to the State again and what kind of plan do they  
32 have or what kind of a plan do they have for Federal  
33 lands other than where we are or is it going to be --  
34 are we going to be more restrictions, are we going to  
35 have restrictions, or how are we going to do this, I  
36 mean that was the question I want to throw out there.

37

38           Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40           CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, this MOU does  
41 not change how the Federal Subsistence Board, its  
42 authorities or anything to do with Title VIII of  
43 ANILCA's subsistence priority for rural residents on  
44 Federal public lands. This MOU has nothing to do with  
45 changing that. It has to do with how the two systems  
46 are going to work together on State and Federal on  
47 sharing management planning, basically talking to each  
48 other. So this is -- the State and Federal government  
49 talking to each other is a positive thing.

50

1                   The polarization of the State and  
2 Federal system is a bad thing. They get into opposite  
3 corners, get into -- I've been at Federal Subsistence  
4 Board meetings where the State was there with brief  
5 trains and lawyers and they were trying to intimidate  
6 the process, the State of Alaska, with this  
7 administration, is wanting to move more towards the  
8 middle again, and that's what this MOU is actually  
9 doing is moving towards the middle on working out  
10 differences, trying to work towards the best management  
11 on State and Federal lands but recognizing that there  
12 is a difference between the Federal priorities and the  
13 State priorities.

14  
15                   And that's as well as I can synopsise  
16 what this document is actually doing.

17  
18                   Darrel.

19  
20                   MR. VENT: As I mentioned before about  
21 advisory capacity, we always did have a problem when it  
22 came to management because we were there but we weren't  
23 recognized and our information was just taken as  
24 advisory. So a lot of times, you know, the management,  
25 they operated at whatever they needed to do and we put  
26 our input in but it wasn't recognized. So I, you know,  
27 as a tribal person here I think that they would want to  
28 consider including us in this consultation, whether it  
29 be as a tribal or, you know, our region, but we need to  
30 start taking more steps where we're involved more, we  
31 need to be involved in this management process.

32  
33                   I think our people are, you know,  
34 starting to step up to the plate so maybe we should be  
35 more informed on what is going on.

36  
37                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for that  
38 comment, Darrel.

39  
40                   Other comments.

41  
42                   (No comments)

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've covered this  
45 issue fairly thoroughly. I think you've gotten some  
46 pertinent comments on the document.

47  
48                   George, any final comments.

49  
50                   MR. PAPPAS: (Shakes head negatively)

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
2  
3 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does the Council  
6 want a short break.  
7  
8 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How about a 15  
11 minute.....  
12  
13 MR. COLLINS: What about an hour.  
14  
15 (Laughter)  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....break and come  
18 back on record at 3:30, we're at 3:13, so break until  
19 3:30.  
20  
21 (Off record)  
22  
23 (On record)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Annual report on  
26 Page 130.  
27  
28 Go ahead, Zach.  
29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
31 Continuing with the Agenda Item 10G, identifying issues  
32 for the annual report.  
33  
34 This is an opportunity where under  
35 ANILCA the annual -- the Alaska Native Interest Lands  
36 Claims Act, they established the annual report as a way  
37 to bring forward information from the Regional  
38 Subsistence Advisory Councils to the Secretaries, both  
39 the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture.  
40 This is really a unique and, frankly, powerful  
41 opportunity to make sure that items that were not  
42 generally addressed in the normal regulatory process  
43 get considered. And there briefly I'm going to read to  
44 you from the bottom of Page 130 in your meeting books,  
45 four bolded considerations that are there to help guide  
46 or inform what could be addressed, could not -- items  
47 that are not regularly addressed in the regulatory  
48 process.  
49  
50 Those include:



1                   Helping to identify current and  
2                   anticipated subsistence uses of fish  
3                   and wildlife populations within the  
4                   region.  
5  
6                   Evaluation of current and anticipated  
7                   subsistence needs for fish and wildlife  
8                   populations from public lands within  
9                   your region.  
10  
11                   Thirdly a recommended strategy for the  
12                   management of fish and wildlife  
13                   populations within the region to  
14                   accommodate subsistence uses and needs  
15                   related to the public lands.  
16  
17                   Recommendations concerning policies,  
18                   standards, guidelines and regulations  
19                   to implement the strategy.  
20  
21                   The document then goes on at the bottom  
22 of Page 130 to really address this notion of report  
23 clarity. So the emphasis is on helping to -- in  
24 comments in your annual reports, having the Councils  
25 help to share whether or not there is uncertainty about  
26 a particular policy and, if so, how the policy could be  
27 applied.  
28  
29                   And, secondly, the criteria goes on to  
30 specify that Council members should discuss in detail  
31 at the meetings, issues for the annual report and  
32 assist the coordinator, that's myself, in understanding  
33 and stating the issues clearly. And the coordinators  
34 and OSM Staff should assist the Council members during  
35 the meeting to, ensure, again, the issues are stated  
36 clearly.  
37  
38                   Once this information is gathered and  
39 I'm sharing the reporting format just to help provide  
40 some context on how this information will be used. A  
41 report is issued, and that is a report to the Federal  
42 Subsistence Board and last year I worked with Jack in  
43 composing that annual report. We number the issues, we  
44 describe them in detail, thirdly we specify whether the  
45 Council seeks action from the Board and, if so, what  
46 are the Councils recommendations. And, lastly, as much  
47 evidence or an explanation, as necessary, is used to  
48 support or justify the requests relating to those items  
49 of interest.  
50

1 All of that information not only goes  
2 into a report but what's called an .805(c) analysis, or  
3 the .805(c) report. And that document then becomes a  
4 tool for providing feedback directly from the Board,  
5 they respond.

6  
7 So that report was provided to the  
8 Chair this past winter and we'll be doing the same this  
9 year.

10  
11 I hope that's useful and this is an  
12 opportunity to get input from the Council in preparing  
13 this years annual report.

14  
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Zach.

18  
19 So every year we produce an annual  
20 report. We've been making notations of bullet items,  
21 can you review those, you should have a small list  
22 somewhere.....

23  
24 MR. STEVENSON: Sure, I can.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....along the side  
27 of your notes there.

28  
29 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah, and in no  
30 particular order I am aware of several items that have  
31 come forward through today's conversation.

32  
33 One, was interest in getting an update  
34 on the recommendation that was made in last year's  
35 report with regards to the establishment of some type  
36 of wildlife research monitoring program.

37  
38 Secondly, was some interest in helping  
39 to establish or obtain more timely or current and  
40 efficient data, real-time data, perhaps from remote  
41 censusing platforms on caribou populations in Unit 23.

42  
43 Thirdly, was the interest and desire  
44 for obtaining or providing chartered aircraft services,  
45 which had been done previously but under present  
46 regulations through Federal Aviation Service are not  
47 viable, given the potential for a commercially viable  
48 option, if there was a commercial air carrier.  
49 Charters are not provided presently, so looking into  
50 that issue.

1                   Those were three items that I heard  
2 addressed over the past 48 hours.

3  
4                   Mr. Chair.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

7  
8                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So to elaborate on  
11 that, in our annual report this last year we requested  
12 a wildlife resource monitoring plan for identifying  
13 wildlife issues that need to have studies, so like the  
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, we also wanted a  
15 Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program. So if we want to  
16 have harvest data, door to door household surveys in  
17 communities, if the State Subsistence Division can't  
18 provide that information, we would like to designate,  
19 identify wildlife resource monitoring and so this issue  
20 has been brought up before. This Council has produced  
21 this several different times. OSM we want -- in this  
22 annual report we want to have an identified timeline of  
23 how OSM is going to implement a Wildlife Resource  
24 Monitoring Program.

25  
26                  And so I would like to have that as one  
27 of our annual reports.

28  
29                  Comment, Darrel.

30  
31                  MR. VENT: Yeah. In that resource  
32 monitoring program there is one issue that I think --  
33 that falls -- that they rely heavily on the tribes or  
34 the people, the rural users to use for -- we don't have  
35 any information on how much predators are taking or  
36 anything out of the villages, because a lot of times  
37 they don't like to mention that but we'd like to find  
38 out more information on how much is actually taken by  
39 the rural users versus other users because it's -- I  
40 think they rely heavily on us for, you know, taking of  
41 these predators.

42  
43                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: A lot of the -- on  
44 the Koyukuk River the Subsistence Division used to do  
45 household surveys on moose harvest and other resources.  
46 A lot of that data is getting real antiquated, very old  
47 and so it's important to have updated data, you go  
48 before the Federal Subsistence Board or the Board of  
49 Game, you got to have more recent data. The Boards,  
50 they look at it as old stale data. And so we have to

1 have a Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program to, as they  
2 do for fisheries, for wildlife surveys, we might  
3 specifically want specific surveys that the can't  
4 provide for or it would be either wildlife resources or  
5 anthropological studies for human harvest. And human  
6 harvest is a big deal. A lot of communities don't like  
7 to report harvest but it actually bites them in the  
8 butt because they end up -- the Board of Game will  
9 allocate that resource to some other user group if they  
10 don't think that the resource is being harvested. So  
11 it's very important for communities to have harvest  
12 reporting.

13  
14 This real-time data collection. I was  
15 pretty unhappy to hear the description at the Board of  
16 Game process where the Department described how they do  
17 caribou census with aerial photography, that's very  
18 antiquated. There are basically military spy  
19 satellites that take digital high definition photos  
20 every day, every 90 minutes of lands all across Alaska,  
21 anybody in the Federal government or the State of  
22 Alaska could get the right clearance to actually, for  
23 Western Arctic Caribou, we could have realtime data by  
24 taking the right kind of weather conditions, look at  
25 the -- the person could access those digital images,  
26 download those, with all those caribou, look at them,  
27 oh, yeah, they're there, download those images and  
28 enumerate -- we could have way faster -- poor old  
29 Lincoln, had to, quote, work his ass off, to try to  
30 come up with those numbers, Lincoln could have sat at  
31 his desk and probably in about a half a day come up  
32 with a census if he had access.

33  
34 So this annual report should reflect  
35 that the Federal Subsistence Board should direct OSM,  
36 if the State's not going to do it, OSM could have the  
37 ability to get the security clearance for people to  
38 actually look at real-time caribou -- especially for  
39 caribou which is an open terrain dwelling animal, and  
40 so Josh, I would suggest that the State should do that.  
41 Any of these little caribou herds, you got a radio  
42 collar, you almost know exactly where that herd is at  
43 and you just look at a picture that's got those caribou  
44 in it, you don't have to go spend time in the  
45 SuperCubs, you don't have to get air sick, have to stop  
46 on a gravel bar to pee or anything else, you just sit  
47 there at your computer and look at those caribou. So  
48 there's got to be -- and this would be far cheaper for  
49 the program, for the Federal Subsistence Program to  
50 access data and so this should be an annual report

1 topic, is using more modern methods of looking at  
2 populations.

3

4 MR. VENT: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Comment on that.

7

8 We got two or three different comments.

9

10 MR. VENT: Mine was quick, you know,  
11 just as long as you're adding in that they observe the  
12 predators there, too. I mean, you know, it's probably  
13 the basic same area.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You could, yeah.

16

17 Pollock.

18

19 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
20 want to comment a little bit on getting moose harvest  
21 ticket, like everybody else we get moose harvest ticket  
22 just one approximately to (indiscernible) to mail it  
23 back after the hunting season is over so it happens to  
24 me, I forgot to mail that portion back stating whether  
25 I hunt or took moose and then I got a letter from Fish  
26 and Game saying that you didn't report -- send back  
27 your report or you can't get another harvest ticket  
28 next year. So when I get that (indiscernible) slowly  
29 and maybe up higher and told them that I was denied  
30 harvest report ticket and they said, no,  
31 (indiscernible) but this year it happened, I started  
32 getting some young peoples forgot to return the harvest  
33 ticket reports or -- they were declined to get a  
34 harvest ticket this year but I thought that was not a  
35 very good law or good regulation because every  
36 household has to have a moose for winter and that's my  
37 comments.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.

40 Yeah, that -- the State Board tightened up on that  
41 harvest report requirement. The State used to send  
42 reminders and that should still be occurring, there  
43 should be a leeway for people, or a reminder letter  
44 sent back out, you didn't send your report in, what  
45 happened to it before being denied a harvest report  
46 [sic]. But the State Board of Game is the one who  
47 basically -- with the urgency of certain Advisory  
48 Committees have wanted to preclude people from getting  
49 a harvest report [sic] unless they'd sent the previous  
50 one in.

1                   They do that with fisheries reports.

2

3                   If I don't send my fish report in, I  
4 don't get a fish permit next year, they do the same  
5 thing with those.

6

7                   So there should be a reminder, or  
8 leeway built into the system but that's a State  
9 problem, that's not this Federal Subsistence Program.

10

11                  MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

12

13                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You had a comment  
14 there, Ray.

15

16                  MR. COLLINS: Yeah. In terms of  
17 getting accurate numbers of harvest, instead of the  
18 State sending people around to interview there, that  
19 would be a place where they could consult with the  
20 tribal entities, I would think, for their community  
21 they could go around to the households, even if they  
22 paid them something and get more accurate figures on  
23 what people actually harvested, by consulting with the  
24 local tribal entity to get involved in that process  
25 because they know the people and that way you don't  
26 have to identify who did what but you could get  
27 accurate numbers, maybe, of what they took.

28

29                  But the other one is that there needs  
30 to be more recognition that the Wildlife Refuges in  
31 Alaska are not like the Wildlife Refuges in the States,  
32 we have heavy subsistence use up here that does not  
33 occur out there. I mean in some cases tribes are  
34 involved some, but most of them have higher employment  
35 and other kinds of things, but here we really depend on  
36 those resources and that needs to be recognized because  
37 when they come in statewide, like there'll be no  
38 predator harvest, you know, except in extreme cases,  
39 that doesn't always apply because we have the efforts  
40 of the State that may come in and be selective in terms  
41 of taking predators and bears and so on. We've turned  
42 some of those populations around. But they don't have  
43 that ability to do that, Federally, because of nation-  
44 wide regulations. And so we're not maintaining healthy  
45 populations, which you're supposed to in some cases.

46

47                  So I think that needs to be flagged a  
48 little bit more about the difference between Alaska and  
49 outside.

50

1                   The other one is, the weather change,  
2 we need to look for ways to find regulations that are  
3 more flexible for accommodating changes in the weather  
4 and so on for allowing for -- especially in winter  
5 hunts, you know, where you not got an opportunity if  
6 you can't go out because of the conditions, or now with  
7 snow coming later and it's unsafe to travel and so on,  
8 and you can come in with a special action but a special  
9 action won't do it because it takes so long. So  
10 there's got to be a way of the local manager being able  
11 to make decisions more so regulations that move in that  
12 direction, I think somehow that needs to be flagged.

13

14                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

15

16                   MR. COLLINS: Because it's going to be  
17 an ongoing thing with the weather changes. And special  
18 actions just won't do it, you can't get responses in a  
19 short enough time to make a difference to put meat on  
20 the table.

21

22                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've kind of  
23 addressed that in the 21E winter moose hunt.....

24

25                   MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....give a longer  
28 season, some more flexibility.

29

30                   MR. COLLINS: Right.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we have --  
33 but we do have to have the recognition of discretionary  
34 authority of managers to -- without special action,  
35 which is a long process with OSM, there should be a  
36 delegated authority to -- for particular hunts.....

37

38                   MR. COLLINS: Right.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....to expand the  
41 season.

42

43                   MR. COLLINS: Well, and I think that  
44 gets at the idea of recognition that they can't manage  
45 the Wildlife Refuges up here the same way they do  
46 outside, it's different conditions. And the difference  
47 -- the same -- I mean it came in in the National Parks,  
48 we've got extended land now where we have hunting in  
49 National Parks, you don't have any of that outside, but  
50 there is hunting in the extensions, the Parks up here,

1 or the new ANILCA Parks and so on and I don't think  
2 enough recognition is made always, especially with the  
3 turnover in Park Superintendents or Staff or others.  
4 The ones that stay around understand but some of the  
5 new ones don't.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

8  
9 MR. COLLINS: And, so I don't know what  
10 can be done in terms of Federal regulations, but they  
11 tried to make one shoe fit all, I think on their  
12 management and that doesn't apply to Alaska.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's an ongoing  
15 training process.....

16  
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....when we get new  
20 Federal Staff.

21  
22 You got a comment, George.

23  
24 MR. PAPPAS: I understand the concept  
25 you're trying to explain, I understand your reference  
26 to the letter of delegation, the letter of delegations  
27 for the in-season managers in wildlife have been  
28 recently updated last year too. But a component of it,  
29 to emphasize the ability to be more reactive to  
30 changing environment is one of your points that could  
31 go into the letter. Solutions for that, I don't know.  
32 That's something to really think about and definitely  
33 need the whole wildlife bench to weigh in on that. If  
34 you have some suggestions to add to the letters, here's  
35 the place for it, or in responses from the Board, maybe  
36 this one will be provided, I don't know, but fully  
37 heard, sir.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is the  
42 development of our annual report, we'll finalize the  
43 annual report at the spring meeting. So some of these  
44 issues that we identify right now can be thought about  
45 by OSM through the -- until our spring meeting so could  
46 bring more clarity to the Council before we finalize  
47 the annual report.

48  
49 MR. PAPPAS: And then OSM Staff can  
50 provide options and ideas at that time through Zach.



1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, George.

4

5 Fred.

6

7 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, thank you, Mr.  
8 Chair. What I'd like to say right here is the tribes,  
9 individual tribes within TCC region, do get monies for  
10 Parks and wildlife but what do they do with that money,  
11 you know, maybe it should be directed, you know, by us,  
12 really, to say hey, you know, just hey if we don't do  
13 it, who gets the allocation for the moose or whatever,  
14 it goes out there because we're not reporting. And we  
15 are doing harm to ourselves rather than helping  
16 ourselves by not -- by being quiet.

17

18 And, you know, also somehow, Mr. Chair,  
19 I know you're tired of hearing me talking about the  
20 sonar, fishing sonar, you know, accurate information as  
21 to Pilot Station. Pilot Station is what, how many  
22 miles down river, and what does Pilot Station do to --  
23 as far as the sonar from Pilot Station up to Eagle, how  
24 do they know where the fish go, what -- you know, I'm  
25 tired of bringing that back up every time I meet before  
26 the Fish and Game Board, more accurate information to  
27 help us as local fishermen, better, you know, conserve  
28 -- you know, conserve the fish. Hey, just because the  
29 run is healthy right -- or it's getting back into the  
30 healthy stage, you know, we -- are we going to be  
31 relaxed and say, hey, more, but I really -- I really  
32 want that sonar in place, some place else up stream  
33 from Tanana -- anywhere from Bishop Mountain, Tanana,  
34 wherever. That way it could be well divided as to like  
35 it's getting into the Yukon Flats or whatever.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we could  
38 request that -- an analysis of in-season tools, sonars  
39 looked at for more accuracy along the Yukon River  
40 system. We could request that. Analyze the need for  
41 additional run strength and the apportionment tools as  
42 the runs progress up the river, we could ask for that,  
43 in the annual report.

44

45 Darrel.

46

47 MR. VENT: Yeah, just one other comment  
48 I'd like to make is that, you know, we're getting into  
49 this consultation and I see that, you know, the  
50 consultation between the State and the Federal

1 government and it doesn't have anything included there  
2 on the tribes, so I'd like to mention that tribal  
3 consultation would be there if, you know, it's  
4 available and, you know, keep us in mind that tribes  
5 also mean up here it's rural so there's  
6 differentiations that we'd have to discuss and that  
7 because we have rural users up here.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's an issue that  
10 is imperative to be on this annual report.

11

12 We were informed that tribal  
13 consultation will occur after the Regional Advisory  
14 Council meetings. This Council has to have tribal  
15 because under .805 -- ANILCA .805 this Council is a  
16 platform for the public, and the tribes are the public,  
17 to be able to voice any concern regarding subsistence  
18 use of fish and wildlife and so without the tribal  
19 input, this Council is working at a disadvantage and  
20 under the directive for tribal consultation, this  
21 Council is an integral part of consulting the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board, the tribes should be able to  
23 interact with the Council and so there needs to be a  
24 better strategy.

25

26 The suggested strategy in the annual  
27 report should be utilizing the -- the Native liaison  
28 should be able to utilize the subsistence Staff of the  
29 Refuges, the Bureau of Land Management, and the  
30 National Park Service to disseminate information to the  
31 tribe, get input from the tribe and bring that to the  
32 Regional Advisory Councils and to the Federal  
33 Subsistence Board.

34

35 We'll restate that again.

36

37 Currently we'll give the -- the current  
38 tribal consultation a big F in red pen. This is  
39 failing. We need to change the system.

40

41 And so, again, this annual report  
42 should reiterate that we need to have tribal  
43 consultation occurring on proposals or anything that  
44 affects subsistence before the Regional Advisory  
45 Councils meet so that we can engage the tribes and  
46 under -- so that they understand if there's a proposal  
47 that affects specific communities, those subsistence  
48 coordinators, Jeremy Havener or whoever it might be,  
49 Vince Mathews back there, or whoever it might be,  
50 should be able to delineate which proposals affect

1 communities, go to those communities and talk to them  
2 about what those proposed effects are, get the input of  
3 those tribal councils and that information should come  
4 back to this regional council and to the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board. That's the only way this tribal  
6 consultation is going to work with this program.

7  
8 Consulting with the tribes, here, have  
9 a book full of proposals and figure out which ones  
10 affects your communities, that's not their job. We pay  
11 subsistence coordinators good money to do a job, not to  
12 teach hunter safety courses in Galena, to do anything  
13 else, their job is for subsistence coordination and  
14 coordination is working with the tribes and working  
15 with local people on subsistence issues.

16  
17 And so this annual report should  
18 reflect a process that will bring the tribe's input  
19 back here to the Councils so that we can be informed of  
20 what the Councils want to do on an issue and have a  
21 position on an issue or a proposal and then we could  
22 move forward to the Federal Subsistence Board and  
23 advocate for the people who are our constituents.

