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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD MEETING

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
Work Session

February 1, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Anthony Christianson, Chairman
- Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
- Charles Brower, Public Member
- Thomas Heinlein, Bureau of Land Management
- Karen Cogswell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sara Creachbaum, National Park Service
- Gene Peltola, Bureau of Indian Affairs
- David Schmid, U.S. Forest Service

Ken Lord, Solicitor's Office

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 2/1/2022)

(On record)

OPERATOR: (Canned Initial
Announcement)

I would now like to turn the call over
to Sue Detwiler. Thank you, you may begin.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Operator.
This is Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director for
Office of Subsistence Management. And we're getting
ready to start the Board -- the Federal Subsistence
Board's work session. We are -- I understand from the
operator that we're still trying to get people logged
into the session. So I don't know if, Mr. Chair,
Anthony Christianson, are you on the call?

(No comment)

MS. DETWILER: Okay. The Chair may
still be waiting to get patched into the call.

Court reporter, are you on and ready to
record?

REPORTER: I am on, and, yes, I can
begin.

MS. DETWILER: Okay. I'm going to give
it another minute or so to let more people get patched
into the call and then we'll start doing a roll call to
see who's online.

REPORTER: Very good.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Yes, Tony, this is Sue.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, she had me
on a non-speaking line there so I'm on now, so, thank
you, Sue. We'll just give everyone a few minutes and
give the operator time to -- it sounds like she's

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1 juggling a few people and trying to get them moved
2 over.

3

4 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MS. DETWILER: And we have not done
11 roll call yet, either, Mr. Chair, but we do have the
12 court reporter online.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
15 give everyone just a minute or two. If most people are
16 on -- just cue me when you think we're ready and we can
17 go ahead and do roll call, Sue. Thank you.

18

19 (Pause)

20

21 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue. We're
22 checking with the operator now to see how many folks
23 are still trying to get online.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are we getting
28 pretty close, Sue?

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Yes. I'm trying to get
31 a hold of.....

32

33 MR. BROWER: Good morning, I'm finally
34 on. Hello.

35

36 MS. DETWILER: Hello. This is Sue
37 Detwiler. Charles Brower, I believe that's you. We're
38 still waiting -- there's still some people on hold
39 trying to get into the call so we were holding on for
40 just a couple of minutes so that we could get more
41 people added to the call. And I'm going to check right
42 now -- we're checking with the operator to see who --
43 how long the cue is yet to get online.

44

45 MR. BROWER: Okay, thank you. I'll be
46 on mute.

47

48 REPORTER: Thank you.

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1 (Pause)

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MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair, this is Sue again. I'm trying to reach the operator. I'm going to suggest that we have the operator at least open up the lines so that everybody can hear what's going on and as soon as we do that we can, at least, keep people in touch on what the status of the Board quorum is.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue. We wait several months for a meeting, we could wait a few minutes to get everybody on. Thank you.

(Pause)

MR. BROWER: Good morning, Tony, can you hear me.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Morning, Charlie, loud and clear, brother.

MR. BROWER: Okay, I'm on mute right now. Okay.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on.

MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda, I'm on.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Rhonda, good to hear your voice.

(Pause)

MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair. I just sent a message for someone on our Staff to ask the operator to please open all the lines so that we can begin.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.

(Pause)

MS. LAVINE: Everyone has joined us now. We do hope that anyone in the speaker's room can have their lines opened.

MS. DETWILER: Robbin, this is Sue. I think we should just open up all the lines so that people aren't waiting, so they can hear what's going on.

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1 MS. LAVINE: Correct. I think we've
2 just done that.

3
4 MS. DETWILER: So was the operator
5 going to make an announcement, or should we just begin?
6

7 REPORTER: I believe she did already,
8 Sue. This is Tina.

9
10 MS. DETWILER: Oh, okay.

11
12 REPORTER: So you may begin.

13
14 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you. Tina,
15 are you recording now then?

16
17 REPORTER: Yes, go ahead.

18
19 MS. DETWILER: Okay, great. Okay, I
20 think we should start recording. Morning, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Sue Detwiler. Would you like me to go through
22 the Board roll and see who's online, see if we have a
23 quorum?

24
25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, please,
26 Sue, do that, thank you and I'll turn it over to you.

27
28 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Starting with
29 Board Member, National Park Service, do we have Sara
30 Creachbaum on.

31
32 (No comment)

33
34 MS. DETWILER: Okay. From Bureau of
35 Land Management, do we have Thomas Heinlein on.

36
37 (No comment)

38
39 MS. DETWILER: From Fish and Wildlife
40 Service, do we have Karen Cogswell.

41
42 MS. COGSWELL: I'm here, Sue.

43
44 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Karen.
45
46 Forest Service, Dave.....

47
48 MS. COGSWELL: I think.....

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1 MS. DETWILER: Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

2

3 MS. COGSWELL: I also -- I think Tom is
4 on, but I wonder if he's not on the speaker mode, and
5 that might be the same for Sara.

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So.....

8

9 MR. HEINLEIN: Yeah, this is.....

10

11 MS. DETWILER:yeah, Katya, or
12 Robbin, can you check with the operator and make sure
13 everybody is listening -- is able to listen in?

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Sue, this is Katya. She
16 just wrote that, yes, they can hear us.

17

18 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So we need to
19 make sure that our Board members are not in a -- are
20 able to speak. That would be Sara Creachbaum, Thomas
21 Heinlein, and I'm not sure who else yet.

22

23 MR. HEINLEIN: This is Tom Heinlein,
24 can you hear me?

25

26 MS. DETWILER: Yes, thank you. This is
27 Sue Detwiler, Assistant Regional Director for Office of
28 Subsistence Management, and I'm just going through the
29 roll call now to see which Board members are present so
30 I will mark you as present. And then.....

31

32 MR. HEINLEIN: Thank you.

33

34 MS. DETWILER:the next -- the
35 next Board member, Dave Schmid.

36

37 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, good morning, Sue.
38 Dave's on.

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Dave.

41

42 BIA, Gene Peltola.

43

44 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Sue. This is
45 Glenn Chen. Our Regional Director, Mr. Peltola, asked
46 me to sit in for him briefly this morning. He's in
47 another teleconference and will be able to join
48 everyone at about 9:30. Thank you.

49

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1 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you, Glenn.

2

3 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

4

5 MS. PITKA: Good morning. I'm here.

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Rhonda.

8

9 Public Member Charles Brower.

10

11 MR. BROWER: I'm here.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: I'll go back to see if
14 Sara Creachbaum has joined us yet, or if Kim Jochum,
15 the InterAgency Staff Committee member knows whether
16 she's trying to get online.

17

18 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, this is Kim
19 Jochum. I know Sara is online -- on the call as well
20 so we've been communicating here the last half hour so
21 I will doublecheck with her if she has issues speaking.
22 Thanks.

23

24 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

25

26 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Sue, this is Katya.
27 The operator says that Sara Creachbaum is not on the
28 call.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Okay. I'll check back
31 in a minute then. We'll see what other key Staff we
32 have here from Department of Interior Solicitor's --
33 Regional Solicitor's Office, do we have Ken Lord.

34

35 MR. LORD: Good morning everybody.

36

37 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Ken. Mike
38 Routhier, also from the Regional Solicitor's Office.

39

40 (No comment)

41

42 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Moving to USDA,
43 Office of General Counsel, do we have Jim Ustasiewski.

44

45 (No comment)

46

47 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Moving to the
48 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Ben Mulligan.

49

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1 (No comment)

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Mark Burch from Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game.

5

6 MR. BURCH: Good morning, this is March
7 Burch.

8

9 MS. DETWILER: Good morning, Mark.
10 Moving to the Regional Advisory Council Chairs. I will
11 go through numerically. Region 1, do we have anyone
12 from Southeast?

13

14 MS. PERRY: Thank you, and good
15 morning, Assistant Regional Director, Chair and Members
16 of the Board. This is DeAnna Perry, Coordinator for
17 Southeast and Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils.
18 Neither Don Hernandez, Chair of the Southeast Council,
19 nor Greg Encelewski, Chair of the Southcentral Council
20 was available to join this week's work session,
21 however, I standby to answer any questions.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, DeAnna.
26 Kodiak/Aleutians, Della Trumble, are you on?