24  
25 Darrel.

26  
27 MR. VENT: On that issue there's, you  
28 know, now that we're hearing more about litigation that  
29 goes, what do they call -- other tribes that use what  
30 is called, land into trust, from the Federal  
31 government, so, you know, a lot of them don't have any  
32 information on what that's all about and hopefully that  
33 could be brought up as an issue on one of these  
34 consultations.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The trust land  
37 issue, we should get a report on that at our spring  
38 meeting.

39  
40 MR. VENT: Okay.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so that's a  
43 completely different -- I'm grey on that one, I don't  
44 know what that means.

45  
46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we should get  
49 a report on what that actually means for fish and  
50 wildlife management on State and Federal lands.

1 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so this tribal  
4 consultation issue is a big issue. And so I don't lay  
5 that on Orville Lind, I do not lay this failure on  
6 Orville Lind, its too big a job for one person. The  
7 Native Liaison with OSM cannot do this job effectively.  
8 He needs to have the ability to use all of the  
9 subsistence Staff in all of the conservation units, the  
10 Federal land managers to be able to disseminate the  
11 information and bring it all back together and bring it  
12 to the Councils and bring it to the Federal Subsistence  
13 Board.

14

15 We got to help Orville out here. This  
16 is -- he's got a big problem and it's not working. And  
17 so OSM, Gene Peltola's got to change the program. I  
18 went to Gene and told him exactly how this had to work  
19 several years ago after one of these RAC meetings when  
20 we weren't getting tribal consultation and they've even  
21 made it worse.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They've changed it  
26 to where they're not consulting before the RAC  
27 meetings, so we got to back up. To make this thing  
28 work we have to back up. And so the annual report will  
29 reflect those issues.

30

31 We want to see a timeline of how OSM  
32 strategizes to implement a workable tribal consultation  
33 coordination with the tribes on issues, proposals and  
34 issues.

35

36 MR. VENT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that was a great  
39 topic, Darrel, I appreciate you bringing that back up  
40 again.

41

42 Any other issues.

43

44 Tim.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 The first issue I'd like to have on the  
49 annual report is just a repeat of one we had last year.  
50 It's with the salmon bycatch for the Bering Sea. We're

Aleutian Island pollock trawl fleet is still  
3 fishing 10 months a year, and I feel like the Federal  
4 Subsistence Board should directly address the Secretary  
5 of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior and say  
6 that we don't -- it is a violation of the national  
7 standards that they're fully executing commercial  
8 fishery and the subsistence users of the Koyukuk and  
9 Yukon River are restricted in their harvest. It's not  
10 fair and it's in violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

11  
12 So it can be the exact same language we  
13 had last year, it's just that the issue is still  
14 occurring, so I really want to reforward it.

15  
16 The second item is -- I don't quite  
17 know how we want to state it for the annual report, but  
18 we're coming up with so many issues on global warming,  
19 it seems like we should put in some kind of mention  
20 that we want to keep track of either the issues that  
21 we're facing in our region or some kind of compilation  
22 of the statewide issues, not only on fish behavior, and  
23 animal behavior, but how the warming weather and lower  
24 snow pack affects the subsistence activities throughout  
25 our region and statewide.

26  
27 Do other members on the Council have  
28 some comments on how we could put that forward as an  
29 item in the annual report or if it's something you even  
30 want in there.

31  
32 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

35  
36 MR. COLLINS: I have one thought on  
37 that and that would be partly in we're recommending  
38 various studies and one of them could be that we have  
39 some of those studies go towards what's the effect of  
40 the warming waters. Because it -- what is it doing for  
41 spawning, are people -- are the fish holding off, you  
42 know, before they go into the spawn or how is it  
43 affecting -- give some thought about what are the  
44 things -- changes here and how is it going to change  
45 the activities of fish. But that's another -- not in  
46 the annual report necessarily, but in what we fund in  
47 those studies.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 To Mr. Gervais' point. I wanted to  
4 share, briefly, some information through the US Fish  
5 and Wildlife Service's Arctic Landscape Conservation  
6 Cooperative, the Arctic LCC, which is an InterAgency  
7 group that helps to provide scientific information to  
8 land managers to address the effects of climate change.  
9 Wendy Loya, who is leading that group now and has been  
10 with the Service approximately four months now, has  
11 pledged to develop tools for better sharing information  
12 with communities.

13

14 And, secondly, is working to combine  
15 some of the necessary monitoring information that's  
16 essential to understanding changes in landscape and  
17 weather patterns that Mr. Collins had alluded to a  
18 moment ago.

19

20 What appears to be under-represented in  
21 that efforts, however, is the effects of climate change  
22 on subsistence users.

23

24 I wanted to mention that as a  
25 parenthesis to the point that Mr. Gervais has  
26 mentioned.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Zach.

31

32 So you just want to highlight the  
33 effects on subsistence resources and users and to  
34 inform the Board that this becomes more and more  
35 challenging for the Councils to address this moving  
36 target.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: I just wanted to inform  
39 them that all -- basically all the members of this  
40 Council are experiencing effects of the global warming  
41 and because of the significance of it we feel that we  
42 need to be aware, we need to kind of start tracking  
43 what's the benefits and what's the deficits of these  
44 events happening so we can form a record, I guess, is a  
45 good way to put it, because just a little bit of change  
46 on an annual basis after seven or 10 years, you know,  
47 that it gets up to be significant. And if we collect  
48 the data now then we have it for comparison and  
49 analysis.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. How many  
2 do you have now, seven.  
3  
4                   MR. STEVENSON: Mr. Chair, we have 10  
5 items in our annual report.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ten items, okay.  
8  
9                   Ray, go ahead.  
10  
11                  MR. COLLINS: Do we just address  
12 problems or do we say positive things. Because I think  
13 it was a positive effort to create more seats on that  
14 Federal Board with rural users, some of them were at  
15 our meeting last time. What do they have, two or three  
16 now.  
17  
18                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, they have the  
19 Chair, which is usually rural and then they have two  
20 rural seats.  
21  
22                  MR. COLLINS: Two.  
23  
24                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So now the Board  
25 composition is three rural members versus one.  
26  
27                  MR. COLLINS: And so that was a  
28 positive effort. I mean if we wanted to say something,  
29 not all just these are problems.....  
30  
31                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
32  
33                  MR. COLLINS: .....but make some  
34 mention that we're glad to see that happening.  
35  
36                  I don't know if it's appropriate in the  
37 annual letter or not but.....  
38  
39                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't know if  
40 that's appropriate in the annual letter, Zach, do you  
41 think so.  
42  
43                  MR. STEVENSON: I don't see anything  
44 that would preclude that. Again, the criteria that  
45 were recommended are on Page 130 of the meeting report  
46 booklet, which I mentioned previously. But to your  
47 question, I think this is an opportunity for the RAC to  
48 express its perspective, and I don't see anything that  
49 would necessarily preclude that.  
50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could include  
2 that the Board composition is -- the Council feels that  
3 it's beneficial to the subsistence users to have the  
4 current composition of three rural members on the  
5 Federal Subsistence Board and that it's important that  
6 that composition is maintained. Right now there's  
7 going to be an open seat. And so in the annual report  
8 we want to make sure that the Secretary of Interior  
9 makes timely appointment to that rural seat.

10  
11                   I would consider that an imperative  
12 right now, because that one seat is actually open.  
13 There's one member acting, one of the rural seats is  
14 acting as the Chair, there's going to be one rural seat  
15 that's open, that seat needs to be filled as soon as  
16 possible.

17  
18                   That is an issue, and so that has been  
19 -- and the satisfaction with that three members being  
20 rural is important, recognizing that.

21  
22                   MR. COLLINS: And maybe in that see  
23 that they give support so that they can attend RAC  
24 meetings in other areas too because I think it was  
25 positive to have them out here last time, do you see  
26 what I mean. So that it isn't them just sitting on the  
27 Board where they know just about their own, but that  
28 they be funded to interact with the RACs. I don't know  
29 how.....

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Encourage for any  
32 Federal Subsistence Board to attend, and we've had the  
33 Federal Subsistence Board members attend Regional  
34 Advisory Council meetings.

35  
36                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

39  
40                   MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'd like  
41 to further watch that aircraft, like you said earlier,  
42 very important, very important issue, I think. And,  
43 you know, whatever happens up there will happen in all  
44 of Alaska, the use of aircraft, same day whatever.  
45 What happens to that issue.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that was a  
48 State Board proposal, the Federal Subsistence Board  
49 can't really address that issue. But wish they could.  
50 The State preclusion of spotting dall sheep during the



1 sheep season, that was a State proposal. They can  
2 still use aircraft to spot moose, that would be a  
3 completely different proposal and that would probably  
4 fail before the State Board of Game.

5

6 I do want to get -- one of the issues  
7 for this Council is our travel. And when -- what is  
8 it, OAS, or somebody precluded the use of charters for  
9 this Council it costs us two additional days of travel.  
10 We would have traveled, instead of Sunday, I would have  
11 traveled on Monday, I would have -- the northern part  
12 of our region would have been here on Monday afternoon  
13 instead of on Sunday afternoon when we had to sit  
14 around for a whole day before we could actually start  
15 the meeting. So this annual report should reflect that  
16 this Council feels that the Regional Director of the US  
17 Fish and Wildlife for Region 7 should advocate to  
18 reinstate the ability for OSM to charter aircraft to  
19 transport volunteer Regional Advisory Council members  
20 in a timely manner to the meetings so that we do not  
21 have to endure additional hardship of time away from  
22 home. I burn wood for heat, I had to split a lot of  
23 wood for my wife instead of being home taking care of  
24 my home fires and my home, we're volunteers and so  
25 someone in Washington, D.C., made a bad decision and  
26 the Regional Director should fix this problem. They  
27 travel to Washington, D.C., all the time, they  
28 practically live down there, and so they should be  
29 advocating to the Director of US Fish and Wildlife that  
30 we can travel on charter aircraft and it comes out a  
31 lot cheaper for the Program and so this annual report  
32 should reflect that issue.

33

34 Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Do we need to -- in that  
37 same issue do we need to discuss, if we were in a  
38 situation here in McGrath, where there's just one  
39 flight a day, that we could start our meeting on the  
40 day we travel and the day we take off, like instead of  
41 arriving here and nobody doing anything for half a day  
42 then two days of a meeting and then another half a day  
43 lost getting out, why not.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's not an annual  
46 report issue, that's just coordination with our  
47 coordinator, to make -- to maximize our time here at  
48 the meeting.

49

50 Zach.

1 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Mr. Chair.  
2 And to Mr. Gervais' point. The issue presently  
3 regarding this recommendation to reinstate charters, to  
4 my knowledge, is driven by a policy that was initiated  
5 in September of this year wherein charters, which were  
6 previously used to transport RAC members to RAC  
7 meetings are no longer allowed. And the understanding  
8 that I have is that Federal Aviation, and I don't have  
9 the acronym in front of me at the moment, no longer  
10 allows charter flights if there are commercially viable  
11 flight options available. And that's the point that  
12 the Chair was addressing, that, you know, the intent  
13 would be to reinstate charters so that we can increase  
14 both the efficiency and lower the cost of travel to  
15 meetings.

16  
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In reality there is  
20 no air carrier that can fly us directly from Fairbanks  
21 to the southern part of this region, so in reality we  
22 -- they do not have a leg to stand on, we cannot travel  
23 from Fairbanks directly to our point of destination in  
24 the same day, and that's the point of issue.

25  
26 And so this should be an annual report  
27 topic, and it also should be -- we should send a brief  
28 letter to the Regional Director, there's some new  
29 Regional Director, which I have not met, that states,  
30 again, specifically, that they shall advocate for all  
31 10 Regional Advisory Councils to have the ability to  
32 charter aircraft to have the least burden of travel on  
33 the Regional Advisory Council members.

34  
35 So we should also send a letter and so  
36 the Chair will entertain a motion to transmit a letter  
37 on that issue directly to the Regional Director,  
38 because our annual report won't be finalized until our  
39 next meeting. We need to get this fixed before the  
40 next meeting.

41  
42 MS. PELKOLA: I have a comment before  
43 you make a motion.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Jenny.

46  
47 MS. PELKOLA: Would this be -- I mean  
48 could we put something about an alternate Board member  
49 on there, too.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, that's a  
2 different issue.  
3  
4                   MS. PELKOLA: That's a different issue,  
5 okay.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
8  
9                   MS. PELKOLA: Okay.  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can get to that  
12 one.  
13  
14                  Tim.  
15  
16                  MR. GERVAIS: So moved with the letter  
17 regarding the travel charters.  
18  
19                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved to draft a  
20 letter to the Regional Director about advocating for  
21 aircraft charter to facilitate RAC members attending  
22 meetings in a timely manner.  
23  
24                  Do we have a second.  
25  
26                  MR. SIMON: Second.  
27  
28                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.  
29 Further discussion on the letter.  
30  
31                  (No comments)  
32  
33                  MR. SIMON: Question.  
34  
35                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called by  
36 Pollock. Those in favor of transmitting that letter to  
37 the Regional Director signify by saying aye.  
38  
39                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
40  
41                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
42  
43                  (No opposing votes)  
44  
45                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got an aye vote  
46 over there, Robert.  
47  
48                  (No comments)  
49  
50                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Robert, we got an

1 aye vote from you on charters.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the  
4 Warden.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on.

7

8 MR. WALKER: .....here.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got one vote  
11 here.

12

13 MR. WALKER: I got in big trouble a few  
14 years ago when we had a RAC meeting here, there was a  
15 plane going over to Anvik from here and it was like \$50  
16 and Vince was our coordinator and he said that you're  
17 going to have to fly from here to Anchorage, overnight,  
18 to Aniak and Anvik the next day, and I said I can be in  
19 Anvik in an hour and 40 minutes. Oh, yeah. We stood  
20 out on the tarmac out here arguing, I gave the pilot my  
21 money, I said bye Vince, and got on the plane and I  
22 went home. I was home before they even got to  
23 Anchorage. So, I mean, charter does make a lot of  
24 sense, it's quicker, you don't have to overnight  
25 nowhere, I mean you can be at your destination to be,  
26 wherever the Board member or Staff could be. So, yes,  
27 I would vote in favor of that.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Other  
32 annual report issues.

33

34 Darrel.

35

36 MR. VENT: Well, you know, she  
37 mentioned -- there was a mention of, you know,  
38 alternative seats, but one thing I would like to  
39 mention is, you know, our Council now days is more than  
40 what, you know, anywhere in other places besides  
41 Alaska, where our cost of living is a little more  
42 expensive and we get per diem checks and, you know, I  
43 just want to -- just want you to note that I think  
44 that, you know, we could probably get a better rate for  
45 our cost of living on that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We've brought this  
48 issue up a lot of times on the per diem and the rate of  
49 per diems, those have -- we've gone for 23 years we've  
50 done this, gone round and round on this per diem issue.

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's beating a  
4 dead horse.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: They're real  
9 obstinate about this per diem rates.  
10  
11 Zach.  
12  
13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 Just one question to backtrack a moment, not to  
15 interrupt you, Mr. Vent, did we have a question called  
16 on the subject of the charter and, if so, what was the  
17 vote on that.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, Pollock called  
20 the question on that vote.  
21  
22 MR. VENT: And we voted.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then we voted  
25 and Robert was distracted and then I brought him back  
26 on record and he voted for the proposal so it's  
27 unanimous for that letter.  
28  
29 MR. WALKER: Yes.  
30  
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: For clarification of  
34 the record.  
35  
36 Any other annual report topics.  
37  
38 Robert.  
39  
40 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
41 was just talking with George here, out of curiosity, I  
42 didn't know how many Board members we had on the  
43 Federal Board. There are eight Board members and three  
44 of them are regular people and then we have the Fish  
45 and Wildlife Service, we have BLM, we have BIA,  
46 National Park Service, the Forest Service. And I mean,  
47 I'm just kind of like wondering why do we have all  
48 these agencies to take care of something for our  
49 Federal Board. I mean that would be my question here  
50 that -- I mean shouldn't we be able to have enough of

1 our own people in the state of Alaska to participate on  
2 this Board or is it part and policy under .805 or .803  
3 or .804 or whatever, that's my question right here,  
4 Jack.

5  
6 And I'd like that to be on the annual  
7 report.

8  
9 Because when you really take a look at  
10 all these issues that we have to deal with, I know  
11 there's some of the other tribes in some of the other  
12 parts of the state, when they do get their board and  
13 they do bring their proposal it never gets done a lot  
14 of times, why -- you know, I mean that's not our  
15 concern, that's their concern, but they asked me this  
16 question and I said, I can't tell you because I don't  
17 know either.

18  
19 So before I get off this Board, I want  
20 to know why and how come, and, if not, you know, maybe  
21 George could give a little more explanation on this.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was a proposed  
26 rule when the Federal government took subsistence  
27 management in 1990, '91, there was a proposed rule of  
28 how the Federal Board should be composed, comprised of  
29 and at that time it was developed and there was public  
30 comment and all that back whenever this was happening,  
31 that there was going to be basically a Chairman  
32 appointed by the Secretary of Interior, there was going  
33 to be a rural member, subsistence user and there was  
34 going to be the agencies -- the land managing agencies,  
35 the directors of those agencies were going to be the  
36 Federal Subsistence Board.

37  
38 In 2009, I think it was, the Secretary  
39 of Interior, there'd been a lot of complaints from AFN  
40 and different entities about how the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board was being too swayed by the State of  
42 Alaska and there was a bunch of issues, and so the  
43 Secretary had a Federal Board and OSM review.

44  
45 The Councils all met, I traveled to  
46 Anchorage, we met with the Assistant to the Secretary  
47 of Interior, which was Pat Pourchot, the Councils put  
48 in all their input on, and we were requesting -- many  
49 RACs were requesting additional representation on the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board.

1 I felt that the Board should be  
2 comprised of four rural seats with a nine member Board  
3 so that there would be -- there would be no ties,  
4 having even member boards, I recommended that. They  
5 went -- and several other members, other RACs wanted  
6 additional membership. They did that, but they still  
7 went with only two additional members to make three and  
8 we still have a -- we can have a split Board with  
9 eight.

10  
11 But that's the progression.

12  
13 This has all been through -- they would  
14 have to republish, change the whole thing all over  
15 again, and so that's why the Federal Board is comprised  
16 as it is. That's the progression of why the Federal  
17 Board is like it is right now.

18  
19 Is that clear, Robert.

20  
21 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman. With all  
22 due respect to our Board, I think we should write a  
23 letter to them or the Secretary of Interior and mention  
24 this issue, we would like to have like a split Board  
25 where rural preference versus agencies, would have more  
26 say here. Because I mean we're the ones that really  
27 depend on these people to give us what our needs are  
28 not only for fish and game but also for other things  
29 that comes up, in the RAC meetings, it comes up in our  
30 tribal, it comes up in Tanana Chiefs or AVCP, Alaska  
31 Village Council Presidents, or Kawerak, whatever. But  
32 I think that we need more of a voice to emphasize our  
33 way to point out -- not because we're -- anything else  
34 but it just makes more sense.

35  
36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have that one  
39 annual report topic of how important the rural seats  
40 are. That they appoint that member in a timely manner.  
41 You are actually asking for an addition that the  
42 Secretary of Interior should request an additional  
43 Board member to -- a rural member to make a nine member  
44 Board comprised of four rural seats.

45  
46 MR. WALKER: I would even -- if we could  
47 settle with four seats, Mr. Chair, George, you know, I  
48 think this would be -- we would be winning, thank you  
49 much.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  So we'll put that  
2 into the annual report also.

3  
4                   MR. WALKER:  Thank you.

5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Thank you, Robert.

7  
8                   MR. WALKER:  Yes.

9  
10                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Any other --  
11 Pollock.

12  
13                  MR. SIMON:  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14  
15                  I was bringing this up on tribal  
16 meetings, I just want to get a good per diem on this  
17 are we getting the Lower 48 rates or -- that's my  
18 question.  We all know the cost of living in Alaska is  
19 much higher than the Lower 48 so I always try to  
20 mention this with the National Park and try to get us  
21 some more money.  Like you've been saying you traveled  
22 for 23 years across the state, well, I've been  
23 traveling for about 40 years and I've been to almost  
24 every village on the Yukon River for meetings across  
25 the state and I never fail to mention to give us some  
26 more money for per diem because, I leave home with my  
27 dogs and I have to hire somebody to feed my dogs while  
28 I come here and otherwise I just want to come to the  
29 meeting and travel about our state and our peoples.  
30 But it's good to get good per diem rates.

31  
32                  Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:  Thanks for those  
35 comments, Pollock.

36  
37                  Yeah, the per diem thing has always  
38 been a big issue for Regional Advisory Councils,  
39 Subsistence Resource Commission members, this issue has  
40 been up I don't know how many times, different bodies  
41 have transmitted letters requesting appropriate levels  
42 of compensation for per diem.  This has been an ongoing  
43 issue for many, many years.

44  
45                  So we got to finalize this annual  
46 report.  We have some other issues before us on the  
47 agenda.

48  
49                  Tim.

50



1 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair. Shall we put  
2 in appreciation of Robert Walker for his many years of  
3 service.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we should have  
6 an appreciation for Robert Walker's 15 years of service  
7 on the Western Interior Alaska Regional Advisory  
8 Council.

9  
10 I would like to have a -- can we note  
11 that in the annual report. I would like to put that in  
12 the annual report, recognition of Robert Walker's 15  
13 years of service to the Regional Advisory Council, and  
14 I would like a letter of appreciation transmitted from  
15 the Federal Subsistence Board to Robert Walker to that  
16 effect.

17  
18 Is that appropriate.

19  
20 MR. GERVAIS: Excellent.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Affirmative.

23  
24 Robert.

25  
26 MR. WALKER: That would be an honor,  
27 thank you much, I appreciate that, Tim.

28  
29 MR. STEVENSON: To Robert from.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we're  
32 recommending from the Board.

33  
34 So we need a motion to adopt the  
35 current list of annual report topics and we'll finalize  
36 these at our spring meetings.

37  
38 MR. ALEXIE: So moved, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Fred.

41  
42 MR. VENT: Second.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Darrel.

45  
46 Further discussion on the annual report  
47 topics.

48  
49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. VENT: Call the question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
4 Those in favor of adopting these annual report topics  
5 for review at our spring meeting, signify by saying  
6 aye.  
7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
11  
12 (No opposing votes)  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. And so  
15 let's see we're moving down here to charter review.  
16  
17 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct, Mr.  
18 Chair.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So on Page 143.  
21  
22 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Who's going to lead  
25 the discussion.  
26  
27 MR. STEVENSON: That would be me.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
30  
31 MR. STEVENSON: I'll be brief. This is  
32 strictly an informational topic and it shouldn't take  
33 no more than two minutes.  
34  
35 The intent here was to provide just a  
36 gentle reminder as to the scope and intent of the  
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils throughout the  
38 state and to accomplish that I'll just briefly walk  
39 through maybe a half dozen or so brief points.  
40  
41 The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence  
42 Regional Advisory Council was designated under the  
43 authority set out in the Alaska National Interest Lands  
44 Conservation Act.  
45  
46 The objective and scope of the Council  
47 is to provide a forum for residents of the region who  
48 possess personal knowledge of local conditions and  
49 resource requirements and as such have a meaningful  
50 role in the subsistence management of fish and wildlife

1 on Federal lands and waters throughout the region.

2

3

4           There are several duties that are  
5 placed upon the RAC members and those are listed at the  
6 middle and bottom of Pages 143 and continuing on Page  
7 144 and 145 and I'll go through those briefly.

7

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Specifically, their duties are to recommend, the initiation and review and evaluation of proposals or regulations, policies, management plans and other matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands in the region.

Next, to provide a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter related to subsistence fish and wildlife on public lands in the region.

Thirdly, to encourage local and regional participation in the decisionmaking process, again, impacting fish and wildlife on public lands in the region for subsistence use.

Fourthly, to prepare an annual report, and I won't go into much detail on that because we just covered that issue.

Fifthly, to appoint one member to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission in accordance with Section .808 of ANILCA.

Next, to make recommendations on the determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources.

Next, to make recommendations on the determination of rural status.

Additionally, to provide recommendations on the establishment and membership of Federal and local Advisory Committees.

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And Item 5, midway down on Page 144 of your meeting books, the agency or official to whom the Council reports, they report to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture. As some of you are aware, there has ben an interim Chair appointed and they're continuing the recruitment process for the permanent Chair.

Support for these RACs comes through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, who will provide administrative support for the activities of the Council through the Office of Subsistence Management.

Item 7 the estimated annual operating cost is \$160,000 including all direct and indirect expenses for 1.15 Staff years.

The designated Federal officer is myself, the Subsistence Council coordinator. This is a Federal full-time employee who acts in accordance with agency procedures who will approve or call the advisory committees and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn meetings, and Chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the advisory committee reports.

At the top of Page 145.

Item 9, the estimated number of meetings is 1 to 2 times per year as designated by the Board Chair or DFO.

The duration is continuing.

The Council will be inactive for two years from the two years from the date of charter filing.

Membership designation is as follows:

1                   There are 10 members of which the  
2                   Secretary will strive to ensure seven  
3                   members, or 70 percent represent  
4                   subsistence interests in the region and  
5                   that three members or 30 percent  
6                   represent commercial and sport  
7                   interest. The Secretary appoints  
8                   members based on recommendations from  
9                   the Subsistence Board and the  
10                  concurrence of the Secretary of  
11                  Agriculture. Members are appointed for  
12                  three terms. Council members elect a  
13                  Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. That  
14                  was conducted at our last meeting.  
15                  Members of the Council serve without  
16                  compensation, however, do receive per  
17                  diem providing compensation for travel  
18                  from their homes or regular places of  
19                  business. And subcommittee members are  
20                  engaged in the Council or subcommittee  
21                  business is approved by the DFO.

22  
23                   Council members adhere to ethics  
24                   responsibilities and as outlined on  
25                   Page 145, Item 13.

26  
27                   Subcommittees may be formed. This is  
28                   at the top of Page 146, Item 14, for  
29                   the purpose of compiling information  
30                   and conducting research.

31  
32                   And, lastly, records of the Council  
33                   formally or informally established  
34                   shall be handled in accordance with the  
35                   general records.

36  
37                   Those points were adopted by the  
38                   Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell on November  
39                   20th, 2015.

40  
41                   Mr. Chair.

42  
43                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There was discussion  
44                   about changing the terms of the Council members to four  
45                   years in previous meetings, whatever happened with  
46                   that. And then Jenny had a question as to providing an  
47                   alternate.

48  
49                   So to at least -- were you requesting  
50                   one alternate for the Council, Jenny.

1 MS. PELKOLA: Well, like any other  
2 Board, if -- well, I don't of any other boards, but one  
3 per village, maybe. If I couldn't make it, my  
4 alternate could make it. Or maybe -- or whatever is  
5 easier, I guess for the board.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got a comment on  
8 that, Zach.

9  
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
11 To your first question, the issue that you addressed a  
12 moment ago, regarding changing the term, in this case  
13 four years, though the length of the term of was not  
14 specified, at the meeting I attended last week with  
15 Northwest Arctic in Selawik, the same point,  
16 specifically, the desire for lengthening the terms to:

17  
18 One provide consistency and positions  
19 in standing of the RAC, but, two, to minimize the  
20 administrative process of having to go through the  
21 reappointment was a desire that was expressed vocally  
22 by the Northwest Arctic RAC. And the response as was  
23 provided by Pippa Kenner in the social sciences  
24 division with OSM had mentioned that -- pardon me, Eva  
25 Patton, within the Council coordination division at OSM  
26 mentioned that that point had been expressed  
27 previously, I don't have the information in front of me  
28 to specify how long ago that it was mentioned, to folks  
29 in D.C., however, there was not a -- support was not  
30 expressed by higher ups within d.C., to act on that  
31 request at this time.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Four years ago this  
34 Council met in this room here and Carl Johnson brought  
35 us various scenarios, the Council reviewed those, we  
36 agreed with him that, you know, having a four year  
37 appointment would reduce the amount of applicants at  
38 any one time before the Department of Interior so that  
39 they would have more timely appointments because we  
40 have had a lot of problems with the Department of  
41 Interior making appointments on time. And so having --  
42 if they've denied that change in length of term, then I  
43 hope that they made a commitment to making timely  
44 appointments to the Regional Advisory Councils, because  
45 we had Council members that weren't appointed and could  
46 not attending meetings because -- and we were short on  
47 membership.

48  
49 Pollock.  
50

1 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
2 sit on some other boards and they elect officers every  
3 two or three years instead of annual election of  
4 officers. So I think this Board could go that route,  
5 no need to be annual election of officers, it could be  
6 two or three years.

7  
8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When would this  
11 charter be open to the Council changing anything.

12  
13 Zach.

14  
15 MR. STEVENSON: I don't have that  
16 information available, Mr. Chair. George, can you  
17 speak to that.

18  
19 MR. PAPPAS: (Shakes head negatively)

20  
21 MR. STEVENSON: No.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

24  
25 MR. STEVENSON: Not to defer your  
26 question, Mr. Chair, but.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: .....I could  
31 certainly.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34  
35 MR. STEVENSON: .....get you that  
36 information in a timely manner.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, you know, the  
39 primary concern of this Council is that the untimely  
40 appointment of the Secretary of Interior to meeting the  
41 demands of this Council to represent the entire region.

42  
43 And so another thing that we had  
44 suggested four year ago was that these -- if the  
45 Secretary of Interior would delegate that authority to  
46 the Federal Subsistence Board so that they could make  
47 the reviews and make the appointments specifically.  
48 Apparently that didn't happen either, so they didn't do  
49 anything, they didn't change anything. So I hope that  
50 they've -- we would like a report back from the

1 Regional Director and OSM on what assurances the  
2 Secretary of Interior's office has made to making  
3 timely appointments and I would like to see that at our  
4 next meeting.

5

6 MS. PELKOLA: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, Jenny.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: Would a letter be in  
11 order to -- a support letter or a reminder letter or  
12 something to followup or something, or whatever.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could make a  
15 letter to the Regional Director that reviewing our  
16 charter, there's been no change in term and our concern  
17 with the Secretary of Interior's office making timely  
18 appointments so that we have a full compliment of  
19 Regional Advisory Council members to represent a huge  
20 region of the Western Interior of Alaska is imperative  
21 and so that the new Regional Director, who is probably  
22 unaware of this issue, can be brought up to speed and  
23 advocate for these Councils.

24

25 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
26 be transmitted to the Regional Director of Region 7 in  
27 regards to this lack of timely appointment of the  
28 Council members.

29

30 MS. PELKOLA: I'll move.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny, do  
33 we have a second.

34

35 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim.

38

39 Discussion.

40

41 Tim, you had a comment, point.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Oh, I had a question, I  
44 thought that this Council appointed a member to the  
45 Denali SRC also.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's correct. And  
48 let's see here.

49

50 MR. COLLINS: No, I don't think so. My



1 appointment is by the Secretary of Interior but I don't  
2 know whether it was nominated by this group.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It seems like we  
5 used to appoint a Denali member because Regional  
6 Advisory Councils -- but maybe that -- when they  
7 reviewed these charters and redid these charters they  
8 may have allocated that appointment authority to  
9 Southcentral, which would also have the other side of  
10 Denali National Park. So that's probably what  
11 happened.

12

13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We used to appoint  
16 -- we used to have input on the Denali SRC member, but  
17 I think that that probably was reallocated to another  
18 Regional Council. I do know that the Councils have an  
19 appointment to Denali. So we'd have to look at the SRC  
20 make up for Denali, but good point to bring up, good to  
21 review that, Tim, thank you.

22

23 So motion on a letter advocating for  
24 the Regional Director to advocate for timely  
25 appointments of the Regional Advisory Councils. Any  
26 additions to that letter.

27

28 Tim.

29

30 MR. GERVAIS: At the same time can we  
31 advocate for a four year term.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Apparently  
34 Washington denied that scenario.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Just try again.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that correct,  
39 Zach.

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: I don't see any harm in  
42 -- if that's the will of the Council, to restate that.

43

44 MR. GERVAIS: There's going to be a new  
45 administration so maybe things will change.

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Well, we  
48 could restate that we would have a preference for a  
49 four year term, it would be less burdensome to the RAC  
50 member's applications and it would lighten up the

1 process in Washington, D.C. It's advantageous to the  
2 process. So that could be included in the letter.

3

4 George.

5

6 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
7 just inquired with Staff about the four year term  
8 request. OSM did ask for the Secretary of Interior to  
9 change it to a four year term and we still have not  
10 received an official response.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, so we haven't  
15 received a timely -- a response yet, so we want the  
16 Regional Director to continue to advocate for that four  
17 year term in the letter.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 Any additions to that letter.

22

23 MS. PELKOLA: How about the alternate,  
24 can we put that in there too.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could request --  
27 that would be a change in the charter, though, correct.

28

29 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. I  
30 have not encountered this request before. I don't know  
31 whether that would necessitate a modification of the  
32 charter. I can make a note of that and get a response  
33 for you and Member Pelkola.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I think  
36 that's a change to the charter itself and I don't know  
37 that the charter is actually open at this point for  
38 modification.

39

40 Zach.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: One consideration may  
43 be if that isn't feasible at this time, to request some  
44 clarification on when that might be available for  
45 consideration.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

48

49 MR. STEVENSON: .....through the  
50 Regional Director.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We can include it in  
4 the letter, that we would like the Region 7 Staff to  
5 explore the ability to have one alternate to the  
6 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council.  
7  
8 So that's probably plenty for that  
9 letter.  
10  
11 Do we have a question on the motion.  
12  
13 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's' called.  
16 Those in favor of transmitting a letter to the Regional  
17 Director regarding the timely appointments, a four year  
18 term and a possible alternate to the Council charter  
19 signify by saying aye.  
20  
21 IN UNISON: Aye.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
24  
25 (No opposing votes)  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
28  
29 Zach.  
30  
31 MR. STEVENSON: So just for  
32 clarification, who first and seconded that motion.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny made the  
35 motion and Tim seconded it.  
36  
37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Jenny called the  
40 question.  
41  
42 And so let's see where are we on this  
43 agenda.  
44  
45 So we're back to feedback on the All  
46 Council meeting.  
47  
48 MR. STEVENSON: That's correct, Mr.  
49 Chair. On Page 183 and 184 of your meeting books,  
50 you'll see a brief letter that was drafted to reflect

1 input from a number of the participants who attended  
2 the All Council meeting that happened on March 7th and  
3 8th in Anchorage.

4

5           And, briefly, this would be the first  
6 time I believe in at least 8 years, if not longer, that  
7 all Councils have met and was a substantial undertaking  
8 on the part of OSM and the Service and its partners to  
9 accomplish. I understand that this was a substantial  
10 investment of time and resources, not only on Staff but  
11 also all of our volunteers and RAC members who  
12 participated and we thank you for that engagement. I  
13 just wanted to briefly highlight at the bottom of Page  
14 183 and on Page 184 the items that came forward as  
15 shared interests among members and then turn it over to  
16 the RAC to see if there was any feedback or comments  
17 that RAC members would like to share.

18

19           No. 1. Participants had requested the  
20 Board seek an increase in funding to  
21 meet the programmatic requirements of  
22 operating as a Regional Advisory  
23 Council.

24

25           No. 2. Participants requested the  
26 Board seek an increase in funding for  
27 conducting fish and wildlife population  
28 assessments and monitoring and that was  
29 addressed, just a moment ago in our --  
30 in the RAC's request for annual report  
31 items.

32

33           No. 3. Participants requested the  
34 Board seek an avenue for having a  
35 designated subsistence seat for the  
36 North Pacific Fisheries Management  
37 Council. And that echoes the point  
38 that Member Gervais addressed earlier.

39

40           No. 4. Participants requested the  
41 Board develop a program that will allow  
42 each of the 10 Councils a mechanism to  
43 engage youth in the subsistence  
44 regulatory process.

45

46           Item No. 5. Participants requested the  
47 Board engage in a formal rulemaking,  
48 that includes giving deference to the  
49 Councils, not only in the taking of  
50 fish and wildlife but also for other

1 regulatory issues affecting subsistence  
2 users in the regions.

3  
4 Item No. 6. The identification --  
5 participants specified the  
6 identification of priority information  
7 needs is the basis for soliciting  
8 fisheries process in the Fisheries  
9 Resource Monitoring Program. And that  
10 was illustrated previously by Mr.  
11 Ayers.

12  
13 Item No. 7. Participants recommended  
14 bringing all the Councils together  
15 allowing for the effective sharing of  
16 information between members and  
17 allowing Councils to identify areas of  
18 common concern for big picture issues.

19  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Zach.

23  
24 So I was a signatory to this document.  
25 I do want to state, you know, the All RAC meeting,  
26 which we were all there, that was the first All RAC  
27 meeting I've ever been to and I've been on the Council  
28 since 1993. I don't know where there was another. I  
29 was at a Tri-Council meeting in Wasilla one time. I  
30 never was at a 10 RAC meeting before. The first day of  
31 that meeting was real good, I thought it was great  
32 having all the Council members together. I think after  
33 that the thing started to kind of split apart, it got  
34 real diffused and it got real hard to keep people  
35 focused. It was too long of a meeting.

36  
37 So if there is another within five  
38 years, another All RAC meeting, it should be a three  
39 day maximum meeting. One day All RAC, two days for --  
40 we only had a half a day to address our issues of the  
41 Regional Council, that's enough time. This Council can  
42 hardly get this meeting done in two days, let alone a  
43 half a day. And so any future All RAC meetings should  
44 be no more than three days with only one day as joint,  
45 maximum, and allowing two days for the Councils to  
46 address the issues of their region. The main focus is  
47 addressing the issues of the region.

48  
49 So that would be my comment on the  
50 record on that.

1                   Any other Council comments on the All  
2 RAC meeting, everybody was there. Tim wasn't there.  
3  
4                   (No comments)  
5  
6                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any comments.  
7  
8                   MR. COLLINS: Well, I think it was a  
9 good thing to have that.  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.  
12  
13                  MR. COLLINS: But I think like you're  
14 saying it did get long and we were short on our own  
15 time. So I would concur with what you were stating.  
16  
17                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Darrel.  
18  
19                  MR. VENT: Yeah, I figured it was a  
20 good meeting because we got to discuss issues that  
21 concerned our areas with their areas included and it  
22 kind of gave, you know, us a better view of what we're  
23 dealing with. Some areas that had similar problems, it  
24 gave us -- you know it gave me insight on what -- how  
25 this procedure works. I enjoyed it.  
26  
27                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Darrel.  
28 Yeah, the All RAC Meeting was a great meeting to bring,  
29 the first day was really good to bring everybody,  
30 common issues, commonalities and all that. After that  
31 it started to kind of -- I felt it started to fall  
32 apart. I stayed to the last minute and there were no  
33 more than 25 RAC members in that foyer after all was  
34 said and done. There was hardly anybody left there and  
35 so that's a telling point.  
36  
37                  So, okay, I think that's enough review  
38 of the All RAC meeting.  
39  
40                  MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair.  
41  
42                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we're down  
43 to.....  
44  
45                  MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair.  
46  
47                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead there  
48 George.  
49  
50                  MR. PAPPAS: Clarification for you on

1 two items you asked a moment ago.

2

3                   One thing you asked about was the  
4 appointing of alternates. That was forwarded to DC and  
5 that was asked for an official response, there has not  
6 been an official response provided yet. So as with the  
7 other question, that would be something you're still  
8 concerned with and will be contained in the letter that  
9 you're submitting.

10

11                   Also, charters are modified every two  
12 years, this is the last chance for modifying this  
13 charter for two years but you're very limited in what  
14 you can change in the charters as most of it's  
15 contained in law. So if you choose to change the name  
16 of your Council or the number of members in your  
17 Council, this is the chance to do so. But pretty much  
18 all the other elements are required by law and not  
19 subject to change.

20

21                   So I'm not sure if you want to change  
22 your.....

23

24                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do not intend to  
25 change the name of the Council.....

26

27                   (Laughter)

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....or the make up  
30 of the Council, so that issue is closed.

31

32                   (Laughter)

33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, George  
35 for getting -- good thing you got internet here.

36

37                   (Laughter)

38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're past that,  
40 we've done the Tongass Submerged Review.

41

42                   MR. STEVENSON: Agency reports.

43

44                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Agency reports, 15  
45 minutes per report, if we can keep to that. So we got  
46 tribal governments, we did TCC. Don't see any other  
47 tribal governments here. Are there any tribal  
48 governments on the phone.

49

50                   (No comments)

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Native  
2 organizations.  
3  
4                   (No comments)  
5  
6                   MS. JULIANUS: with BLM in Fairbanks.  
7  
8                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, I'll get to  
9 BLM later, I'm at tribal governments and.....  
10  
11                  MS. JULIANUS: Okay, sorry.  
12  
13                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....Native  
14 organizations.  
15  
16                  I got US Fish and Wildlife. We covered  
17 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko. We got Kanuti. Vince, you  
18 going to give us an update.  
19  
20                  MR. MATHEWS: Okay, there's a whole  
21 bunch of topics I'll go through before we get to Page  
22 156. Since I was your past coordinator I can give you  
23 additional language why charters are needed. You're  
24 one region that's hubbed out of two major communities  
25 which causes difficulties. The other thing is McGrath  
26 is a perfect example, you got limited flights in here.  
27 So if you only have one flight a day that is another  
28 factor. And then if the language only focuses on  
29 Fairbanks to here, it also was for Ray, and anybody on  
30 the Kuskokwim to go up north. So I'm not sure you're  
31 going to put that in there.  
32  
33                  You talked earlier about the need of  
34 tribal consultation involved with your process here. I  
35 did meet with Jeremy on that and I will move forward.  
36 As a Staff person, I need more direction on how to do  
37 that. So I would recommend at this point, that maybe  
38 on your agenda in the future, you be briefed on what  
39 tribal consultation means and how it's to proceed and  
40 who's supposed to do it. That's something you may want  
41 to consider but I will be exploring that and ways of  
42 improving that.  
43  
44                  I think Jack discussed it, I need  
45 direction to say for Huslia, I only send them X  
46 proposals, and not all the proposals and then there's a  
47 risk there. So anyways, we can work through that.  
48  
49                  You mentioned about.....  
50



1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Vince, my suggestion  
2 was to send them the whole packet but highlight what  
3 proposals actually apply to their community. They can  
4 look at all the proposals, but I don't feel that the  
5 public needs to go and sort through all of those  
6 proposals, and so that's where I was going with that.

7  
8                   MR. MATHEWS: Okay, that helps me. But  
9 we also need confirmation on my end that the proposal  
10 book is provided and what level is provided to the  
11 villages. Because in the villages I deal with, I,  
12 possibly are duplicating but we don't know exactly  
13 what's getting out there. So, yes, highlighting. And  
14 then when you look further into tribal consultation,  
15 kind of putting my feet in their shoes, wouldn't they  
16 want to see everything, before they make a position.  
17 So that's another question. What I'm himha-ing around  
18 is, analysis.

19  
20                   So that's another topic, so that's what  
21 I'm going to explore to see how that may or may not fit  
22 in there.

23  
24                   You mentioned about educating the  
25 tribes into this whole process. I will be part of TCC,  
26 University of Alaska, tribal management is going to  
27 have a workshop, and I apologize I didn't capture the  
28 title, it's on my computer, but I think it's called the  
29 Hunters Regulation Workshop, so I'll be part of that.  
30 It's a three day one that's coming up in December.