27

28 (No comment)

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Bristol Bay, Nanci
31 Morris-Lyon.

32

33 (No comment)

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Yukon Kuskokwim Delta,
36 Ray Oney.

37

38 (No comment)

39

40 MS. DETWILER: Western Interior, Jack
41 Reakoff.

42

43 (No comment)

44

45 MS. DETWILER: Seward Peninsula, Louis
46 Green.

47

48 (No comment)

49

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1 MS. DETWILER: Northwest Arctic, Mike
2 Kramer.

3
4 (No comment)

5
6 MS. DETWILER: Eastern Interior, Sue
7 Entsminger.

8
9 MS. WESSELS: Good morning, Sue, this
10 is Katya Wessels, the Council Coordination Division
11 Supervisor. I will be standing in for Sue Entsminger
12 who could not attend this meeting.

13
14 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Katya.
15
16 North Slope, Gordon Brower.

17
18 (No comment)

19
20 MS. DETWILER: And that's it for the
21 Regional Advisory Councils for now. From Department of
22 Interior here in Alaska, Sara Taylor, are you on?

23
24 (No comment)

25
26 MS. DETWILER: Okay. So I'm just going
27 to check again to see if we have Sara Creachbaum, Board
28 member from National Park Service on.

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Sue, this is Katya. You
31 know, Kim Jochum told me that she is -- we could not
32 hear her so she hung up and is calling back in so she
33 should be in in a moment here.

34
35 MS. CREACHBAUM: Yeah, good morning,
36 this is Sara Creachbaum. Can you hear me?

37
38 MS. DETWILER: Yes, thank you, Sara.
39 This is Sue Detwiler. We're just doing roll call now
40 so we can hear you loud and clear.

41
42 MS. CREACHBAUM: Okay, yep. Oh, great,
43 great, thank you. I've been on, I just -- I was
44 screaming into my phone and you just couldn't hear me.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Well, thank you.
49 And thank everybody for their patience as we once,
50

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1 again, try to work through the difficulties of having
2 these meetings by teleconference and getting everybody
3 to call in and having the right number available for
4 everybody and waiting in line as we work through
5 getting people into the listening and speaking rooms.
6 So thank you everybody, again, for your patience.

7

8 And, Mr. Chair, we do have a quorum of
9 Board members so I'd turn it over to you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. Good
12 morning everybody. Thank you, Sue, for that. Thank
13 you for everybody taking the time to call in this
14 morning. This is Anthony Christianson, Board Chair,
15 for the Federal Subsistence Program. And today we're
16 starting the Federal Subsistence Board work session on
17 February 1st and 2nd, 2022. And at this time, again,
18 I'd just like to say Happy new Year to all of you and
19 we'll bless this meeting we have and hope that we all
20 come together with intention and pure hearts and get
21 through this agenda with accomplishing what we set to
22 accomplish today.

23

24 So moving forward, I'll go ahead and
25 open up the floor at this time to review and adopt the
26 agenda.

27

28 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chair. Did you want
29 me to go through the agenda.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sue, that
32 would be fine. Go ahead and review it and then we'll
33 move on to review and comment. Thank you.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you.
36 Following adoption of the agenda the current agenda
37 that we have calls for the next item to be information
38 exchange.

39

40 Following that would be Board
41 recommendations on the 2022 Fisheries Resource
42 Monitoring Plan, that is an action item.

43

44 Next item, Item 4, would be
45 presentation and Board action on individual customary
46 and traditional use request, ICTP21-02 pertaining to
47 salmon in the Batzulnetas area of the Copper River
48 Drainage, Prince William Sound, area within Wrangell-
49 St.-Elias National Park, that's an action item.

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1 Next item is informational item, update
2 on deferred Wildlife Special Action Request WSA21-01,
3 which is a proposal from the Northwest Arctic Regional
4 Advisory Council requesting a temporary closure to
5 caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified
6 users in Units 23 and 26A.

7

8 Next agenda item is informational, it's
9 an update on review of the annual report reply process.

10

11 And then Item 7 is also informational
12 Federal Subsistence Management Program budget briefing.

13

14 And that's the final item before
15 adjournment, which is Item 8.

16

17 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.

20

21 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Charlie.

24

25 MR. BROWER: Move to approve the
26 agenda.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion been
29 made to approve the agenda, do I hear a second.

30

31 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, I'll second
32 it,

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Second. Any
35 discussion; additions, deletions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none --
40 are there any additions or deletions to the agenda?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right.
45 We'll call for the question.

46

47 MR. BROWER: Question.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been

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1 called. All in favor to accept the agenda as presented
2 for the Federal Subsistence Board work session,
3 February 1st and 2nd, 2022, please say aye.

4

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
8 sign.

9

10 (No opposing votes)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries,
13 unanimous. Thank you. We'll go on to information
14 exchange, and at this time we'll go ahead and open up
15 the floor. This is a time where Board members and key
16 Staff can share information about what's important to
17 the program and, again, a little time for us to just T
18 off with where we're at, and all that with our
19 programs. And, so at this time we'll go ahead and open
20 up the floor for information exchange between the Board
21 members and key Staff.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair, Dave Schmid.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Dave, you
28 have the floor.

29

30 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, good morning, Mr.
31 Chair and other Board members. Just an update here
32 from the Forest Service and primarily affects Southeast
33 Alaska.

34

35 I just share that last summer, in July,
36 the Secretary of Agriculture, Vilsack, announced a new
37 strategy here for Southeast Alaska, it's called SASS,
38 the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, and there
39 were four parts of that. The first part was a repeal
40 -- actually it was a proposal to restore the roadless
41 protections to the Tongass from the 1920 -- or 2020
42 Rule. That had an open comment period, it ended just
43 last week and we'll be moving forward with that rule
44 and parts of -- that rule as well. The other parts
45 were to end large scale old growth logging on the
46 Tongass, as well as increasing our tribal consultation
47 here with tribes across Southeast and what most folks
48 were interested in, was also an economic investment of
49 \$25 Million into programs here to help add capacity and
50

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1 strengthen the economy in Southeast. And so those are
2 all coming forward here. I know these were all very
3 important issues for the Southeast RAC here and
4 subsistence and a number of the rural communities that
5 were looking for community use of resources and
6 especially access to subsistence uses, so that's
7 happening.

8
9 I just wanted to share that with folks
10 today, Mr. Chair, thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
13 Dave. Always good to hear you and thank you for all
14 that good information and it's good to hear that, you
15 know, through all of our works that we had to get
16 through here in Southeast and that stuff, that out
17 comes a positive outcome and more opportunity for us to
18 continue to work together. So thank you for all your
19 leadership.

20
21 Anyone else.

22
23 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair, this is
24 Sara Creachbaum.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sara,
27 welcome, you have the floor.

28
29 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you. I thought
30 I would take this opportunity just to introduce myself.
31 I've been sitting in this chair a scant week now so
32 brand new. Not the first time in Alaska for me and I'm
33 happy to be back. I'm a 30 year Veteran of Federal
34 service, about 10 years with the Forest Service, and
35 the remaining with the National Park Service, and
36 subsistence is an issue that is dear to my heart and
37 I'm really excited to be part of the Board, and just
38 wanted to say thank you for Chairing the meeting and to
39 say hello to everyone.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, thank
42 you, and welcome aboard and welcome back to Alaska. I
43 know people who come here and work here always want to
44 come back and so welcome back and welcome to the Board.
45 Look forward to working with you today.

46
47 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
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1 information, the floor is open.

2

3 MR. HEINLEIN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
4 This is Tom Heinlein with the BLM.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Tom,
7 welcome aboard, you have the floor.

8

9 MR. HEINLEIN: Thank you. Just a quick
10 update from BLM. I have not met several of you. I've
11 been the Acting State Director for BLM Alaska since
12 August, that's likely to continue for a little while.
13 Upon the departure of Chad Padgett as our State
14 Director, I took over in an acting capacity. The BLM
15 is actively working to hire the next permanent State
16 Director for BLM Alaska. I do not have a timeframe.
17 I'm hopeful that can be accomplished by the summer but,
18 again, I don't have a specific timeframe. For those of
19 you -- I do know several of you. For those of you who
20 don't know me, normally I am the Anchorage District
21 Manager for the BLM.