31  
32                   Another one is youth engagement. And I  
33 got to kind of complain here a little bit. It would  
34 have helped on the joint letter from all the Chairs to  
35 get that earlier, we are doing a youth engagement  
36 program, that's why I was back there typing away on  
37 different things. For Eastern Interior, we're going to  
38 have 16 high school kids and six village youth that  
39 I'll be working with as well as other Staff prior to  
40 the Eastern Interior meeting and then they're going to  
41 attend the Eastern Interior meeting and then there'll  
42 be a post session on that. How did that happen is  
43 what's key, and you mentioned it earlier, freak things  
44 happen. We had an RIT, Julie Mailer, we were just part  
45 of a VIP tour, luckily or unluckily the weather didn't  
46 allow them to go to the northern part of Arctic Refuge  
47 so they spent more time at the RITs cabin living for a  
48 day, a subsistence lifestyle, and then that foundation  
49 donated money which is allowing us to do this youth  
50 engagement. So in addition to that, as a Staff person,

1 sometimes we get grant requests that have a two week  
2 timeline, that's where your letter, jointly, I'm not  
3 saying I could have leveraged money but I could say  
4 that 10 Regional Councils across the state wanted  
5 additional youth engagement. So hopefully there's some  
6 way we can get money for your region. But right now  
7 we're going to be doing this in Eastern Interior. So  
8 there's that.

9

10 And the importance of RIT, that would  
11 not have happened if the RIT was not on board, clearly  
12 would not have happened, I 1,000 percent believe that.

13

14 Your discussion about harvest  
15 monitoring and data. I will be working with Arctic  
16 Refuge on the Porcupine Caribou Herd to explore a way,  
17 and I hope I get the right terms, of tribal/community  
18 harvest reporting and so that's a grant that they're  
19 hoping to get and I will be carrying that and talking  
20 to the National Native American Coordinator for Fish  
21 and Wildlife Service on that particular grant. So I  
22 was all ears when you were talking about that. So  
23 hopefully that model will work. We're being pressured  
24 by Canada to -- as you've already mentioned, the data  
25 that comes out on harvest on our regular system is not  
26 as accurate or reliable, whatever term you want to use,  
27 as they do in Canada, so Canada is asking on that.

28

29 So that's getting off of the report,  
30 but it's very good to hear all these things and it  
31 empowers Staff.

32

33 So finally on an off the record one, to  
34 my knowledge there was only three Regional Subsistence  
35 Coordinators, there's only two and you had both in the  
36 room, for Refuges. The gentleman in the Yukon Delta  
37 area gave up his position on that, if that's the right  
38 term, and is pursuing other duties within the Delta, so  
39 to my knowledge there's only two of us, but your point  
40 is still valid. It's just that each Refuge, except  
41 Kenai Refuge, but they've agreed and policy has  
42 subsistence as a purpose in Legislation. So you have  
43 the same basis.

44

45 Okay.

46

47 The summary is on Page 156. You talked  
48 about harvest monitoring and I already laid out some of  
49 that. For your area, for 24B, the specific hunts  
50 there, yeah, we got 100 percent compliance. Why do we

1 have 100 percent compliance, my opinion, one stop  
2 shopping. They can get the permit in the village, they  
3 don't have to wait until we come out, they don't have  
4 to wait for the mail, there is a liaison in the  
5 village. And that happens to be Steven Bergman, and I  
6 really want to recognize him because he's key to other  
7 things I'll be reporting on. That's Steven Bergman,  
8 Sr. So we have 100 percent compliance on that, so  
9 we've recognized that to the community.

10

11                   That area, the moose season has changed  
12 so no all the Federal lands within 24B now have your --  
13 and I say, your, you guys fought for it, that was a big  
14 fight, that's part of my grey hairs to be honest with  
15 you, the whole concept of December 15th to April 15th,  
16 was like, what planet are you guys coming from, but you  
17 guys succeeded on that, so, anyway, that's now been  
18 expanded.

19

20                   On your next page, which I don't know  
21 what it is, 177, you'll see the population, moose  
22 population survey data, the basic take home from that,  
23 and I know it's late in the day, is that just on Kanuti  
24 National Wildlife Refuge area only the adult cow moose  
25 population appears to be stable, consistent with a low  
26 density dynamic equilibrium and they're planning the  
27 next survey in November 2016. There may be others in  
28 the room if you want to get into the graph below on the  
29 moose density bull/cow ratios that could better help  
30 you. But it's all in there. If you have questions,  
31 either engage me to push it forward or actually give  
32 the Refuge a call.

33

34                   There's a whole bunch of bird surveys  
35 and that so you can look at those. I think in respect  
36 to time I won't cover those but you can see that  
37 there's breeding bird surveys, scop and scooter  
38 surveys, molting goose surveys; so you can look that  
39 over.

40

41                   This is what you requested many years  
42 ago that Refuges report and Kanuti has made this a very  
43 high priority as well as other Refuges and they'll  
44 continue to do that.

45

46                   I'll just go down to some things that  
47 I'm interested in. If you're interested in a  
48 particular topic I'll go back to it, like the snowshoe  
49 hare survey, which is based on pellet transects and the  
50 relationship to actual hare count. Again, you know, as

1 you know that relates to lynx which relates to another  
2 activity, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

3

4 I would like to draw your attention to  
5 the 10 year comparison post fire, bird and vegetation  
6 monitoring. I think that's really something  
7 interesting to monitor, especially around your  
8 villages. You can see in the pictures how the  
9 composition, the upper left picture and then the burn  
10 picture to the right and then the other pictures how  
11 it's shifted to more of a shrub hardwood makeup, which  
12 provides a different habitat. So something to keep an  
13 eye on. And that was Lisa Saperstein, who spent a lot  
14 of time with this Council years ago.

15

16 Okay. Then we'll move on to -- well,  
17 we'll -- I won't miss the Henshaw Creek Weir because  
18 the science camp would not have happened without Nicole  
19 and Adam present. They played an extremely important  
20 role with that and they have a brutal work schedule. I  
21 thought about if I ever retire volunteering for it, but  
22 no way, no way could I work those hours, but they  
23 manage it very well.

24

25 You talked quite a bit about the  
26 importance of the spawning areas. The Chandler River  
27 and I apologize to the Native group, I cannot pronounce  
28 the current Native Athabascan name for that river but  
29 they are completing a two year study on the importance  
30 of upwelling and temperature of that upwelling on the  
31 production of chum. If you're interested I can try to  
32 get a copy of that PowerPoint, it was very  
33 enlightening. Because of that and the interest in fall  
34 chum and summer chum, Kanuti is going to be flying over  
35 the SouthFork to mark these areas of upwelling, red  
36 areas, and then the pilot, during winter, will be  
37 monitoring it also. And that, I think, relates when  
38 you were talking about sheefish or whatever. So the  
39 data that possibly is collected on the Chandalar could  
40 possibly be used elsewhere is what I'm trying to get  
41 at. That the importance of these spawning areas really  
42 need to be recognized and protected. And that was by  
43 Chelsea, I can't read my writing, but I'll get the  
44 right name for it, she's with UAF and she's completing  
45 her study.

46

47 Then I'll jump up to -- you can look in  
48 there on fire management, if you're interested.  
49 There's a nice map in there of the fires, I suppose you  
50 could say within the area of Kanuti Refuge, and hopeful

1 you would continue to like to see that data.

2

3                   On the personnel, Kanuti Refuge is  
4 finally fully staffed. And I bring this up because  
5 I've met the new maintenance worker, Eric Burrows, when  
6 you meet him, make him feel welcome he's very very good  
7 but that's how you keep good Staff in there, is if you  
8 guys, when you meet these guys, say thank you for being  
9 here, you know, et cetera, et cetera.

10

11                   I talked to you earlier, I believe,  
12 that we now have a new law enforcement pilot, there's a  
13 picture of him there, Brandon Bosch, he'll be attending  
14 your next meeting. I kind of get a sense it may be  
15 required he attends various RAC meetings, I'm almost  
16 certain of that. And he's got a difficult job, he's  
17 going to -- his position, I should say, is shared with  
18 Arctic, Yukon Flats, Gates of the Arctic, and Yukon-  
19 Charley and he's stationed in Coldfoot. Really neat  
20 young guy. Again, extend a hand to him, it goes a long  
21 ways.

22

23                   Okay, then we go further. Yes, I was  
24 involved with the Henshaw Creek Science Camp. It's one  
25 of the highlights of my career and it's very rewarding.  
26 It's partially rewarding because of the SEA interns,  
27 there's a picture of Ben Wallace, there's a picture of  
28 Joe Guzeman, they and Betsy, also another one, helped  
29 out at that science camp. Jack knows Kalen, but these  
30 programs would not run without these students is really  
31 what I'm trying to emphasize.

32

33                   I already mentioned to you about Steven  
34 Bergman. He's kind of like a Refuge Information  
35 Technician but he's contracted through the tribe and  
36 somebody mentioned that as a model for harvest data, so  
37 that's it.

38

39                   Education, outreach events. Yes,  
40 annually we have an Allakaket winter event and my wife  
41 helped out on that, but also I was the prize caller and  
42 you can ask Pollock how well I kept the audience well  
43 entertained in Allakaket. But, again, it's very  
44 important that we do these outreach efforts, all the  
45 programs do because those youth are the next leaders.

46

47                   I already -- well, the only thing  
48 that's missing on the science camp, is there was a  
49 volunteer there, Sheryl Riley, an artist that played a  
50 very important role, especially with the youth.

1                   I won't go through all the activities  
2 at the science camp, but it is extensive and it's --  
3 for me it's the most time I've experienced bears daily  
4 so that was good for my blood pressure but we had bears  
5 every day and no problems, but, again, it just shows  
6 the importance of that resource.

7  
8                   The Arctic InterAgency Visitor Center  
9 is listed there. I served two weeks there, if you want  
10 to know more on that you can talk to me personally.  
11 But I am going back in the beginning of their season to  
12 see how that acts, how it works, because it does  
13 represent Gates of the Arctic, BLM Corridor and the  
14 three Refuges. You can see that the center provides  
15 community members, visitors to the area, those  
16 traveling the Dalton Highway with a year-round place to  
17 learn more about history and natural features for those  
18 areas so I'll leave it at that. But it is very  
19 important that Kanuti plays a role with that, as well  
20 as the other Refuges, as well as BLM and the National  
21 Park Service.

22  
23                   I will be making a public presentation.  
24 We have a sister Refuge, urban Refuge, Twalatin River  
25 National Wildlife Refuge. I will be presenting them  
26 how we build relationships in Alaska and share  
27 connections. And I already mentioned I'll be meeting  
28 with Scott Akien and National Native American Program  
29 Coordinator on tribal wildlife grants.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

32  
33                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
34 Through the Chair. Vince, that -- the Twalatin is  
35 based in Oregon, is that correct?

36  
37                   MR. MATHEWS: Yes, that's the one in  
38 Portland.

39  
40                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

41  
42                   MR. MATHEWS: What happened there is  
43 Yukon Flats is exploring one in the San Francisco area,  
44 San Paleo, and the reason being is, is that we need to  
45 make these connections so people understand at both  
46 ends how these relate, how -- for me, I asked San Diego  
47 when they first were selected for an urban one, help me  
48 convince or encourage Arctic Village to understand the  
49 importance of a National Wildlife Refuge and you make  
50 sure people at the San Diego complex there understand

1 the importance of these Refuges in Alaska as a Refuge  
2 and a homeland, that's the connection.

3  
4                   Anyways, that's it for the report.

5  
6                   There's some pictures there of the  
7 outreach center so if you're ever on the Dalton Highway  
8 Corridor, stop by. If you're definitely there during  
9 summer do stop by. First talk to the seasonal Staff  
10 because they will be like sponges to learn from you.

11  
12                   And that's all I have unless you have  
13 questions.

14  
15                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Vince.  
16 Any questions for Kanuti's presentation.

17  
18                   (No comments)

19  
20                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Very well covered,  
21 thank you.

22  
23                   MR. MATHEWS: Well, I got off easy this  
24 time.

25  
26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate all the  
27 work Kanuti's doing in the Refuge area and the  
28 communities there, the science camp, really appreciate  
29 all those -- and Kanuti's been -- for such a small  
30 Refuge, it's been a pretty active Refuge on data  
31 collection and so forth.

32  
33                   Thank you.

34  
35                   MR. MATHEWS: I did forget one thing.  
36 I hope you all got a copy of this. I don't work for  
37 Fish and Game, I just know the basis of your actions  
38 many times are based on Advisory Committees, this is  
39 their newsletter. What I really wanted to point out  
40 and I'll leave copies here, again, I don't work for  
41 them, is that, in the third page, bottom corner,  
42 Excellent Award Nominations are open, this is for  
43 outstanding Advisory Committee members and Advisory  
44 Committees. Let's cut to the chase if you don't speak  
45 out on people that work very hard on these ACs then the  
46 Board's don't understand that level. So that's in  
47 there. I have made some nominations. You have to go to  
48 a website, it is up and running. Actually it's not on  
49 here so you'll have to get ahold of Neisha, but it was  
50 in an email to me. So that's something -- again,

1 they're not here but you may want -- so I gather no one  
2 got this, just curious.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I haven't seen it  
5 yet but we'll get it though.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much  
10 Vince.

11

12 MR. COLLINS: I'll have to teach you to  
13 read Athabascan. There's only three sounds in that  
14 word (In Athabascan) limited.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Vince, if you sent --  
19 through the Chair, if you'd send me that information  
20 I'd be happy to get that out to folks.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I think it's a real  
23 good one and I will send you that information. Again,  
24 you know, newsletters are hard to put together so I  
25 think they did a good job.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.

28

29 US Fish and Wildlife Service.

30

31 Fred.

32

33 MR. BUE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
34 Fred Bue, Fish and Wildlife Service. This is just  
35 information for you, no action, but for your awareness,  
36 it's actually a State issue but since you are all  
37 community people on primarily the Yukon River.

38

39 The State of Alaska is resurrecting  
40 their Regional Planning Team for salmon, it's a  
41 Conservation Salmon Plan, they did it about 15 years  
42 ago for the Yukon River. Other places in the state, I  
43 think there's seven or nine other entities, regional  
44 areas and they formed aquaculture associations and the  
45 Yukon River, the sentiments at the time was not to go  
46 the way of aquaculture to use the best information we  
47 have and try to maintain the wild salmon stocks as best  
48 we can. There is -- the State of Alaska just opened  
49 this process, initiated this last spring through the  
50 Legislature and they're forming an RPT group and



1 they're in the process of working through that and then  
2 they're going to have community outreach and talk to  
3 people scoping essentially throughout this winter. And  
4 so people should be looking forward to that and going  
5 to your tribal councils and community people talking  
6 about what their vision is towards aquaculture  
7 enhancement on the Yukon River.

8

9 I'm not putting a position forward, the  
10 Fish and Wildlife Service has a lot of mixed position  
11 on it. But I just wanted to make sure you're aware  
12 that that is coming up this winter. What I can do is  
13 give the news release to Zach.

14

15 And then Fisheries Ecological Services  
16 has been talking about that the last couple of months  
17 in our own office. We kind of put together a  
18 perspective paper and we're going to share that with  
19 Fish and Game and so that when you go to the public,  
20 can have a little bit of a background, what Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service has done in the past and what our  
22 visions are. But essentially right now, we're thinking  
23 -- you know, we're not in dire straits we would like to  
24 maintain wild stocks as best we can and we don't want  
25 to use aquaculture as a mitigation for poor management.

26

27 So just for your awareness.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that  
32 head's up on that, that's an important issue.

33

34 Tim.

35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 Fred, while we're on the topic, could  
39 you give us your impression on the hatchery operation  
40 in Whitehorse.

41

42 MR. BUE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I don't  
43 know a great deal about it, it's been around for quite  
44 awhile, '70s, I believe, you know, the Whitehorse dam  
45 went in the '50s and it did change the natural run and  
46 so it's limited to a mitigation. It's not to enhance  
47 runs but it's supposed to benefit and offset some of  
48 the negative effects of the dam and it has mixed  
49 success. They do quite a bit of out-planting to  
50 different areas up above there but there's not a really

1 good assessment on what's actually coming back and  
2 what's being tagged but what it looks like is that they  
3 end up with a lot of jacks in their process. And maybe  
4 it's because they're not able to maintain the water  
5 temperatures or something to that effect but they are  
6 getting a mixture, it seems like it tends to be smaller  
7 fish. But it's not replacing natural production. It's  
8 putting fish there -- they try to out-stock and seed  
9 areas that used to have fish, but there's not a lot of  
10 follow up on how well the program is working.

11  
12 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

15  
16 And so we're at.....

17  
18 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

21  
22 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair. What is that

23 Zach gave us here, this.....

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This is probably for  
26 the National Park Service presentation.

27  
28 MR. WALKER: Oh, okay.

29  
30 MR. STEVENSON: We'll do that in a

31 moment.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we got BLM.

34 Who's going to give us a report. And I think I had

35 Erin on the phone, are you still there Erin.

36  
37 MS. JULIANUS: Yep, I am.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Bruce is

40 passing out some paperwork here and so we'll let Bruce

41 give his presentation and we'll have you come in behind

42 him.

43  
44 MS. JULIANUS: Okay, that sounds good.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead,

47 Bruce.

48  
49 MR. SEPPI: Mr. Chair. Members of the

50 Board. Bruce Seppi with BLM, Anchorage Field Office.

1 I just handed out an agency briefing.  
2 The Bering Sea Western Interior Land Use Management  
3 Plan is still an ongoing effort and we talked about  
4 that a little bit earlier. The plan information and  
5 the published reports are on a website, which is on  
6 that handout I just gave you, and the draft plan is due  
7 out in January 2017, and that includes a scoping  
8 report, the original scoping report and the RMP, areas  
9 of critical environmental concern, or ACECs, and we  
10 talked about that, how they're still coming in, and  
11 although that deadline has passed, I encourage anyone  
12 who wants to submit an ACEC should do that. Also the  
13 original management situation -- analysis of the  
14 management situation is on there also.

15  
16 Right now we're -- all the Staff at  
17 Anchorage Field Office is working on developing the  
18 preliminary alternatives for that draft and that's  
19 pretty much all I'll say about that right now.

20  
21 Under recreation, in the 2015 season,  
22 BLM permitted, and it says six commercial hunting guide  
23 SRPs there, but it's actually eight if you include the  
24 two in 22A, and they operated in 21E, 19A and 22A,  
25 which is just outside of this RAC area in the  
26 Unalakleet area. Post-use reports aren't in for that  
27 yet, they're due in January but -- of this coming year  
28 but those SRPs were for hunts for moose, caribou and  
29 grizzly bears, generally.

30  
31 I'm happy to announce that BLM  
32 Anchorage Field Office is finally hired a ranger pilot  
33 last month. His name is Walker Guthie, he's coming to  
34 us from the National Park Service in Nome. We ended up  
35 getting him from Nome and he'll be involved in law  
36 enforcement activities throughout the Anchorage Field  
37 Office area, including this area, but field office  
38 wide, so all 24 million acres. So just because we got  
39 him, he's still going to be spread pretty thin. He'll  
40 be starting in mid-November. We're very happy to have  
41 him on board.

42  
43 Also a new hire, we've hired a new  
44 wildlife biologist that will be based in Nome. Up to  
45 this point we've had a one man office up in Nome with  
46 Tom Sparks, but our new hire is Brian Ubelaker, he  
47 started in late September. He'll be involved -- his  
48 core work will be up on the Seward Peninsula but he'll  
49 be involved with wildlife work throughout the Anchorage  
50 Field Office.

1                   As far as the Donlin Gold Project, the  
2 contract AECOM is working with the Corps of Engineers  
3 right now to revise the impacts analysis for wildlife  
4 in the EIS. As you probably all well know the comments  
5 for the draft EIS were due May 31st and we haven't had  
6 -- we haven't been told by either the contractor or the  
7 Corps of Engineer when they're going to have that draft  
8 out or how they're going to incorporate all the  
9 comments they got from agencies or BLM. Right now  
10 what's going on is BLM is working with AECOM for the  
11 Section 106 analysis, that's the cultural analysis of  
12 the pipeline corridor and invasive weed plan and also  
13 the impacts to the Iditarod Historic Trail. Those  
14 things weren't even included in the draft EIS and  
15 they're kind of playing catch up on there right now.

16  
17                   If there's questions about that I'll  
18 field that at the end here.

19  
20                   Red Devil Mine near Sleetmute, that's  
21 still an ongoing clean up site although we're looking  
22 for -- BLM is looking for additional funding, although  
23 exactly how that clean up will be handled hasn't been  
24 decided on yet, whether it'll be encapsulated in place  
25 or whether those tailings that are contaminated with  
26 mercury would be hauled out of there, which would be  
27 very expensive. This upcoming summer there'll be some  
28 temporary stabilization of the materials to keep them  
29 from going into the Kuskokwim with essentially soap  
30 barriers to keep them from going into the Kuskokwim any  
31 further.

32  
33                   Also the (Indiscernible) Mine up river  
34 from Aniak is still in the process of having solid  
35 waste and other types of things, that's a very old  
36 abandoned mine but stuff is still coming out of there  
37 in the summer of 2017.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What is the mineral.

40  
41                   MR. SEPPI: That was mercury.

42  
43                   The Nixon-Fork Mine is in the process  
44 of restarting operations there. Based on their 2011  
45 approved mining plan, the name of the company is Titan  
46 Resources and they can't modify that 2011 mining plan  
47 and so they've got to stay within the bounds of that  
48 and if they go out of that they'll have to start the  
49 NEPA process over again. They actually have been  
50 mining the tailings pond and trying to get gold out of

1 that but they've also agreed to clean up and mine the  
2 areas, which is the old -- the very old stuff, the  
3 historic mining tailings. There's an old stamp (ph)  
4 mill there that had a lot of mercury around it, in  
5 fact, mercury just laying on the ground there, they're  
6 in the process of cleaning that up and mining that area  
7 so in the process they'll get more -- essentially more  
8 area to have new mining or clean up of old sites. But  
9 in the process hopefully they'll stick with it and that  
10 old mine site will be cleaned up.