22

23 Thank you. Looking forward to the
24 meeting.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Tom.
27 Welcome aboard and look forward to working with you
28 today.

29

30 Any other Board who would like to share
31 information or give us an update, the floor is open.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
36 hearing no further Board information, information
37 exchange, I would just like to say, again, welcome
38 aboard to the new Board members and good to hear voices
39 of our old Board members on here and look forward to a
40 productive day working and so we'll go ahead and just
41 again call on Sue to work through the agenda as we work
42 forward through this work session. I'll lean on Sue to
43 go ahead and keep us in the order of the business and
44 I'll entertain people as we go forward being
45 recognized. So thank you all for, again, joining the
46 meeting today. We'll move on to No. 3, recommendations
47 for the 2022 Fishery Resources Monitoring Plan, and
48 I'll just go ahead and turn it over to Sue to call on
49 her Staff and explain where we are in the agenda.

50

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1 Thank you, Sue.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. And I apologize, I was waiting for the Board
5 members to finish their updates, and I did have a
6 couple of updates from OSM if you wouldn't mind me.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, you have
9 the floor.

10

11 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, you have
14 the floor.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.

19

20 MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you very
21 much. And I just had two things. One is just some
22 updates to our OSM Staffing and then I wanted to just
23 mention two upcoming Board meetings we have scheduled.

24

25 We have, since the -- since you --
26 since the Board last met in August of 2021 we have had
27 some pretty significant Staffing changes. Fortunately
28 adding Staff, some very good Staff to our office and I
29 just wanted to sort of highlight some of those changes.

30

31 On our administrative team, Sherri
32 Gould-Fehrs has stepped up and has been temporarily
33 promoted to OSM's executive secretary position, while
34 we work on filling that position permanently.

35

36 We lost Catherine Avery, who was our
37 administrative assistant. And then we lost another
38 administrative assistant who was with us for a very
39 short time named Ricky (Indiscernible), and so we're
40 currently in the hiring process to fill those two admin
41 team positions.

42

43 In the Anthropology Department, we're
44 very happy to welcome Liz Williams back to OSM. She
45 worked with OSM about 12 years ago and she is returning
46 as an anthropologist this month. She started January
47 2nd. And also in anthropology we're very glad to
48 welcome Jason Roberts as an anthropologist, he started
49 January 17th and he is coming to us from BIA in
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1 Billings, Montana.

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In Council Coordination we had three vacancies left by the departures of Donald Mike, and Zach Stevenson and also by the promotion of Katya to the supervisor of that Division, and so we're very much looking forward -- we have -- we're in the process of finalizing the hires of three new Council Coordinators and we expect those three new coordinators to be onboard in mid-February to mid-March.

In the Fisheries Division, we want to welcome back Scott Ayers. He left us a little bit more than a year ago and he left his fisheries biologist position, he has just recently come back now as the Fisheries Division Supervisor. And we are also in the final stages of hiring two new fisheries biologist who we expect to come onboard in mid-February to mid-March.

And, finally, in Staffing, in the Regulatory Division, Caron McKee, who was our outreach coordinator took a position with the National Park Service and so Kayla McKinney, who is our Administrative Records Specialist has stepped up as the Acting Outreach Coordinator while we're working on filling that position permanently.

So those are the Staffing changes.

I also wanted to mention two upcoming Board meetings.

The first one is March 30th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and that will be take action on deferred Special Action Request WSA21-01, which is the proposal was -- or a Special Action Request that was submitted by the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council and it requested a temporary closure to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users in Units 23 and 26A. That Board meeting will be held by teleconference.

And, similarly, April 12th to the 15th is the Board meeting to act on proposals for the 2022 to 2024 wildlife regulations and that meeting also will be held by teleconference.

So thank you for letting me get that in there, Mr. Chair. And with your approval I will just

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1 hand it off to Item No. 3 on the Board's agenda, which
2 is recommendations on the 2022 Fisheries Resource
3 Monitoring Plan. That will be led by Scott Ayers and
4 Brent Vickers.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, thank you,
7 Sue. And welcome back, Scott, and look forward to the
8 presentation.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, welcome
13 back partner, it's good to hear you Gene; you got the
14 floor.

15

16 MR. PELTOLA: I just wanted to let you
17 know I was online and I apologize for my tardiness this
18 morning, I had a VCC that ran late.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Before we do
21 get started we did have an opportunity for information
22 exchange and before we jump into recommendations and
23 work here, I'd offer you the floor if you had any
24 updates or want to express any information or share
25 there, Gene.

26

27 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 just have a couple items to bring to everybody's
29 attention.

30

31 One, is that we have a subsistence
32 employee that'll be retiring this coming year, who has
33 been very supportive of the Program, not only at the
34 BIA, but also in positions prior. I will not mention a
35 name, I'll leave it up to the individual to do that.

36

37 So we'll be, later on, this -- probably
38 early summer recruiting for that, but prior to that
39 position the Bureau of Indian Affairs will be
40 advertising an additional subsistence position and it
41 will be run either as a 401 Fish and Wildlife
42 administrative or anthropologist, and that'd be, I
43 believe, at the 12/13 level for that new position. So
44 anybody who may be interested, look forward to that,
45 and we're pleased, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to be
46 able to beef up our Subsistence Program just a little
47 bit here using our existing funds.

48

49 And that's the only announcements I

50

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1 had, Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
4 Gene. And congratulations to who's retiring and look
5 forward to picking up some new people there so thank
6 you.

7

8 I'll turn it back over to you, Sue, you
9 have the floor.

10

11 MS. DETWILER: Yep, I believe Scott
12 Ayers was going to kick off the item on the FRMP.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome aboard,
15 Scott.

16

17 MR. AYERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
18 this is Scott. Can you hear me clearly?

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Got you loud
21 and clear, man.

22

23 MR. AYERS: Excellent. Well, I wanted
24 to say good morning to you and the rest of the Board
25 members. And, again, for the record my name is Scott
26 Ayers and I'm the Fisheries Division Supervisor for the
27 Office of Subsistence Management.

28

29 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
30 Members of the Board. My name is Brent Vickers. And
31 I'm the Anthropology Supervisor for the Office of
32 Management. Can everyone hear me clearly?

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome aboard.
35 We got you loud and clear partner.

36

37 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.

38

39 MR. AYERS: Okay. So today we're going
40 to provide you information about the Fisheries Resource
41 Monitoring Program and the Fisheries Resource
42 Monitoring Plan within that Program. Following our
43 presentation on the Monitoring Plan and a period for
44 questions we'd appreciate your recommendation on the
45 plan.

46

47 The Monitoring Plan is in your books
48 for this meeting. The book, as well as the slides that
49 we're talking about today are all available on the OSM

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1 website.

2

3

4 When the Federal Government assumed
5 responsibility for management on Federal public lands,
6 the Department of the Interior and the Department of
7 Agriculture made a commitment to increase the quality
8 and quantity of information available for management of
9 subsistence fisheries on Federal public land. The
10 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was created in
11 the year 2000. This Program was to identify and
12 provide information needed to sustain subsistence
13 fisheries on Federal public lands.

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The Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is organized around six regions that correspond to fish, stock, harvest and community issues held in common within an area. These are Northern, Yukon, Kuskokwim, Southwest, Southcentral and Southeast regions.

One of the main functions of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program is to develop the biennial Monitoring Plan. This plan consists of fisheries research and monitoring projects that provide information to manage subsistence fisheries on Federal public lands. The Monitoring Plan funds projects across the six regions and includes projects administered by the Federal and State government, rural Alaska organizations, non-profits and universities. When a project spans more than one region it is considered multi-regional.

Projects submitted to the program are reviewed and scored on their technical merits by the Technical Review Committee. The Technical Review Committee members are the only ones that see the complete project proposal. Executive summaries of the proposals are then reviewed by the Regional Advisory Councils, who offer comments on the proposals relative to important regional subsistence issues within their respective regions. The InterAgency Staff Committee then provides comments concerning the projects and the draft monitoring plan. Today we're here to ask you, the Board, to provide your comments and recommendations on the plan. The last step in this process will be for the Assistant Regional Director for OSM to make a final determination based on available funding.