11  
12                   And finally I assisted the Fish and  
13 Game and Park Service up in Onion Portage for that  
14 caribou collaring project that's been going on for a  
15 number of years and I was up there in mid-September to  
16 help put on collars on both cows and calves. I  
17 witnessed the migration, it's the first time I've  
18 actually sat in the middle of that caribou migration  
19 and I was thoroughly impressed by it. I was also  
20 thoroughly impressed that the number of subsistence  
21 hunters there that were waiting to pounce on them when  
22 they came across the river. It -- I don't know how to  
23 describe it, if you've never been up there, it's many  
24 animals are coming across, and that's not the only  
25 place they cross the river but it seems like a lot of  
26 people from those Kobuk River communities would either  
27 come down, people would come as far as Kotzebue and  
28 come all the way up there. And so when caribou came  
29 across the river, you know, people descended on them  
30 because they wanted to go up there to get their limits  
31 and go home and not have to spend any time more than  
32 they needed to.

33  
34                   In that process, BLM and the Fish and  
35 Wildlife Service Selawik Refuge chartered aircraft to get  
36 school kids from the village of Selawik and from  
37 Kotzebue to come out there and help -- actually help  
38 with that migration and helping put collars on and it's  
39 a very kind of -- there's a lot going on when caribou  
40 are crossing the river and everybody jumps in a boat  
41 and goes out there and chases them and there's people  
42 shooting, there's people collaring caribou, just a lot  
43 going on. So my thoughts of having a bunch of school  
44 kids there, just -- I didn't know how that was going to  
45 work but Lincoln Parrett and Fish and Game actually did  
46 pull it off and they did a very good job of it. Those  
47 kids were actually not just bystanders but were asked  
48 to actually hold caribou and wrestle caribou and put  
49 collars on them. So I'm glad that BLM was able to help  
50 make that happen. Although that was an exercise in

1 chartering aircraft and let me tell you that is a  
2 bureaucratic program that is not easily done so it was  
3 months of preparation just to get those kids out there.

4

5                   Those kids, incidentally, will come --  
6 some of those kids, not all of them, will come to the  
7 December meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd  
8 Working Group in Anchorage to give a short  
9 presentation.

10

11                   And then also just a -- I don't know if  
12 I had said this at the winter meeting in Anchorage, we  
13 assisted Fish and Game for a GSP moose survey in Unit  
14 21E in February. We simply assisted. That was, of  
15 course, led by Fish and Game here out of McGrath. But  
16 we did get that done and it seemed like the snow was  
17 melting as fast as we were surveying moose in that  
18 survey. So it was something that was barely pulled off  
19 but we did get a good count on that as Josh had talked  
20 about.

21

22                   And then finally, the Western Arctic  
23 Caribou Herd Working Group meeting is scheduled to be  
24 held in Anchorage December 14th and 15th with the  
25 Technical Group meeting on December 13th, the first  
26 day. I was responsible for putting together that  
27 contract so it's actually the second year of a contract  
28 with Westwind and they're the contractor that does all  
29 the logistics to make that happen. It is very  
30 complicated to get people's -- it's kind of like  
31 getting a RAC Council together, to get people from  
32 various communities to Anchorage. BLM, National Park  
33 Service, Fish and Wildlife Service all contributed to  
34 that, to put money into that contract, it ends up being  
35 very expensive to make that happen. And that includes,  
36 as I mentioned, bringing kids from Selawik and Kotzebue  
37 to give the presentation, the kids that were out at  
38 Onion Portage. That venue hasn't been chosen but I  
39 just saw an email on my iPad that there's going to be a  
40 meeting next week to talk about planning of that  
41 meeting and to get that going.

42

43                   So that's all I have, any questions on  
44 all of that.

45

46                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

47

48                   MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49 Thanks, Bruce.

50

1                   On that Red Devil Mine, what year was  
2 that closed and what were they mining and it says that  
3 BLM is requesting additional funding, where does that  
4 money come from.

5  
6                   MR. SEPPI: To answer your question,  
7 that mine was, I think, closed sometime in the '70s, I  
8 don't have an exact date. It sat abandoned for years,  
9 it was a mercury mine. It sat abandoned for years,  
10 there were abandoned buildings there and open shafts  
11 and actually if you walked up there there was mercury,  
12 you know, globs on the ground, it sat that way for  
13 years. Initially BLM got Federal funding, new Federal  
14 funding outside of our regular budget to cleanup the  
15 buildings, to remove all the mercury that was free on  
16 the surface. They actually ended up putting a bridge  
17 in there over a creek that runs down to get heavy  
18 equipment around to move it back and forth. All of  
19 those -- if you walked up there you could -- if you  
20 didn't know the history you wouldn't know there was a  
21 mercury mine there, but now the mercury is in the  
22 tailings that still remain there. And they've been,  
23 over the years, moved around, but as water comes down  
24 that creek into the Kuskokwim there is mercury in it.

25  
26                   I will say there is pretty high levels  
27 of background mercury there, in fact, parts of the  
28 studies that have been done with fish and mercury in  
29 that water, in the sediments, there's actually pretty  
30 high background level -- natural background levels in  
31 that portion of the Kuskokwim. But now they -- I think  
32 BLM thought at one point the cleanup to this point was  
33 done and they would call it good but it's still pretty  
34 high in mercury levels and everybody's still saying  
35 that they want more done. And so there's this  
36 discussion on how you clean this up, whether you  
37 actually physically take these tailings out and load  
38 them into a barge and take them out of state, they'd  
39 have to go down to Oregon to be then processed to  
40 remove the mercury and handled that way, or if you make  
41 a lime pit, dig a pit and put them into that. Either  
42 way is, as you can imagine is millions of dollars.  
43 Right now there is barriers that BLM has put up with  
44 contractors to keep mercury from going into the river  
45 more. But I will say there is places on the Kuskokwim  
46 near Sleetmute there that have mercury levels that are  
47 near -- or as high as Red Devil's so it's just a  
48 naturally high background levels of mercury there.

49  
50                   So what actually will be determined to

1 do there, BLM will find the funding and they'll have to  
2 go right to, you know, Washington to get that, it won't  
3 be out of our budget because it'll be millions and how  
4 long that takes, it's probably going to be years, but  
5 we're actively pursuing the complete cleanup of that.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: And does like the pike  
8 and whitefish, do they have enough mercury in them  
9 where it's not healthy for the subsistence user.

10

11 MR. SEPPI: Yes. BLM did a study and  
12 actually sampled fish in the rivers and salmon didn't  
13 have much, if any in them, simply because they're not  
14 there long enough but the long-lived resident fish like  
15 pike and whitefish did and so they recommended that the  
16 elderly and pregnant women don't eat it because there's  
17 mercury in it. But, again, fish and sediment in areas  
18 away from Red Devil also had relatively high levels of  
19 mercury so, again, I'm not trying to down play the  
20 cleanup or the amount of mercury at Red Devil but there  
21 is a pretty high natural background level of mercury in  
22 that part of the Kuskokwim.

23

24 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

27

28 Any other questions.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do feel that the  
33 BLM and US Fish and Wildlife's role in bringing these  
34 students out to collar caribou in the Onion Portage  
35 should be recognized with a letter from this Council  
36 and to the Regional Director of the Bureau of Land  
37 Management, that was an admirable project. Because  
38 students have to learn how fish and wildlife are  
39 managed with modern science techniques and so hand's on  
40 experience like that will last the rest of their lives.

41

42 So the Chair will entertain a motion to  
43 transmit a letter to the Regional Director of the  
44 Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish and Wildlife  
45 to commend BLM and US Fish and Wildlife Staff on  
46 bringing those students by chartered aircraft and all  
47 of the logistics to get those students there and then  
48 bringing them to the Western Arctic Caribou Work Group  
49 meeting this winter.

50



1 MR. SEPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.  
4  
5 MR. VENT: Second.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved and seconded.  
8 Further discussion on that letter of commendation.  
9  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 MS. PELKOLA: Question.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
16 Those in favor of transmitting that letter signify by  
17 saying aye.  
18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
22  
23 (No opposing votes)  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Really appreciate  
26 that Bruce.  
27  
28 MR. SEPPI: Thank you. And BLM can't  
29 take all the credit for that, we did pay for that and  
30 make it happen but Fish and Game has been doing that  
31 for decades but now we make it a point to bring at  
32 least two different school kids from two different  
33 villages and it changes year to year but it's not just  
34 BLM but we appreciate that.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fish and Game also  
37 was a collaborator with.....  
38  
39 MR. SEPPI: They have in the past.  
40 Right now it's the Federal agencies that kind of have  
41 taken that over but Fish and Game.....  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.  
44  
45 MR. SEPPI: .....and I just learned  
46 this by being out at Onion Portage but, you know,  
47 they've been coming there for almost 30 years and  
48 there's been a long history of bringing kids out there,  
49 usually from Ambler because they could get their  
50 themselves in a boat, but then it got bigger by

1 chartering aircraft bringing them from villages that  
2 are within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou  
3 Herd.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

6

7 Tim.

8

9 MR. GERVAIS: Bruce, can you give us a  
10 brief update on the Donlin timeline, like when are they  
11 submitting their permits, what are they looking at for  
12 doing some projects, gas line and the mine.

13

14 MR. SEPPI: Well, the draft -- comments  
15 to the draft, they actually were extended by a month so  
16 it was May 31st that they closed that down and then  
17 they have to incorporate all of those now. They  
18 haven't -- they've been very quiet. They haven't  
19 spoken to BLM or the -- the Corps of Engineers, who's  
20 the lead agency. I mean when they have meetings and  
21 ask when are we going to talk about this incorporated  
22 into a draft, I think they're -- or I know they're  
23 struggling with all of the things that people came up  
24 with that they said were wrong with that draft and so  
25 they're struggling with incorporating that into a  
26 final. What they decide is -- I don't know. They have  
27 told us that they're going to redo the impacts analysis  
28 and they're going to start with the wildlife section  
29 and they're going to get that to us kind of as a test  
30 to see, is this what you're talking about for an  
31 appropriate impacts analysis. They haven't given us  
32 any timeframe for that.

33

34 BLM has hired a Donlin Gold person who  
35 is -- their sole job is to deal with the Donlin Gold  
36 project so that's helped a lot and it's made it so  
37 they're coordinating behind the scenes all the time  
38 with AECOM and to some degree with Donlin Gold  
39 directly.

40

41 But to answer your question they've  
42 gotten real quiet about that, and so whether they're  
43 going to just push ahead to a final or there has been  
44 talk that they would have to -- because there's so many  
45 changes to incorporate they would have to go back out  
46 to the public with a new draft. I would suspect that  
47 they very much do not want to do that, and so they're  
48 -- they'll push ahead to put it into a final but they  
49 haven't told us what they're going to do.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We're running  
2 short on time here, I need to get Erin for Central  
3 Yukon.

4  
5                   MR. SEPPI: Thanks.

6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there  
8 Erin.

9  
10                  Appreciate it Bruce.

11  
12                  Go ahead Erin.

13  
14                  MS. JULIANUS: For the record my name  
15 is Erin Julianus and I'm a wildlife biologist for the  
16 BLM Central Yukon Field Office in Fairbanks and can  
17 everybody hear me okay.

18  
19                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're reading you  
20 good, go ahead.

21  
22                  MS. JULIANUS: Okay, cool. There'll be  
23 a couple of things on the report that I do want to  
24 highlight so my report is going to be brief, but  
25 certainly if I didn't cover anything that you wanted  
26 covered let me know at the end.

27  
28                  So for planning, we're essentially, I  
29 think a little bit behind the BISWEE plan as far as  
30 where we're at in the planning process but we have many  
31 of these, you know, the scoping report, the ACEC  
32 report, and the AMS out for review, I think I've kind  
33 of pushed that people review these documents because  
34 they are out for public review. And where we're at  
35 right now is, you know, like I said, it's kind of the  
36 same place at BISWEE is at, and that's in the  
37 developing the preliminary alternatives to the draft  
38 RMP and EIS. Both BISWEE and the Central Yukon Plan  
39 have been part of the -- part of the plan has been  
40 contracted out so we actually just awarded the contract  
41 to work on the RMP so we're going to have a bunch of  
42 meetings in the next couple weeks, you know, starting  
43 to work with the contractor on actually drafting these  
44 alternatives.

45  
46                  I think the only take home message  
47 aside from reviewing these reports, if you haven't  
48 reviewed them, is that I was told that we're going to  
49 be having additional scoping meetings, I think during  
50 this preliminary alternative process. I don't know

1 exactly when those are going to be happening and I  
2 don't know, you know, where -- there hasn't been like a  
3 meeting schedule made up yet but, you know, certainly  
4 if there are communities that we should be going to,  
5 you know, you can send an email or call the planning  
6 and environmental coordinator, Shell Ethan (ph).

7

8                   For recreation, the Central Yukon Field  
9 Office issued 23 special recreation permits. Four of  
10 these permits are for hunting guides in the Dalton  
11 Highway Corridor. Of these four permitted guides we  
12 have two that hunted for sheep this year in Guide Use  
13 Area 2403 and in addition we have five commercial  
14 hunting guides operating in the rest of the Western  
15 Interior region within the Central Yukon Field Office  
16 and most of these are in Unit 21 for moose, I believe.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Erin, do you  
19 get a report back on what their harvest is for dall  
20 sheep in the Dalton Highway Corridor area.

21

22                   MS. JULIANUS: You know, once again,  
23 Bruce said that -- you know, the post-use reports  
24 aren't due until January, so, but, yeah definitely.

25

26                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to get  
27 that report from you when you come to our meeting in  
28 February.

29

30                   MS. JULIANUS: The sheep EA, I brought  
31 this up -- or the Sheep Environmental Assessment for  
32 hunting sheep -- hunting guides with their primary  
33 focus being sheep, I've been really trying to push to  
34 get that done and I think, you know, at this point if  
35 I'm going to be realistic, you know, it's really kind  
36 of taken a backseat to this planning effort, but we are  
37 continuing to push it. You know I think it does really  
38 need to be done. So that is an update on that.

39

40                   For realty, we have various ongoing  
41 right-of-way projects that you can read in the report  
42 here. A lot of activity in the Dalton Highway  
43 Corridor. And the main thing that I did want to bring  
44 up is the Bettles Road winter right-of-way grant, which  
45 we are reauthorizing. I believe that a scoping letter  
46 was sent out to interested parties, including the  
47 Western Interior RAC within the last month. Mr. Chair,  
48 can I confirm if you received that or not.

49

50                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Zach.

1 MR. STEVENSON: Erin, this is Zach  
2 Stevenson. I had recently received a letter dated  
3 September 8th from the Bureau of Land Management  
4 Central Yukon Field Office out of Fairbanks addressing  
5 the authorization with the City of Bettles for the  
6 Bettles winter route and I wanted to see if you would  
7 be able to share some information with the RAC on that  
8 matter.

9

10 And for the record we do not presently  
11 have a copy of your written report in front of us at  
12 this time.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. JULIANUS: Okay, I didn't catch the  
17 last part of that, Zach, but it sounds like you have a  
18 copy and definitely the Council should review that  
19 letter. I would really, really like their input  
20 on.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Erin.....

23

24 MS. JULIANUS: .....on the draft  
25 alternative.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Erin.

28

29 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What Zach was saying  
32 is that he has a copy of the scoping letter for the  
33 Bettles right-of-way. We do not have a copy of your  
34 report that you're referring to. Somehow it was not  
35 provided to -- it was not incorporated into our packet,  
36 somewhere it was lost along the line.

37

38 MS. JULIANUS: Oh, okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if you could send  
41 that to Zach and then he can transmit that by email to  
42 the -- or by hard mail to the RAC members, we still  
43 want to get your report.

44

45 MS. JULIANUS: Okay, yeah, definitely,  
46 sorry about that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So continue with  
49 your report though.

50

1 MS. JULIANUS: Okay. Yeah, so like I  
2 was saying, you know, I think it's really important  
3 that we get the Western Interior RAC's input on, you  
4 know, this new authorization that we're issuing for the  
5 Bettles Winter Road.

6  
7 In that letter, in the scoping letter,  
8 right now there are seven draft alternatives that are  
9 described and these alternatives don't have anything to  
10 do with the actual physical route of the road but more  
11 of how that right-of-way, and how that road is going to  
12 be managed and it definitely, you know, is going to  
13 have an impact on access for, you know, locals and non-  
14 locals.

15  
16 I don't think that -- in that letter I  
17 don't think there's an explicit time that they said  
18 that the scoping period ends.

19  
20 And, let's see, that's the only.....

21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would -- say,  
23 Erin.....

24  
25 MS. JULIANUS: Yep.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....if you could  
28 send that letter to Zach also, he can transmit that  
29 scoping letter back to the RAC, and so there is no  
30 timeline with this, we would be able to comment on this  
31 right-of-way authorization at our spring meeting.

32  
33 MS. JULIANUS: I would think -- it  
34 depends. I would think that you would have to comment  
35 sooner than that but like I said, you know, this is one  
36 of those authorizations that keeps getting pushed back  
37 because of the planning effort so, you know, we had  
38 originally planned to have it done by the end of the  
39 summer and, you know, it keeps getting pushed back so  
40 it could very well be that, you know, talking about it  
41 at the spring meeting would be fine but based on what I  
42 know right now, yeah, I would think that it would need  
43 your attention sooner than that.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Zach's got a  
46 comment here, go ahead, Zach.

47  
48 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 And through the Chair. Erin. The letter on Page 3  
50 species that comments would be needed by October 14 and

1 I just want to be certain that BLM will still entertain  
2 written comments from the RAC, being cognizant of the  
3 deadline specified on Page 3 at the bottom of the  
4 letter.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 MS. JULIANUS: Through the Chair.

9 Thank you, Zach. I can see that now. I would have to  
10 confirm but I think that providing comments, you know,  
11 after that deadline would be fine but I'll confirm  
12 that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, my primary  
15 comment on the Bettles Road is that it's maintained,  
16 and the previous status, winter access only, that it  
17 would have the alternates would include the least  
18 adverse impact to subsistence users by not increasing  
19 the timeframe during the fall hunting season for access  
20 by non-local users, no bridging of the Jim River or the  
21 SouthFork and so my primary concern is that it would be  
22 primarily the status quo of how that winter access has  
23 been allowed into Bettles.

24

25 That would be my primary statement to  
26 the question, since there's only two days left, I would  
27 hope you would take those comments at this time.

28

29 MS. JULIANUS: Yep.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is the Council  
32 agreeable to that.

33

34 (Council nods affirmatively)

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I see affirmative of  
37 the Council to my statement from the Western Interior  
38 Regional Council.

39

40 MS. JULIANUS: Okay, yeah, thank you.  
41 I will pass that along and I will confirm whether or  
42 not comments can be submitted after that October 14th  
43 date and.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're submitting  
46 that verbally at this time.

47

48 MS. JULIANUS: What was that?

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I just submitted

1 that verbally at this time.

2

3 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah. Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If you took note of  
6 my statement. And we also are transcribed, so within  
7 typically about two weeks our transcripts will be  
8 posted on the OSM website for the Western Interior  
9 Regional meeting so you can also pull that back off  
10 again for your Staff, but we are meeting the  
11 deadline.....

12

13 MS. JULIANUS: Uh-huh.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....of October 14,  
16 so that's verbal, through the RAC meeting here.

17

18 MS. JULIANUS: Okay, yeah, thank you,  
19 Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, continue.

22

23 MS. JULIANUS: That was -- let's see, I  
24 think the only other thing that I need to -- that I  
25 want to bring up is -- I guess for, you know, for some  
26 of our wildlife activities this year we did complete  
27 the MiddleFork trend count area last November and this  
28 year once, again, I did go out to the Fish and Game  
29 checkstation on the Koyukuk River, spent a week out  
30 there and I really learn a lot from getting to spend  
31 time on the river and learn a little bit about those  
32 issues, you know, down river as opposed to up river  
33 where I'm used to working.

34

35 And, then, yeah, the only other thing  
36 is we were able to complete dall sheep surveys once  
37 again this summer. And I don't know -- that report has  
38 not yet been completed.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to  
41 receive that dall sheep report at our spring meeting  
42 also.

43

44 MS. JULIANUS: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'd appreciate that.

47

48 I had another comment but I forgot what  
49 it was, excuse me.

50



1 So go ahead, continue.

2

3 MS. JULIANUS: I think that that  
4 concludes what I wanted to bring up at the meeting.  
5 Yeah, I mean our report, since you don't have it in  
6 front of you, it, you know, includes our standard  
7 updates from all our different programs, mining, sand  
8 and gravel, and fisheries but I hit the big points, I  
9 think.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I remember what my  
12 question was. Have you reevaluated the MiddleFork  
13 moose trend count area as far as size to incorporate  
14 statistically valid area to get appropriate bull/cow  
15 ratios.

16

17 MS. JULIANUS: Not at this time.  
18 Actually for this year -- it is something we've  
19 evaluated to the extent that, you know, we know we want  
20 to continue doing it. I just talked to Glenn Stout and  
21 he thought that it was good to, you know, continue  
22 doing. But for this year we're actually not going to  
23 be able to do the trend counts because of the planning  
24 effort. We're going to have a bunch of planning  
25 meetings in November. So I have not gotten that far,  
26 as far as revising, you know, the boundaries for that  
27 trend count.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would  
30 encourage.....