The Technical Review Committee, who we

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1 mentioned first reviews and scores the completed
2 project proposals is foundational to ensuring the
3 credibility and scientific integrity of the proposed
4 evaluation process. The Technical Review Committee
5 consists of senior technical experts from Federal and
6 State agencies. The Office of Subsistence Management's
7 ARD makes the Technical Review Committee appointments.
8 The Committee is composed of members from the Bureau of
9 Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, the
10 National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
11 the Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish
12 and Game. Two Office of Subsistence Management Staff
13 members act as co-Chairs to facilitate the project
14 review process. The Technical Review Committee reviews
15 and scores every submitted proposal. They're committed
16 to an inter-disciplinary approach and strive for a
17 50/50 split between biologists and anthropologists.

18
19 Some of the program's major policies
20 and funding guidelines are outlined on this slide.

21
22 First, projects may be funded up to
23 four years.

24
25 Second, studies shouldn't duplicate
26 existing research.

27
28 Third, monitoring plan funding is
29 prioritized for non-Federal agencies.

30
31 And, last, long-term projects are
32 considered on a case by case basis.

33
34 There's some activities that are not
35 eligible for funding through this program. This
36 includes projects that focus on habitat protection,
37 mitigation, restoration and enhancement. Projects that
38 focus on hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement
39 and supplementation. Project for contaminant
40 assessment, evaluation and monitoring. And projects in
41 which the primary objective is outreach or education
42 such as science camp, technical training or intern
43 programs. It was determined at the initiation of this
44 program that there were other agency programs that
45 specifically addressed these types of activities and,
46 therefore, was not necessary for them to be eligible
47 here.

48
49 Five criteria are used for evaluation
50

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1 of the projects by the Technical Review Committee.

2

3

4 First criterion is that the projects be
5 a strategic priority, meaning that the study must have
6 a Federal nexus and be responsive to identified issues
7 and priority information needs.

8

9

10 The second criterion is the technical
11 quality in the study. The project design must meet
12 acceptable standards for information collection,
13 analysis and reporting.

14

15

16 The third criterion is the investigator
17 ability and resources. Investigators must show they
18 are capable of successfully completing the proposed
19 study.

20

21

22 The fourth criterion is partnership and
23 capacity building. ANILCA, Title VIII mandates that
24 rural residents be afforded a meaningful role in
25 management of subsistence fisheries. The Fisheries
26 Resource Monitoring Program offers that opportunity for
27 partnership and participation of residents in the
28 monitoring research.

29

30

31 The final criterion is the cost benefit
32 of the project. The cost of the plan study must be
33 reasonable for the intended outcome.

34

35

36 There is also a set of general budget
37 guidelines for the geographic regions. These
38 guidelines provide an initial target for planning,
39 however, they are not final allocations and are
40 adjusted annually, as needed, to ensure quality
41 projects are funded. The target split of Department of
42 Interior funding is 17 percent Northern region, 29
43 percent Yukon region, 29 percent Kuskokwim region, 15
44 percent Southwest region, 5 percent Southcentral
45 region, and 5 percent multi-regional. Department of
46 Agriculture funding targets are 32.5 percent
47 Southcentral region, 62.5 percent Southeast region, and
48 5 percent multi-regional.

49

50

MR. VICKERS: Hello, this is Brent
Vickers again. This brings us to your 2022 Draft
Monitoring Plan. In this call for proposals 43
projects were submitted for consideration. If all were
funded this would be at an annual cost of around 17
million. Of the proposals, the Technical Review

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1 Committee has recommended 37 projects were worthy of
2 funding. The executive summaries for all submitted
3 projects, as well as comments from the Regional
4 Advisory Councils and the InterAgency Staff Committee
5 are all included in the Draft Monitoring Plan. The
6 next step -- the next set of slides lists those
7 projects by region that are recommended for funding and
8 that fit within the anticipated funding available. We
9 are not going to speak about individual projects unless
10 there are specific questions, in which case OSM Staff
11 would be able to answer at the end of the presentation.

12
13 These projects are all identified in
14 Table 7 on Page 114 of your books.