31

32 MS. JULIANUS: But I know it needs to  
33 be done.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would encourage  
36 BLM to explore evaluating that -- using a statistically  
37 valid methodology working with the Alaska Department of  
38 Fish and Game to get a statistically valid trend count  
39 for that area so that we get more of an accurate  
40 bull/cow ratio because of harvest within the Dalton  
41 Highway Corridor.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 And so that's the end of your update.

46

47 MS. JULIANUS: Yep.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate  
50 that Erin.

1 MS. JULIANUS: Yeah, thank you.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I also wanted to  
4 acknowledge that the BLM comes and provides Federal  
5 permits to the community members in my village and I  
6 want to thank you for coming to the village to issue  
7 those permits. And so we need to have good harvest  
8 data and we do need to get those permits and I  
9 appreciate you coming up.  
10  
11 MS. JULIANUS: And I will say that I've  
12 been really grateful, you know, the three years now  
13 that I've been doing this, the reporting on all of  
14 those hunts has been great, everybody's been really  
15 timely in getting those reports to me, so thank you for  
16 that.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Erin.  
19  
20 MS. JULIANUS: Thanks.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to  
23 move to the National Park Service. Are you still on  
24 the line there Marcy.  
25  
26 MS. OKADA: Hi, Jack, I'm still on the  
27 line.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You can go  
30 ahead with your report.  
31  
32 MS. OKADA: I just want to ask if Zach  
33 was able to hand out the written update from Gates of  
34 the Arctic.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do have that.  
37 One was a study evaluating potential economic effects  
38 of an industrial road on subsistence of North Central  
39 Alaska by Kyle Joly and other authors and then we also  
40 have your update on caribou, bears, et cetera.  
41  
42 Go ahead.  
43  
44 MS. OKADA: I'll just quickly go over  
45 the written update.  
46  
47 Data was collected from GPS collared  
48 caribou from both the Teshekpuk Herd and the Western  
49 Arctic Herd, and this study focused on how the Red Dog  
50 Mine affected the autumn migration of both herds.

1 Results showed that individual caribou could be delayed  
2 up to about 30 days. They would hesitate when they  
3 came up to the road and then eventually once they  
4 crossed the road, they would speed up to make up for  
5 the delayed time. And so that was written in a  
6 biological -- in the Journal of Biological  
7 Conservation.

8

9                   For bears, in 2015, there was a study  
10 GPS'ing grizzly bears along the proposed corridor to  
11 the Ambler Mining District. The field work component  
12 of this project is slowly winding down. The collars  
13 will drop off around July 2017 and then data analysis  
14 will begin on the study. Information collected, it's  
15 looking at movement, denning characteristics, diets and  
16 health of grizzly bears prior to the proposed corridor  
17 to the Ambler Mining District.

18

19                   In regards to dall sheep the Park  
20 Service surveyed areas around Anaktuvuk Pass, and the  
21 Itkillik Preserve area of Gates of the Arctic this past  
22 summer, in July. Survey results indicate that total  
23 and adult sheep numbers remain low but relatively  
24 stable in the Itkillik area but numbers were  
25 drastically lower in the Anaktuvuk Pass area, compared  
26 with 2015.

27

28                   This decline is observed in areas that  
29 -- in the areas that were surveyed in 2013 and 2014.  
30 Surveys were not conducted in 2016 in the southern  
31 portion of Gates but the results from the 2015 survey  
32 across the entire Park and Preserve indicated that  
33 there were 25 percent fewer sheep when you compare it  
34 to 2010 survey results. The decline was more  
35 pronounced in the northern portion of Gates of the  
36 Arctic versus the southern portion. Park Service is  
37 considering some ecological studies of sheep and their  
38 habitat in the northeastern portion of Gates of the  
39 Arctic and will be collaborating with Arctic National  
40 Wildlife Refuge, BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and  
41 Game, as well as with local communities.

42

43                   Park Service is also working with  
44 hunters in all of the resident zone communities for  
45 Gates of the Arctic in order to collect harvest  
46 reporting information.

47

48                   We are asking the Western Interior RAC  
49 if there are any specific biological questions that  
50 they would like to see addressed in regards to dall

1 sheep.

2

3 So that's kind of a question we're  
4 posing to the RACs.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Personally I can't  
7 think of any specific -- are you doing any pathogen --  
8 are you still doing pathogen analysis of herds. They  
9 were doing some nose swabs and so forth for those sheep  
10 populations. And is your collaborative work going to  
11 entail deploying telemetry on any of the sheep in that  
12 Anaktuvuk Pass area.

13

14 MS. OKADA: I can go ahead and answer  
15 those questions but I think I'm going to ask if Kumi  
16 Rattenbury might be on this call.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you there Kumi?

19

20

21 (No comments)

22

23

24 MS. OKADA: And if not I'll go ahead  
25 and answer the question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: She didn't pipe in  
28 so go ahead Marcy.

29

30 MS. OKADA: So with regard to pathogen  
31 data being collected from dall sheep populations, Kumi  
32 is working with Anaktuvuk Pass sheep hunters to try and  
33 collect organ samples that would be submitted for  
34 testing for disease. And then sheep pellets have also  
35 been collected in the past to look at diet analysis,  
36 the diet of populations within Gates.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

39

40 MS. OKADA: So then I'll just continue  
41 with this update.

42

43 There was one fire within Gates of the  
44 Arctic this past summer and it was in the Kobuk Boot  
45 section of Gates of the Arctic. It was named the  
46 Maniilaq River II fire and it was burning north of  
47 Narvak Lake on July 17th.

48

49 In regards to the Ambler Mining  
50 District access project, on June 30th, 2016, the Alaska

1 Industrial Development and Export Authority submitted  
2 information that was requested by various Federal  
3 agencies as part of their initial right-of-way  
4 application review. As of August 30th the application  
5 is now considered sufficient to allow the right-of-way  
6 permitting process to move forward. The Bureau of Land  
7 Management is preparing to publish a notice of intent  
8 to conduct an environmental impact statement for this  
9 project and will be developing a schedule over the next  
10 month or so.

11  
12 For Gates of the Arctic, we are not  
13 required to do an environmental impact statement as  
14 written in ANILCA, we are required to do an  
15 environmental and economic analysis. And so we will be  
16 piggybacking off of the EIS public meeting schedule as  
17 Federal agencies go out to the communities to share  
18 information.

19  
20 There was a study related to the Ambler  
21 Mining District Road, it was looking at the economic  
22 effects of the proposed road on local communities and  
23 it was published as a journal article. And within the  
24 results section of that journal article it looked at  
25 what kind of economic impacts would occur on  
26 subsistence in those southern communities south of  
27 Gates of the Arctic.

28  
29 And then lastly the Subsistence  
30 Resource Commission will be -- they had held an  
31 informational meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass on April 26th.  
32 Main topics of discussion were new Federal subsistence  
33 wildlife regulations, cultural resource project updates  
34 and access to Native allotments. Our next SRC meeting  
35 will be scheduled in Fairbanks for November 15th to  
36 16th and as you folks already know, both Jack Reakoff  
37 and Pollock Simon, Sr., are on our Subsistence Resource  
38 Commission.

39  
40 And that's it.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,  
43 Marcy. Appreciate your update. Any questions for  
44 Gates of the Arctic on Marcy's report.

45  
46 (No comments)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, that  
49 was fairly thorough and so we will -- I will look  
50 forward to engaging these issues more thoroughly at the

1 SRC meeting.

2

3 Thank you, Marcy.

4

5 MS. OKADA: Thanks.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Now, we're  
8 going to move ahead to the Alaska Department of Fish  
9 and Game. Josh, do you want to come up.

10

11 MR. PIERCE: Yes. So I kind of got  
12 thrown up here earlier today without really getting an  
13 opportunity to introduce myself. I know a lot of you.  
14 But I'm Josh Pierce with Alaska Department of Fish and  
15 Game, and I'm the new area biologist. A lot of you  
16 might have known Roger Seavoy, he retired this summer,  
17 June 30th was his last day so he hasn't been around for  
18 awhile. But I was the assistant out here with Roger  
19 and he and I had been out here for about 10 years. So  
20 during that time I've gotten to be pretty familiar, you  
21 know, with a lot of the folks in the area and a lot of  
22 the issues so I'm glad to still be here and glad to be  
23 here in this new role.

24

25 Right now we are right in the middle of  
26 interviewing to rehire my old job, the assistant  
27 position, and so we've had our first round of  
28 interviews and we're hopeful -- well, I was hopeful to  
29 have somebody hired awhile ago but hopefully in  
30 November sometime we'll get somebody on board.

31

32 We accomplished a lot this last year.  
33 We're a real small office. One big loss, Roger and I  
34 are both pilots and because of that we were able to  
35 accomplish a lot of surveys, so we'll be down a pilot  
36 now, unless we luck out and hire another one. But  
37 that'll be a big change for this office. We'll have to  
38 figure out how to readjust with that to be able to  
39 continue with the surveys that we typically do in a  
40 year.

41

42 Like Bruce said, we were able to pull  
43 off a survey in 21E this year. And we got a good  
44 survey down there. We just pulled it off before the  
45 snows melted. And we also tried to do a survey in 19A  
46 in the Aniak drainage, which is kind of the western  
47 half of the unit. We really continue to struggle down  
48 there with snow. That's our big new issue, it's just  
49 not snowing like it used to. And so we need snow to  
50 count moose and we haven't been able to do that. So

We're going to try again this winter to  
3 pull that one off, but in addition now, the eastern  
4 half, the Holitna drainage is also due. So things  
5 start to pile up as we don't accomplish one. We  
6 typically do that survey late February, early March in  
7 the hopes it will have snow, that gives it more chance  
8 to snow. You look out the window right now and it's  
9 just amazing the weather we're having, we'll be lucky  
10 to do our surveys in November coming up. And we do  
11 have big plans for surveys in November here around  
12 McGrath, which Ray would be real interested in. We  
13 haven't surveyed the larger area in awhile. What we've  
14 really focused on is the intensive management area real  
15 close to McGrath, it used to be called the Emma at one  
16 point, it's the Bear Controlled Focus Area now, and  
17 we've had a real long, consistent history of being able  
18 to survey that area, which has been great.

19  
20 In 19A, back to that real quickly,  
21 we're real hopeful, we put a lot of effort into  
22 intensive management in that area and our local ACs  
23 have been very supportive of those actions, you guys  
24 have been real supportive of those actions in the past.  
25 And we've invested a lot down there so we're real  
26 anxious to get that survey done and hopeful that we're  
27 going to see enough moose that we might be able to  
28 reopen a season there sometime in the near future. As  
29 you may or may not know the eastern half of the unit's  
30 been closed entirely to moose hunting since 2006, and  
31 there's been a Tier II hunt in the western portion with  
32 also a Federal hunt that takes place on Federal lands.  
33 So pretty limited hunting opportunities in 19A at this  
34 time.

35  
36 With that, moose have been really well  
37 in this area overall. I'll just speak generally, we've  
38 had several mild winters in a row now. We had our  
39 highest count ever in 21E, highest count ever last year  
40 around here. I'm not the AB in Unit 18 but on the  
41 Yukon River, the lower Yukon, we now have a two moose  
42 bag limit, moose numbers are just going through the  
43 roof there. The same on the Kuskokwim moose numbers  
44 are really starting to climb. The demographics are  
45 phenomenal. You know they've got young moose having  
46 twins, lots of twins, big calves, just good signs of a  
47 growing moose population.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And bull/cow ratio.  
50

1 MR. PIERCE: In the Bethel area?

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In 19A.

4

5 MR. PIERCE: 19A. We -- it's been very  
6 high, especially in the Holitna where we haven't had  
7 any hunting, it's been between 60 and 70 bulls per 100  
8 cows. Kind of like Brad mentioned earlier, you know,  
9 it almost looks like an un hunted population, which it  
10 is.

11

12 So bull/cow ratios are great.

13

14 And with all of that we anticipate that  
15 moose numbers have improved in 19A, we just got to get  
16 out there and document it though before we can even  
17 begin to consider proposals on how to reopen that area.  
18 So first things first, we need to survey.

19

20 I'd like to definitely acknowledge our  
21 Federal partners. You know, we, in McGrath, maybe are  
22 a little unique in the state but we get along with our  
23 Federal counterparts. We work real with BLM, Bruce and  
24 the guys at Innoko, so we've had a really positive  
25 relationship with those. It's been very constructive.  
26 And with us all working together we're able to  
27 accomplish a lot more than any of us would be able to  
28 on our own.

29

30 Fun to talk to about something other  
31 than moose occasionally, and we got wood bison now.  
32 That's a big deal. They seem to be doing real well out  
33 there. We had the first -- you know last year calves  
34 were born in the wild but they were bred in captivity.  
35 This year we had our first cohort of calves bred and  
36 born in the wild, so that's exciting. Most of the  
37 bison have really stayed in the area. They've gone up  
38 around Holichuk, down south to Holy Cross, some of gone  
39 further south than that even, but really maintained in  
40 that area for the most part. One cow went all the way  
41 up by Galena and she's been there now for quite some  
42 time, maybe you've seen her or not but I'm sure people  
43 have talked about that, and one cow is down on the  
44 Kuskokwim below Bethel even. So two of those animals,  
45 not bad out of 130 kind of couldn't deal with the whole  
46 relocation thing and they took a walk. The rest of  
47 them really have settled in though to their new home.  
48 So wood bison are doing well. They've had -- you know,  
49 last year they had an easy winter which was a good way  
50 for them to start to learn their new territory and



1 hopefully things continue well there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was their  
4 calf/cow ratios this year?

5

6 MR. PIERCE: You know I don't know  
7 exactly what that is. We've got -- Tom Seeton is the  
8 project biologist and he's really got a lot of those  
9 details. So unfortunately I don't have real specifics,  
10 but I thought you might be interested in just a general  
11 overview.

12

13 And I'll even mention Farewell bison as  
14 well. You know, of course, there are Plains Bison Herd  
15 that we've had now in this area since the '60s and  
16 their numbers have kind of come and gone but, again,  
17 with these easy winters, there was a big burn out there  
18 in 2010 and 2012 which promoted a lot of grass and  
19 sedge type of habitat and they've also done well. So  
20 their numbers are the highest they've been in quite  
21 awhile also. We probably have about 450 or so Plains  
22 bison out there right now.

23

24 I thought I'd talk about sheep as well,  
25 something else a little different for us. But we have  
26 been able to conduct our kind of trend composition  
27 surveys, I'll call them, for sheep. Most years we've  
28 been weathered out a couple of times, but 2013, like a  
29 lot of places we had a -- noticed a real big decline.  
30 Lamb production that year was extremely poor and ewe  
31 survival over the winter didn't seem like it was very  
32 good either, so we saw a pretty big drop in our sheep  
33 numbers. Since then the numbers have started to climb  
34 back up. They're still not as good as they were prior  
35 to that -- 2010 was probably one of our best surveys  
36 that we had, but they have improved and they certainly  
37 seem to at least be stable, and so that's encouraging.

38

39 And on the hunting front, something I  
40 thought you guys would be interested in as well, but  
41 the Board of Game, two years ago, passed a winter sheep  
42 hunt. Ray was real active in that and the village of  
43 Nikolai were really involved with that. And the idea  
44 was to try to come up with some better opportunity for  
45 some subsistence harvest of sheep. Currently in 19C,  
46 the fall season is really what has been in place for a  
47 long time. So this was an opportunity for people to  
48 get out there in the winter, snowmachine access pretty  
49 much, airplanes are prohibited and we have a real small  
50 quota on it, it's only up to five sheep. They got to

1 be three-quarter curl or smaller, they can't be double  
2 broomed. The idea was to avoid competition with the  
3 fall hunt. And they can take ewes as well, as long as  
4 they don't have a lamb accompanying them. So a great  
5 opportunity for residents to get out there and harvest  
6 some sheep meat. And like I said, Nikolai, that was  
7 traditionally a really important activity for them. So  
8 that hunt's been going very well. The first year we  
9 had two sheep harvested. Last year we had three sheep  
10 harvested, which is right in the ball park of what we  
11 were hoping for. Very tightly regulated hunt as well.  
12 We only allow a certain number of people in the field  
13 at a time so we don't end up with overharvest.

14  
15                   The last thing I'd like to touch on and  
16 I mentioned this briefly early, I got a little bit out  
17 of place with it, but intensive management, and we've  
18 put a lot into some of our predator/prey research here  
19 in McGrath, in particular. We've had an ongoing  
20 project now since 2002, which was the year prior to  
21 bear and wolf removals and the Department has really  
22 invested a lot into that research program. This spring  
23 we just collared 64 calves and again looked at calf  
24 mortality, which as you guys know, it's all about bears  
25 in the summertime. We also did a bear survey as well,  
26 it was the fourth bear survey that we've done since  
27 bear removals. Bear numbers have very rapidly  
28 recovered after the initial removal. By -- 2004 was  
29 the last year of the removal and by 2007 the bears were  
30 70 percent recovered already in a real short window.  
31 They've, since then, by 2010 they were fully recovered  
32 and they continue to remain at that level. However,  
33 during that time moose numbers increased quite a bit  
34 and while they're still killing a fair number of  
35 calves, proportionately it's less now, so overall we  
36 have calf survival that is certainly better than what  
37 it was. You know before bear removals we were looking  
38 at about 40 percent or so, summer survi -- or annual  
39 survival of calves with most of that mortality taking  
40 place in the summer and post-removal it was 70, to even  
41 as high as I believe 80 percent over summer in the best  
42 year. But typically 60 percent or so is kind of -- 50  
43 to 60 percent is where we've settled into now so it's  
44 still about 20 percent better than what it was pre-bear  
45 removal.

46  
47                   So like I said the Department's  
48 invested quite a bit into this and we've been really  
49 interested in following up on it because of what we did  
50 in 19A. As you guys may know we did bear removals

1 there also in 2013 and '14 and we didn't do the same  
2 level of research there, but we really focused on what  
3 we learned here and applied it down there.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The increase in bear  
6 population, that was primarily relatively young  
7 dispersal, they have a less experience level with  
8 predation, is there -- what, is that age class fairly  
9 young, the bears that you have there right now?

10

11 MR. PIERCE: At first I would imagine  
12 you're exactly right. It was a high level dispersal  
13 and a lot of young animals moving back in, but now when  
14 we -- the bears that we capture and are counting, it  
15 looks like, you know, a normal population like you'd  
16 see other places. We have big large adult males, you  
17 know, big adult females with various size litters and  
18 stuff like that. But certainly I'd imagine there was a  
19 learning curve there too with those bears immigrating  
20 into the area and relearning how to be effective  
21 predators on moose.

22

23 And, really, that's all I have.

24

25 Those were just a few of the  
26 highlights, I guess, from our area for the year. There  
27 were certainly many other things that took place but  
28 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's really great  
31 information, appreciate that.

32

33 Any comments.

34

35 MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thank  
36 you. You know, I was born and raised there in Kaltag.  
37 Okay, as soon as the -- as soon as Kaltag started  
38 getting the moose migration from the Koyukuk River  
39 moving into the Kaiyuh Flats, behind Kaltag the caribou  
40 was very thick. But after the moose migration into the  
41 Kaiyuh area and along the Yukon, it seemed like the  
42 caribou moved away. I'm not saying, you know, that --  
43 I'm not a biologist or anything like that but at any  
44 rate, you know, that's what I think. But I also think,  
45 too, with the introduction of the wood bison, will that  
46 play an important part on the moose population, I mean  
47 it's too early to tell, but I'd like to, you know, find  
48 -- to do some kind of research and watch that thing  
49 because I think with the introduction of an animal, a  
50 species that's not here is going to play an important

1 part on the moose population, whatever we got in the  
2 area.

3

4                   And, you know, it's early to tell with  
5 the Shageluk, you know, where they transported the wood  
6 bison, but anyhow I just wanted to know if any -- you  
7 know anything that you know that's in regard to that  
8 regard.

9

10                   Thank you.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Fred.

13

14                   Comment.

15

16                   MR. PIERCE: Yeah, sure. As far as the  
17 caribou go, I don't have any information about that in  
18 your area but that's certainly an interesting  
19 observation.

20

21                   Your point though is right on and that  
22 was a real concern of a lot of people, was, what impact  
23 are these bison going to have on our moose because they  
24 do have -- you know that's their abundant resource that  
25 they really rely on in that area and what we -- what  
26 the Department looked at was information from other  
27 areas. In Canada they've reintroduced wood bison to  
28 quite a few places and they've done a lot of studies  
29 that showed no negative impact on waterfowl, on the  
30 moose, you know, various other things. And then here,  
31 at home, in Alaska, we've had quite a bit of experience  
32 now with these Plains Bison Herds, like I mentioned,  
33 the Farewell Bison Herd, just about 60 or so miles  
34 southeast of here, when those animals were introduced  
35 in the '60s, you know, there was no negative impact on  
36 moose in that area either. So we did have some direct  
37 case studies to look at.

38

39                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Fred.

40

41                   MR. ALEXIE: Okay, yeah, thank you  
42 again, Chair. Is there a copy of that Canadian study  
43 done, someplace, and if so I'd like to see a copy of  
44 that please.

45

46                   MR. PIERCE: Yeah, so I could certainly  
47 ask Tom Seeton about that. Like I said he's been the  
48 project biologist for this and there have been piles of  
49 documents and everything else compiled that went into  
50 this release of the wood bison.

1 MR. ALEXIE: Maybe you can shorten down  
2 on the pile.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. PIERCE: Yeah, okay.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Send the  
9 conclusions.

10  
11 MR. PIERCE: Who would I send that to?

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You can  
14 telephonically transmit it to Zach and he can hardcopy  
15 it to Fred here.

16  
17 MR. PIERCE: Okay. I would imagine Tom  
18 -- Tom has answered that very question many times so he  
19 might have a great synopsis of it for folks.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Ray, go ahead.

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: Josh, you might comment  
24 on diet. It seems to have a completely different diet  
25 than the moose so there isn't competition; is that  
26 true?

27  
28 MR. PIERCE: Yeah. That's in large  
29 part very true. Bison are grazers and moose are  
30 browsers. They're eating different foods. That  
31 doesn't mean bison aren't munching on some things, you  
32 know, some of the shrubs and stuff as well, but that's  
33 -- in Farewell there was a dietary study done and when  
34 they are eating some of those other plants that moose  
35 overlap with a little bit, it's in the summer when  
36 they're very abundant and available. And then in the  
37 winter they go to burrowing their head in the snow and  
38 you see them and, you know, their faces are covered in  
39 it and they're eating grasses below the snow and moose  
40 aren't doing that at all.

41  
42 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair. There was one  
43 in embarrassment in the study on moose when they were  
44 tagging moose they inadvertently started a fire when  
45 they were chasing the cows away and we had it burn  
46 through the black spruce out here but we've got a  
47 tremendous blueberry patch now, and this year there  
48 were blueberries everywhere and the moose have moved in  
49 there too so it changed the habitat.

50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.  
4  
5 MR. GERVAIS: So there were 64 bison  
6 calves born this spring, what kind of predation  
7 occurred over the summer on that.  
8  
9 MR. PIERCE: Okay. Maybe I misspoke or  
10 maybe you confused what I said, but we collared 64  
11 moose calves here in McGrath. We were looking at calf  
12 survival, that was with moose. And as far as the bison  
13 go, we -- there has been no documented predation on the  
14 wood bison so far and, again, we've got a long history  
15 with Farewell bison and there is very low levels of  
16 predation that seems to occur. It's not like moose and  
17 caribou. The bison seem to be regulated primarily  
18 through other forces, but predation doesn't seem to be  
19 a major factor on bison.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, they're real  
22 good -- they're bovine, they gang up on predators.  
23 Even horses. There was a guy that used to be on the  
24 John River, he has seven horses, I saw an eight and a  
25 half bear within a few hundred yards of those horses,  
26 he didn't bother them at all, he was killing moose  
27 right and left around there, but they don't like to  
28 deal with these herd animals that defend themselves  
29 like horses and bison. That's the good thing about  
30 bison, they're kind of bulletproof for predation like  
31 that.  
32  
33 MR. PIERCE: Yeah, and with that one of  
34 the positives for people is you can harvest them at a  
35 much higher rate than you can moose or caribou. So  
36 they can sustain a lot higher harvest rate.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Like 10 percent?  
39  
40 MR. PIERCE: Like 10 percent is not a  
41 bad number in Farewell and in Delta even, it's 20  
42 percent at least and that barely keeps the cap on it.  
43 So up to 20 percent even where the food is real good.  
44 And they seem -- for whatever reason they seem to have  
45 things a little easier in Delta than they do out at  
46 Farewell.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
49  
50 Any other questions.

1 Robert.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
4 Remember earlier I said I would poll the tribes in the  
5 GASH area, Unit 21E on proposal 75, and I just gave  
6 Josh all what the chiefs text me. I gave him  
7 information to how the tribes felt about this.

8

9 Anvik Tribe would like to keep the  
10 State hunting season as of September 1st -- September  
11 5th, not September 1st, keep it as it was.

12

13 Also the Grayling Tribe, I talked to  
14 their chief, he talked to their council also, and they  
15 came up and said they want to keep it September 5th.  
16 In fact, if they had their way they'd like to take 10  
17 days off that hunt, they said, so, because they do  
18 compete with people up the Innoko River that come in to  
19 do hunting up there. So that's their chief.

20

21 Shageluk wants to keep it the same,  
22 September 5th.

23

24 Holy Cross right now is just getting  
25 into the -- they're having an election, they're going  
26 to elect a new chief, so this is coming up and I told  
27 them I would give them Josh's number so they can call  
28 him so we -- and talking to one of the tribal members,  
29 and I think they said they'd like to keep it September  
30 5th but they will get back later to Josh.

31

32 So, Mr. Chairman, we got three out of  
33 five tribes that oppose this September 1st opening, or  
34 Proposal 75. So I'm sure we're going to have all four  
35 tribes oppose Proposal 75.

36

37 Thank you. Thank you, Josh, I really  
38 appreciate your time.

39

40 Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for checking  
43 on that, Robert. I will restate, again, though, that  
44 the lands that they would primarily hunting on would be  
45 their own corporation lands, which are closed --  
46 they're not competing with anybody else, there  
47 shouldn't be anybody else hunting there and so I want  
48 the public to be aware that that's what that proposal  
49 is applying to, is the people's own lands, not somebody  
50 else's lands, you're not competing on the Refuge, the

1 State regulations apply to the corporation lands and  
2 you have to have State seasons.

3

4 So that was my position.

5

6 The corporations and the tribes can  
7 make their opinion about their -- and if they want to  
8 maintain September 5, great, but my feeling was that it  
9 gave additional opportunity to local people. That was  
10 my feeling on that, on their corp lands.

11

12 MR. WALKER: Yes, we -- Mr. Chairman, I  
13 mean they do understand that because they all each have  
14 to write up a bison policy on their corporate lands  
15 also so they're well aware of what is and what works,  
16 so they know what it is. So -- because this is one of  
17 the issues that we brought up when we did bring up, you  
18 know, who has the right to jurisdiction over their land  
19 and the State pretty much, when we did sit down with  
20 the bison meetings in Anchorage, that the corp would  
21 draw up -- they would get either a big game hunter or  
22 somebody to do the hunting for these people, but they  
23 would have to pay the corporation to transport and  
24 trespass on their lands. So there is a lot of knowing  
25 what really goes on out on corporate land.

26

27 You know I appreciate your concern,  
28 too, Jack, thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point I  
31 would encourage the tribes to contact and comment on  
32 the proposal at the GASH. See the GASH is the one who  
33 made the proposal. So they need to get on the record  
34 what the GASH Advisory Committee and make those  
35 comments also to the State Board of Game, because if  
36 that's not what they really want and GASH is acting on  
37 their own and not really providing what the local  
38 people want, then they need to make -- I would  
39 encourage them to make comments.

40

41 That's important to the process of the  
42 Board's deliberations.

43

44 MR. WALKER: Yes, it is. Yes, we  
45 understand that. But we have a conflict here and we're  
46 not going to open it here at this meeting, thank you,  
47 Jack.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, I was  
50 just commenting.



1                   So thanks so much, Josh. I appreciate  
2 all the work and congratulations on the new AB position  
3 here.

4  
5                   I always enjoyed Roger's pictures on  
6 FaceBook of bison, are you going to make a McGrath AB  
7 FaceBook page so we can see what's going on with this  
8 bisons?

9  
10                  MR. PIERCE: Well, I'm still not quite  
11 that sophisticated, I don't do FaceBook yet. But I  
12 guess if Roger could figure it out, maybe I can.

13  
14                  (Laughter)

15  
16                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If Roger can do it,  
17 anybody can do it.

18  
19                  (Laughter)

20  
21                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So appreciate that.

22  
23                  And so we have OSM report.

24  
25                  MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You  
26 have your choice, do you want the full blown report or  
27 would you like the abbreviated report on Staff updates  
28 for OSM. I would assume the abbreviated report.

29  
30                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, we're getting  
31 towards dinnertime.

32  
33                  MR. PAPPAS: You bet. So Chuck  
34 Ardizzone moved on, as you're aware. His position, the  
35 Assistant Deputy Regional Director is open, they've  
36 been recruiting for that for quite some time. There  
37 have been some challenges but it's in full tilt, it's  
38 in the process of being hired.

39  
40                  Our outreach person, Deborah Coble, she  
41 was fantastic, she moved on with the Park Service, they  
42 grabbed her from us and that's maybe some of the  
43 reasons the outreach isn't getting all out, maybe some  
44 of the tribal consultation information is not -- I  
45 don't know, but once they have that position filled,  
46 all those responsibilities will be put on one person to  
47 make sure it happens and information gets out. We've  
48 been farming it out amongst other Staff.

49  
50                  Melinda Burke left. Of course, she got

1 a great promotion. She's a tribal relations program  
2 manager down at the US Forest Service in Southeast  
3 Alaska, down in Juneau.

4

5                 Scott Ayers here, he gave you a  
6 presentation. He was hired as a fisheries biologist.  
7 He has worked in this area running crews on the  
8 Kuskokwim and Yukon River. He also recently was the  
9 Fish and Game programming process, was over there for  
10 five years, he's already received commendations and  
11 awards for his performance in the short time with us.  
12 So he's a very good fisheries biologist and he is aware  
13 of this area. He has a bachelors and Masters from  
14 Fairbanks.

15

16                 Gary DeCossas was hired as a fisheries  
17 biometrician, he provides statistical expertise and  
18 assistance with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
19 Program and fisheries regulatory proposals. He's  
20 originally from the Louisiana Department of Fish and  
21 Wildlife -- or Wildlife and Fisheries. He's done some  
22 fantastic modeling down there, came up with some new  
23 software and programs that they use for complimentary  
24 krill surveys to estimate real-time estimates of  
25 fisheries, landings, angler effort and harvest rates.  
26 And we're really looking forward to incorporating them  
27 into the process here of understanding and bridging the  
28 gaps in some of the fisheries management issues and  
29 complexities that we have. We have a lot of data but  
30 we need to learn how to apply that.

31

32                 We have Srinath Doraiswamy. He was  
33 hired as our IT oracle database administrator. He's a  
34 superstar when it comes to databases and he has a long  
35 list of commendations and what have you, and he came up  
36 from Texas. And he's looking forward to exploring  
37 Alaska. I'm uncertain he's seen below zero yet so this  
38 will be fun.

39

40                 Frank Harris. A lot of folks here know  
41 Frank Harris. He was employed at  
42 Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko Wildlife Refuge, he starts on  
43 Monday at OSM. It might be a loss for your area but  
44 it's a huge gain for us. 14 years with the Fish and  
45 Wildlife Service, bachelor degree at Central Michigan  
46 and he'll finish his Masters from Western Virginia  
47 University May 2017.

48

49                 A new wildlife biologist, Megan  
50 Klosterman, she's a GIS specialist, she came up from

1 Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Colorado.  
2 She's done a lot of work in diverse, variety of  
3 stakeholders on complex natural resource issues,  
4 prepare technical writing document, really neat  
5 resource surveys, grazing plans, grant proposals, a lot  
6 of remote work and we're glad to have her on.

7  
8 Dr. Joshua Ream over here joined the  
9 Anthropology Division. This is a very interesting  
10 individual. Cultural Anthropologist June 2016, Dr.  
11 Ream was interdisciplinary scientist, anthropologist  
12 and academic -- professional background of folks in  
13 relationships between humans and the natural world.  
14 His doctoral research involved use of local and  
15 traditional knowledge, citizen science and service  
16 learning programs to document species diversity in  
17 distribution in Alaska specifically for amphibians.  
18 Dr. Ream has spent the last five years working for the  
19 Subsistence Resource Specialist for the Division of  
20 Subsistence over at Fish and Game, and they're still  
21 mad at us. His academic professional trajectory has  
22 shaped his understanding of the traditional and  
23 customary uses of wild resources in Alaska and  
24 cultivated his dedication to supporting subsistence  
25 priority of rural Alaskans.

26  
27 Michelle St. Peters is a grants  
28 management specialist. Her prior assignment was Fish  
29 and Wildlife, financial assistance program for about  
30 eight years. Prior to that she was with eight years  
31 with the Fish and Wildlife Migratory Management Program  
32 -- excuse me, for the Migratory Birds Program.

33  
34 Khris Santos was hired as an IT  
35 specialist. We split him half with us, working at OSM  
36 IT, and the other half running OSM permit databases.

37  
38  
39 Sabrina Schmidt is our new  
40 receptionist. Previously worked for the military Joint  
41 Elmendorf, Ft. Richardson with the automated assistance  
42 child development center.

43  
44 Zach Stevenson, who's that guy -- oh,  
45 Zach Stevenson was hired as.....

46  
47 (Laughter)

48  
49 MR. PAPPAS: .....a Council Coordinator  
50 and has been assigned to the Western Interior RAC here.

1 Previously employed at Northwest Arctic Borough as a  
2 subsistence mapping coordinator where he worked for the  
3 last five years on an extensive project of maps of  
4 subsistence activities, resources Northwest Arctic  
5 Borough. The final document, 800 page report requiring  
6 extensive travel to villages and stakeholders  
7 development will be provided with incredible levels of  
8 detail for use by land managers. And prior to that he  
9 worked as campaign manager for the State House Campaign  
10 and developed a real option for Planned Parenthood, the  
11 Great Northwest and a program director for Renewable  
12 Resource Coalition.

13

14 Jarred Stone, another interesting hire.  
15 Is a graduate Pathways Program student training in  
16 fisheries division. Jared did his undergrad in  
17 fisheries management, Northwest College in Wisconsin.  
18 Came to Alaska to work as a fisheries (indiscernible)  
19 with Fish and Wildlife and other agencies. He's an AP  
20 right now -- he's accepted AP and doing a Masters in  
21 Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences where he studying  
22 Eastern Bering Sea juvenile chinook salmon stock origin  
23 and the role of diet on growth and condition. That's  
24 very important and very pertinent to what we do, what  
25 goes out on the surveys, collects all the infor -- that  
26 collects juveniles, I think, with Dr. Howard, of the  
27 Department of Fish and Game, this research will lead to  
28 a Masters Degree and will enhance our knowledge of  
29 marine life phase of juvenile chinook and how important  
30 a diet is, condition for pre-winter survival, which  
31 they're finding out is a very sensitive time in their  
32 life.

33

34 Katya Wessels, hired as a Council  
35 Coordinator. She's been assigned to Eastern Interior.  
36 She's from the National Park Service with the Beringa  
37 Program specialist for 16 years and has managed  
38 numerous cooperative agreements and facilitated several  
39 annual meetings to carry it out, polar bears,  
40 commission 99, interpreter, historian, Smithsonian  
41 Institute National Park Service.

42

43 And we have one last person who was  
44 hired, we got a new Federal subsistence resource  
45 specialist, he's going to be a Coordinator III and he's  
46 going to be stationed in Shemya and the position starts  
47 next Tuesday, we're pretty excited about the person  
48 responsible for the Western Aleutians and the  
49 individual's name is -- Robert Walker.

50

1 (Laughter)  
2  
3 MR. PAPPAS: He's starting Tuesday out  
4 in the Aleutians.  
5  
6 (Laughter)  
7  
8 MR. PAPPAS: I'm just kidding.  
9  
10 (Laughter)  
11  
12 MR. PAPPAS: Today we have 38 of 44  
13 positions filled. Two of those positions that are  
14 empty are students. And for the first time in over  
15 five years we have a full bench, it's great. It's  
16 great to be there.  
17  
18 (Applause)  
19  
20 MR. PAPPAS: I just want to give you  
21 guys a head's up, and thank you very much.  
22  
23 Mr. Chair.  
24  
25 And that's how I used to make  
26 presentations, thank you.  
27  
28 (Laughter)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: George can talk like  
31 an auctioneer and I'm really appreciative to OSM on  
32 filling all those positions with extremely qualified  
33 people. Somebody's been infiltrating the State Staff  
34 and stealing a lot of good individuals. So I'm real  
35 happy to see that, OSM has been behind the eight ball  
36 on people moving out and not enough backfilling behind  
37 that and I'm real happy to see them have real competent  
38 Staff at OSM.  
39  
40 Welcome on board our new Staff members.  
41  
42 And so thank you so much, George, for  
43 speaking so quickly.  
44  
45 (Laughter)  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going  
48 to move on to Page 169 to confirm our winter meeting  
49 for 2017, that's on Page 169.  
50

1                   The calendar, go ahead, Zach.

2

3                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 And I have noted, as was discussed previously, per the  
5 Northwest Arctic's RAC request for a joint winter 2017  
6 meeting with the Western Interior and North Slope and  
7 Seward Peninsula. The preference of this Council would  
8 be to hold a teleconference, which would be more  
9 efficient and less expensive, so I'll be following up  
10 with folks back in Anchorage to initiate that.

11

12                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I would like to have  
13 that teleconference in late July or -- or correction,  
14 late January -- well, mid-to-late January -- when's the  
15 Federal Subsistence Board meeting. We don't want to  
16 get Staff wound around the axle with that deal. But we  
17 want to -- after the Federal Subsistence Board we would  
18 like to have a teleconference with all four Regional  
19 Councils on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Management,  
20 that'll have occurred after the Western Arctic Caribou  
21 Herd work group meeting. It'll occur before the RAC  
22 meetings.

23

24                   And so what would be good dates for  
25 that Zach.

26

27                   MR. STEVENSON: To your question, Mr.  
28 Chair, the dates right now for the winter 2017 meetings  
29 would occur sometime between February and March of 2017  
30 and I understand that Mr. Vent had some information to  
31 share regarding the -- some potential conflicting dates  
32 in that timeframe.

33

34                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Darrel.

35

36                   MR. VENT: Yeah. I'm looking at our  
37 scheduled and on February 17th, in fact, it's the Board  
38 of Game meeting; is that correct?

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Board of Game starts  
41 on February 17th.

42

43                   MR. VENT: Okay. And it looks like our  
44 meeting is starting on February 21st so if we had any  
45 issues with the Board of Game, you know, any  
46 information that we would like to present, is that  
47 going to be a problem there.

48

49                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's why I was  
50 trying to cover Board proposals during this meeting

1 because we've already selected this February 21, 22 in  
2 Fairbanks.

3

4                   You had a comment, Zach.

5

6                   MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 I'm wondering if there was potential scheduling  
8 conflicts that Darrel had indicated, might there be a  
9 desire to move that meeting to early March, it looks  
10 like the week of March 8th through the 10th is open  
11 presently.

12

13                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's even less  
14 advantageous.

15

16                   MR. STEVENSON: Okay.

17

18                   MR. VENT: Yeah, because this is  
19 February and March is later.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. The State  
22 Board -- if some pressing, extremely pressing issue  
23 came up we could identify that at the beginning of our  
24 meeting, the Board will still be in session through the  
25 25th of February, we could still request, at least.....

26

27                   MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....an RC at the  
30 Board level, record copy at the Board level to make  
31 comments to the Board on any pressing issue that may  
32 come up, but I still feel it's advantageous to meet on  
33 February 21 and 22 in Fairbanks.

34

35                   The Board of Game meeting is in  
36 Fairbanks also.

37

38                   MR. COLLINS: Right. Mr. Chair.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

41

42                   MR. COLLINS: I think that would work.  
43 I'm on the Advisory Committee here and may be going,  
44 but they usually take testimony from the Board on the  
45 first opening of the meeting, so it would be 17 and 18  
46 and so on, or before our meeting.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, but you can  
49 still make comments to the Board, you just do it  
50 through a record copy.

1 MR. COLLINS: Oh, right, right.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if some big issue  
4 comes up we can still make comments to the Board. I  
5 tried to cover some of the more extreme issues that  
6 this Council should address. The Advisory Committees  
7 are going to meet before the Board of Game and so they  
8 can have -- the Advisory Committees could request the  
9 Western Interior to make specific comments on specific  
10 issues if those come up and so we can make -- still  
11 advise the Board while they're in session.  
12  
13 George, you had a comment.  
14  
15 MR. PAPPAS: I believe you were asking  
16 -- February 3rd is the Board of Game, comments are due  
17 for the Interior, the meeting's going to happen in  
18 Fairbanks.  
19  
20 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So yeah their  
23 comments are due long before that. So any comments  
24 that the Council made while we're in session we can  
25 still transmit those to the Board for a record copy  
26 process.  
27  
28 MR. GERVAIS: February 3rd, you said  
29 was the comment deadline.  
30  
31 MR. PAPPAS: Yes, close of business  
32 February 3rd, I believe, for the Board of Game,  
33 comments due for the Interior, yeah, the February Board  
34 of Game meeting in Fairbanks.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the ACs will  
37 visit those proposals and make their comments before  
38 that deadline. Those -- Ray's on the McGrath Advisory  
39 Committee.....  
40  
41 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: .....I'm on the  
44 Koyukuk Advisory Committee. Darrel's on the -- and  
45 so.....  
46  
47 MR. COLLINS: We've got four days  
48 before we meet on the 21st, if we go to Fairbanks, we  
49 could sit in on some of the meetings before, if it  
50 starts the 17th.



1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.  
2  
3 MR. COLLINS: Right.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah.  
6  
7 MR. COLLINS: I mean it's optional, but  
8 I mean we could and we could be there for the close,  
9 too.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm not willing to  
12 do that myself, I don't have time for that.  
13  
14 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I don't know if I  
15 will either.....  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can't do that.  
18  
19 MR. COLLINS: .....but we'll see.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Fred, are you on an  
22 Advisory Committee.  
23  
24 MR. ALEXIE: No.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Pollock is on  
27 the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee.  
28  
29 MR. SIMON: Yes.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you on the Ruby  
32 Advisory Committee.  
33  
34 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we do have AC  
37 members on this Council. If any AC member, when you  
38 attend your meeting, if you think that there's an issue  
39 that's pertinent for this Council to comment, we can --  
40 when we convene at our meeting we can make a comment  
41 and then transmit that to the Board of Game during  
42 their -- because we'll -- most -- hopefully have gotten  
43 to them before they've deliberated that particular  
44 proposal.  
45  
46 So you want to stay with the February  
47 21 and 22 in Fairbanks.  
48  
49 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.  
50

1 (Council nods affirmatively)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I feel strongly that  
4 we should do that, February 21 and 22 in Fairbanks.  
5  
6 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.  
7  
8 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So do we need  
11 a motion to adopt that or.....  
12  
13 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
14 If you want to also specify the date and location for  
15 fall 2017.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that's next.  
18 We'll do it with one motion then.  
19  
20 On Page 170 the calendar is open, these  
21 dates in September are completely unacceptable.  
22 Earlier in October is usually better than later. This  
23 week is always good for me, how do other people feel  
24 about October 10 and 11.  
25  
26 MR. ALEXIE: Fine.  
27  
28 MR. VENT: Fine.  
29  
30 MS. PELKOLA: Fine.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: October 10 and 11  
33 sounds good to the Council.  
34  
35 (Council nods affirmatively)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Meeting place. We  
38 typically meet in Galena, Aniak -- Aniak is a place we  
39 meet but the have us meeting in that echo chamber of a  
40 gymnasium and I refuse to have another meeting there  
41 because this is a forum for public comment and the  
42 public can't even say -- hear what this Council is  
43 saying at the range from me to George at four meters,  
44 and so if the public can't hear what the Council's  
45 doing, we are not meeting with the public, unless we  
46 can come up with a meeting place in the school,  
47 somewhere else where we've got reasonable acoustics to  
48 meet. I would like to have a meeting in Aniak, I would  
49 like to have a meeting there at some point but so far  
50 there's been no place identified in Aniak that has the

1 acoustics to accommodate a real public meeting with  
2 teleconferencing, this echo chamber is just not going  
3 to work out. So the next option is Galena, and we can  
4 have a meeting at Galena. We're meeting in Fairbanks  
5 this spring so it'd be good -- we, at one point  
6 contemplated having a meeting in Kaltag but they  
7 couldn't provide a phone system there, so that fell  
8 through.

9

10 Any suggestions from the Council on  
11 where to have the meeting.

12

13 George.

14

15 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Just for your  
16 information, October 9th is Columbus Day, it's a  
17 Federal Holiday, just like this week was, but that  
18 should have little to do with any of your  
19 decisionmaking processes.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Indigenous  
24 People's Day.

25

26 MR. PAPPAS: I apologize, corrected,  
27 thank you.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so how does the  
32 Council feel about meeting in Galena.

33

34 MR. VENT: If they can't accommodate us  
35 in Aniak -- if they could maybe we could possibly have  
36 the meeting there, but maybe Zach can find out more  
37 information on that, that would be a good choice. But  
38 if we can't then we could go to Galena. Just as long  
39 as I can get out of Galena it's fine with me.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Zach.

42

43 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
44 I'm wondering if any of the RAC members could help me  
45 answer whether or not Galena has an adequate meeting  
46 space with reliable teleconferencing facilities,  
47 whether or not there is adequate and sufficient  
48 accommodations or lodging available, and whether or not  
49 there is the means for either obtaining or purchasing  
50 food or working with someone in the community to assist

1 in providing meals.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: In Galena?

6

7 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. Thank you,  
8 Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Galena, we  
11 meet there all the time. They got a real nice tribal  
12 hall. They have lodging galore, Galena is not a  
13 problem. They have all of that stuff. They have a  
14 store right next to the tribal hall where we meet. The  
15 acoustics in the Galena Tribal Hall are completely  
16 adequate for our meetings, Aniak is the problem. Aniak  
17 has got real problems with meeting there.

18

19 Fred.

20

21 MR. ALEXIE: Well, Mr. Chair, you know  
22 the logistics here, you saw what -- we experienced it  
23 already, going to Aniak, we're going into the same boat  
24 and I would like to suggest that we have the meeting  
25 there in Galena because of the logistics of all of us,  
26 really.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's true. The  
29 assurance that we don't have charter ability at this  
30 point, until we are assured of a charter ability, I'm  
31 also reluctant to travel for four days to go to a two  
32 day meeting. I'm also concerned that the Regional  
33 Director under -- with our letter, will not address  
34 this issue at the Interior Department's office in  
35 Washington, D.C., and so that's another reason not to  
36 go to -- because the majority of this Council lives to  
37 the north of -- which would be on the Yukon Drainage  
38 and so traveling to Galena is much easier for the  
39 majority of the Council than it is to go to Aniak.

40

41 So Galena, the meeting date on October  
42 10 and 11, is that agreeable to the Council.

43

44 MR. ALEXIE: I agree.

45

46 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

47

48 (Council nods affirmatively)

49

50 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will

1 entertain a motion to confirm those dates of February  
2 21 and 22 in Fairbanks for the spring meeting, and then  
3 our fall meeting of 2017 will be October 10 and 11 in  
4 Galena.

5  
6 MR. ALEXIE: I make a motion.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt  
9 those dates, do we have a second.

10  
11 MR. COLLINS: Second.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Ray.

14  
15 Further discussion.

16  
17 (No comments)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question.

20  
21 MR. VENT: Question.

22  
23 MR. ALEXIE: I call for the question.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on  
26 the motion. Those in favor of those meeting dates  
27 signify by saying aye.

28  
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same  
32 sign.

33  
34 (No opposing votes)

35  
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And at this point  
37 we've completed the business of the Western Interior  
38 Regional Council and so the Chair will entertain  
39 closing comments and adjournment.

40  
41 And so we'll start with Tim on this  
42 side since we started -- oh, you got a comment,  
43 Pollock, go ahead.

44  
45 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
46 just got a few comments.

47  
48 First I'd like to thank Robert for his  
49 long service on this Board and I'm sorry to see him go.  
50 He always takes care of me when we share a room. And

1 every morning he looks in, gets me coffee, he kicks me  
2 and says, hey get up. It was too early this morning,  
3 it was not 7:00 o'clock yet but I jumped up anyway.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MR. SIMON: But I'm glad that he's  
8 served on this Board for many years. And I would like  
9 to thank Ray for his long service on this Board too.  
10 He was an original Board member when I served -- I  
11 served a few years too on the first Board and Ray's  
12 still here. I also would like to thank Jack for being  
13 the Chairman the last several years. He does a  
14 wonderful, wonderful job.

15

16 I'd like to make some additional  
17 comments to Jack and Zach. You know that the business  
18 hours are 9:00 a.m., to 5:00 p.m. Jack and Zach have  
19 to learn to keep us within that timeframe. It's past  
20 5:00 now and it's even past supper time, so some of  
21 those agency reports are kind of long so we need to  
22 think about that at the next meeting. Like different  
23 agencies maybe have one person to maybe report and that  
24 would be quicker.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
29 Things come up though during the meeting that increases  
30 the length of the meeting. It's like stalking an  
31 animal, the wind changes and you got to adjust to it,  
32 so I do -- we should assure that the agencies are aware  
33 that they have a specific timeframe to stay within. A  
34 published piece of paper would be good to have so that  
35 we are on the same sheet of music with them.

36

37 So appreciate your comments, Pollock.

38

39 I was going to go around the room this  
40 way, Tim, we started our Council comments in the  
41 opposite direction and I would like to give Robert the  
42 last word at this meeting, since it's his last day  
43 here.

44

45 Go ahead, Tim.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
48 I'd like to thank the community of McGrath for hosting  
49 our Council. Appreciate the accommodations and the  
50 meeting room and the food that was brought in. I'd

1 also like to thank the members of the Council for being  
2 understanding of me coming in late for the meeting  
3 yesterday.

4

5                   As we've gone through the meeting I've  
6 got more information about how these new fishing regs  
7 for the Yukon that were passed by the Board of Fish are  
8 coming into play with the bycatch and stuff and I think  
9 I'm going to try to address some of those bycatch  
10 concerns in the annual report when we meet again next  
11 February.

12

13                   I'd like to thank the agency Staff and  
14 all the Council members for their time and hard work  
15 and providing us with information and getting the job  
16 done.

17

18                   I'd like to wish Robert good luck in  
19 his retirement and I appreciate his comments and his  
20 direction on always trying to keep us focused on what  
21 the tribal and community concerns are for his area of  
22 Unit 21. I learn a lot from him and I hope you  
23 consider coming back to the Council after you get bored  
24 with your other life.

25

26                   Thank you.

27

28                   (Laughter)

29

30                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Jenny.

31

32                   MS. PELKOLA: Well, Mr. Chair, I would  
33 also like to thank the city of McGrath and the tribal  
34 council for this room. Thank all the Council members  
35 for being here. I know sometimes it's hard to get away  
36 from our family and our home but we volunteered to do  
37 this so we have an obligation to our area.

38

39                   One thing that I would like to see and  
40 I hope for in the future, to get an alternate, because  
41 we don't hear from all the other communities, we're  
42 missing two Board members right now, but I would like  
43 to hear a reason why they weren't here.

44

45                   And also the written reports, I would  
46 like to, in the future, to have them in our packet so  
47 we could be able to look at them beforehand. They can  
48 make them short, just like a brief summary or  
49 something, instead of something like -- like Pollock  
50 said, sometimes they get a little long and from what I

1 learned, your mind can only absorb the first five  
2 minutes and after that it's -- that's mind anyway, but  
3 -- so just to make the time, you know, like it's 7:00  
4 o'clock and we're still here talking.

5  
6 I want to thank you again, and, Robert,  
7 thank you very much. God bless you.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Jenny.

10  
11 Ray.

12  
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. I want to thank  
14 you for coming to McGrath. I'm glad you came because I  
15 think we do have good accommodations here and this is a  
16 real nice meeting place that the local tribe has built.  
17 Also I appreciate you coming over for dinner. I hope  
18 you all enjoyed it. We raised \$395 and I'll  
19 convey.....

20  
21 (Applause)

22  
23 MR. COLLINS: .....that to the school.  
24 So thank you for that.

25  
26 And, yeah, I appreciate Robert and his  
27 work over the years. We've seen each other on school  
28 boards and lots of other things, and we'll still see  
29 each other. But appreciate what he's done over the  
30 years.

31  
32 And I apologize for getting sleepy a  
33 little bit occasionally here. I usually take a nap at  
34 home now, I'll blame it on age.

35  
36 (Laughter)

37  
38 MR. COLLINS: But I'm awake right  
39 now.....

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. COLLINS: .....and getting a fresh  
44 start, I guess, in the evening.

45  
46 One other thing, if anybody wants to  
47 see the museum there'd probably be time in the morning  
48 and let me know if you want to do that, between --  
49 let's see the plane doesn't leave until -- you're going  
50 on PenAir, that's the main one, and so on, so you've



1 got 10:00, 11:00 or somewhere in there if anybody wants  
2 to let me know. Maybe at the end here you can give me  
3 a raise of hands or something but we'll open it for you  
4 if you want to see it. We've got a nice new museum.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Ray.

9

10 Darrel.

11

12 MR. VENT: Yep. As usual the meetings  
13 are interesting for me just, you know, I'm not -- I've  
14 been here probably two or three years now and I'm just  
15 starting to learn how the process is and what's all  
16 affecting every area. I know it's affecting our area,  
17 I'm just, you know, curious about learning about a lot  
18 of these things that is affecting us. And now there's  
19 another one that comes into play, land into trust, and  
20 I brought that up so I'm just letting you guys, you  
21 know, I'm interested in whatever goes on.

22

23 I remember a long time ago, back in the  
24 '70s a friend of mine came up to me and he asked me if  
25 I'd like to get on these Boards, AC Board, Federal  
26 Subsistence Board, his name was Ron Sam and he was on  
27 these Boards, and, you know, before he got started he  
28 got interested in the Boards from an old man called  
29 Edwin Simon and Lee Simon, these are two brothers,  
30 Pollocks, these guys were very instrumental in what  
31 developed today because they were outspoken people.  
32 So, yeah, I'd like to recognize that that's how I got  
33 interested in politics was, you know, through a lot of  
34 individuals from at home. And, Jack, you know, he's  
35 teaching me quite a lot here and I'm really learning  
36 and I appreciate that, for being understanding of how  
37 I'm learning this process. I may be a little slow  
38 sometime but at least I'm catching on, you know, it  
39 just takes a little time but, you know, the more I  
40 study the more information I can get.

41

42 I really appreciate that.

43

44 Robert, you know, he's pretty sharp on  
45 all these subjects, he's been around for awhile. I can  
46 see these guys have been around the block, you know,  
47 and I'm just starting to walk around the first corner,  
48 maybe, so we'll see how things work out.

49

50 Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Darrel.  
2 You've been on this Council for a couple years and  
3 you're doing really good and so really coming up to  
4 speed.

5  
6                   Fred, also, go ahead, Fred.

7  
8                   MR. ALEXIE: Yeah, thank you. First of  
9 all, I'd like to say thank you to the McGrath Native  
10 Council, they got a wonderful facility here. And to  
11 you, Jack, you know, for being really up to date on the  
12 meeting agenda, it seems like you're well versed in it.

13  
14                   And to my friend, Robert, Robert, we  
15 date back a lot of years, born and raised from the  
16 Yukon, we see each other pretty frequently at different  
17 meetings and I know he's an expert on a lot of issues,  
18 especially our subsistence way of life. And, you know,  
19 the RAC committee plays a very important role in our  
20 traditional subsistence way of life. And getting on  
21 this Board as a new member, and I'm still learning,  
22 still learning the ropes, and I just, you know, can't  
23 address this thing properly yet, but maybe one of these  
24 days I'll get there.

25  
26                   But at any rate, to the agencies also,  
27 boy, I really enjoy all the information that you  
28 brought and I know a lot of them -- you know, you  
29 condensed it all down to our level and to try to save  
30 time, and I'd like to thank all the agencies for still  
31 remaining here, to go to the very end with us and I  
32 appreciate that. With all the agency reports, I put a  
33 lot of stuff down by my own self, notes, so I can bring  
34 back to my Kaltag Tribal Council and to our region, TCC  
35 region.

36  
37                   And, with that, I'd just like to say  
38 thank you to everybody.

39  
40                   Thanks.

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Fred.  
43 You're doing really good. I mean you're coming right  
44 up to speed really quick, and so I'm really happy with  
45 our new members that are showing real interest,  
46 attending meetings, listening to all the data and all  
47 this stuff, you guys are doing really good. You and  
48 Darrel are doing really, really good. Really  
49 appreciate that because we need good representation for  
50 all of our communities.

1 Robert.  
2  
3 Oh, you got another comment there,  
4 Pollock.  
5  
6 MR. WALKER: Don't change his name.  
7  
8 (Laughter)  
9  
10 MR. SIMON: I wanted to say to all the  
11 Board members, I appreciate all of you here, you're all  
12 excellent members, excellent members. I'm sorry that  
13 Don Honea didn't make it, he always -- he's kind of  
14 outspoken too. And Zach and Jack, thank you for  
15 running the meeting. And peoples of McGrath, we had  
16 place to stay and we enjoyed ourselves here and thank  
17 the agencies for giving good reports.  
18  
19 Thank you.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pollock.  
22  
23 Robert.  
24  
25 MR. WALKER: Thank you. Mr. Chair.  
26 First of all I'd like to congratulate our new Board  
27 members, which I think they will work out, you know,  
28 just a little wrinkles here and there, they will  
29 eventually after four or five year they will be up to  
30 the capability of maybe being Chairman.  
31  
32 (Laughter)  
33  
34 MR. WALKER: And our elder statesmen  
35 too, you know, we got to remember that they've been on  
36 here longer than I have. I didn't even know I was on  
37 the Board for 15 years until they gave me a plague, I  
38 said, what, that's how fast time went by. You know,  
39 Ron Sam was somebody that -- I know the Warden's here,  
40 I know he used to have nightmares with us, he'd have  
41 nightmares with us, really sort of -- no, I'm not going  
42 to say -- he was a heck of a coordinator because when  
43 one was missing he'd jump -- you know, he'd find where  
44 they were, anyway -- anyway, I'm glad Tim is here, too,  
45 he's a new Board member. And Jenny thank you. And I  
46 know Ray and Jack are going to eventually, probably the  
47 next 20 years, they'll be off the Board, maybe, you  
48 never know with those guys. And for Fred, you know,  
49 Fred used to be a State guy and I used to give him --  
50 every meeting we had I just harassed him and finally he

1 retired from the State and came over to the Feds,  
2 welcome over Fred.

3  
4 (Laughter)

5  
6 MR. WALKER: And I've never bothered  
7 him since.

8  
9 (Laughter)

10  
11 MR. WALKER: Really. And, you know,  
12 Josh has been around here for awhile too, and, you  
13 know, it's always nice to see him at our meetings  
14 because, you know, he has information too that we could  
15 use. And this guy here, Boy George, boy he got that  
16 name when we were down in Aniak.....

17  
18 (Laughter)

19  
20 MR. WALKER: .....so it was another  
21 long story. And Dr. Chen, back in the corner, you  
22 know, he's been around for awhile.

23  
24 But I want to say to the new Board  
25 members, you know, that you have to remember you have  
26 to work for all the tribes in the region, you have to  
27 step up for them because they're the ones that really  
28 make this whole Board. The tribal councils where we  
29 go, they make sure that they step up to help us to  
30 ensure that we have accommodations, food and that's why  
31 you give them a big thanks all the time, and that's one  
32 issue where I like to go -- you know, I usually talk to  
33 them and say, hey, thanks.

34  
35 And my last thing I'll say, thanks, it  
36 was a great 15 years. Nobody'll probably -- I don't  
37 know who will give Pollock coffee in the morning now  
38 and wake him up.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 MR. WALKER: So somebody's got to step  
43 up.

44  
45 (Laughter)

46  
47 MR. WALKER: You know, I'm not going to  
48 leave until December 31st, that's my last day, so this  
49 might be my last meeting, so, Jack, thanks for the  
50 memories and I'm just going to move on and thank all of

1 you.

2

3 (Applause)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I do appreciate all  
6 of your many years of comments and keeping this --  
7 bringing up very pertinent information for this Council  
8 to consider and all of your -- you put us up over at  
9 your place when we were in Anvik that one time, we had  
10 some real good -- I remember some exploding stoves and  
11 some other things that happened along the way.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We were in Koyukuk  
16 and some stove blew up in the middle of the night, that  
17 was probably your fault.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But anyways we've  
22 had a great time and we've accomplished a lot of very  
23 important things for the people of the Western Interior  
24 Region and I appreciate all your help on all those  
25 issues, Robert.

26

27 MR. WALKER: Yes.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we'll look  
30 forward to your comments. You can still send comments  
31 to the WIRAC on any issue. In the future, I encourage  
32 you to track the issues and still make comments as a  
33 member of the public.

34

35 I appreciate the agencies and, our OSM  
36 Staff, I'm real happy to see that OSM has built up a  
37 good competent Staff again. I'm real appreciative of  
38 the Department of Fish and Game coming down and giving  
39 us a real good overlay of what the State is doing here  
40 in the McGrath area. I'm real appreciative of having a  
41 strong Council.

42

43 Like Jenny said, I do want to find out  
44 what happened to the two Council members that were not  
45 here, I would like the Council coordinator to contact  
46 them and if they chose not to attend the meeting for  
47 some reason that they should be reminded that they've  
48 signed on for two meetings a year, it's very important  
49 to have them present at these meetings.

50

1 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so this is not  
4 something to be neglected. They can either attend the  
5 meetings or they should consider resignation. I'm not  
6 so much down on Don, but Dennis, Don was in contact  
7 with us, we don't know what happened to Dennis, so I'm  
8 a little concerned about Dennis' dedication to this  
9 Council. This Council work is very important to the  
10 subsistence management on Federal public lands which is  
11 about two-thirds of Alaska and so we need to have  
12 proper presence at these meetings.

13

14 So I think we had a very productive  
15 meeting here. We got a lot of issues covered. We went  
16 into a little overrun here but that's just the way it  
17 goes. I want to make sure that every last issue is  
18 covered before we adjourn this meeting. So my fault for  
19 going into overtime, I probably could have cut some  
20 people off but I like to give as much time to get all  
21 the information before the Council as I can possibly  
22 get so that we make good informed decisions.

23

24 So having said all that, I think the  
25 Chair will entertain a motion to adjourn this meeting.

26

27 MR. VENT: I make a motion to adjourn.

28

29 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I have one  
30 last comment for Robert. I think he's on to the end of  
31 December.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

34

35 MR. COLLINS: .....but before that time  
36 he's got to find a replacement in his area and get  
37 their name in because we really need that area  
38 represented. That can be your last task.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, that GASH area  
41 does need representation. So if you can beat around  
42 the bushes there and come up with somebody that would  
43 really be appreciated, Robert.

44

45 Darrel.

46

47 MR. VENT: Well, I think one way of  
48 doing that is, you know, we got to have our meetings  
49 scheduled, that's how I learned about, you know,  
50 getting on the Federal Subsistence Board, they had

1 meetings scheduled up in the Galena area and so I was  
2 able to attend so, you know, if they had meetings  
3 somewhere in that area I think we should try to  
4 accommodate that a little bit.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's only  
7 10 seats and I think I counted 42 villages, communities  
8 inside the Western Interior Region, so I put it on  
9 FaceBook. I put out the nomination process on FaceBook  
10 and Darrel was there in like five minutes. He's  
11 trolling FaceBook constantly.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MR. VENT: Well, I tried to use the  
16 email.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So anyways OSM  
19 should utilize FaceBook more often. I feel that OSM --  
20 if somebody's made an application for nominating  
21 themselves and they weren't selected, that they should  
22 be recontacted again and say, you weren't selected last  
23 time but please resubmit your application again.

24

25 Zach.

26

27 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
28 While I spent the last five years in the Northwest  
29 Arctic, I'm new to Western Interior, if there are folks  
30 that you know that use FaceBook that can help, we can  
31 use to get the word out more effectively, send them my  
32 way, send me those names and I'll make sure to get them  
33 involved.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we had a motion  
38 to adjourn, all right the sequence was Darrel motioned  
39 to adjourn, Ray, did you second or were you just  
40 commenting.

41

42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'll second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so further  
45 discussion on the adjournment.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 MR. ALEXIE: Call for the question.

50

1                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.  
2 Those in favor of adjournment of the Western Interior  
3 Regional Advisory Council, signify by saying aye.  
4  
5                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
6  
7                   CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed, same sign.  
8  
9                   (No opposing votes)  
10  
11                  CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.  
12  
13                  (Off record)  
14  
15                  (END OF PROCEEDINGS)



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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 153 through 393 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 12th day of October 2016 at McGrath, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 21st day of November 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Salena A. Hile  
Notary Public, State of Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18