15
16 The Northern region projects consist
17 of:

18
19 1. Kotzebue Sound sheefish describing
20 coastal movement, temperature preference and potential
21 range expansion.

22
23 2. Unalakleet River chinook salmon
24 escapement assessment continuation.

25
26 3. Selawik River Inconnu spawning
27 population age structure evaluation and spawner
28 recruitment response to a 2004 permafrost thaw slump.

29
30 4. Traditional ecological knowledge of
31 salmon in the river drainages of Kotzebue Sound.

32
33 The Yukon Region projects consist of:

34
35 1. Eastfork Andraefsky River weir
36 chinook and summer chum salmon abundance and run timing
37 assessment.

38
39 2. Gisasa River weir chinook and
40 summer chum salmon abundance and run timing assessment.

41
42 3. Western Alaska coho salmon genetic
43 baseline development.

44
45 4. Presence and use of salmon in the
46 Pastolik and Pastoliak Rivers.

47
48 5. Humpback whitefish and other non-
49 salmon fishes traditional ecological knowledge and
50

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1 biological sampling in Upper Koyukuk region.

2

3 The Kuskokwim projects consist of:

4

5 1. Takotna River weir salmon run
6 timing and abundance.

7

8 2. Kuskokwim River broad whitefish
9 subsistence harvest and spawning abundance.

10

11 3. George River salmon weir.

12

13 4. Bethel subsistence harvest surveys.

14

15 5. Kuskokwim Management Area post-
16 season subsistence salmon harvest survey.

17

18 6. Local and traditional knowledge of
19 salmon harvest and use for subsistence in the Lower
20 Kuskokwim River drainage.

21

22 7. Natural indicators of salmon in the
23 Upper Kuskokwim River.

24

25 8. Community-based harvest monitoring
26 network for Kuskokwim River chinook salmon.

27

28 The Southwest Region projects consist
29 of:

30

31 1. Buskin River sockeye salmon stock
32 assessment and monitoring.

33

34 2. Chignik River subsistence surveys
35 and escaping indexing.

36

37 3. False Pass and Nelson Lagoon
38 subsistence harvest monitoring and traditional
39 ecological knowledge investigation.

40

41 4. Subsistence harvest and uses of
42 salmon and other wild resources in Manokotak Alaska.

43

44 5. Reliable estimates of subsistence
45 harvest and uses in Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

46

47 The Southcentral Region projects
48 consist of:

49

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- 1 1. Copper River chinook salmon in-
- 2 river abundance.
- 3
- 4 The Southeast Region projects consist
- 5 of:
- 6
- 7 1. Hetta Lake sockeye salmon stock
- 8 assessment.
- 9
- 10 2. Neva Lake sockeye salmon stock
- 11 assessment.
- 12
- 13 3. Sitkoh Lake sockeye salmon stock
- 14 assessment.
- 15
- 16 4. Klag Lake sockeye salmon stock
- 17 assessment.
- 18
- 19 5. Northern Southeast Alaska eulachon
- 20 population dynamics monitoring.
- 21
- 22 6. Updating Icy Strait community
- 23 household subsistence harvest surveys and documenting
- 24 subsistence harvest patterns.
- 25
- 26 7. Estimating in-season harvest of
- 27 Klawock River salmon subsistence fishery.
- 28

29 In the year 2022 the anticipated
30 funding available for new projects is approximately
31 \$2.6 million by the Department of Interior and
32 approximately \$800,000 by the Department of Agriculture
33 for a total of around \$3.4 million. This slide, which
34 is also summarized in Table 8 on Page 118 of your books
35 shows that the expected percentage of funding by region
36 in comparison to the suggested guidelines for both
37 Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture.
38 The percentage of funding is close to the suggested
39 guidelines for most regions.

40
41 Final project recommended by the 2022
42 Monitoring Plan would provide a mix of project type
43 across the state. The table I am showing on this slide
44 identifies the amount of funding by region spent in the
45 harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge
46 type projects versus stock, status and trends type
47 projects. This information is also displayed on Table
48 8 of your books under the columns labeled HMTEK and
49 SST. The split between these two categories of
50

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1 research is about 30 percent for HMTEK and 70 percent
2 for SST projects.

3

4

5 The final slide shows the anticipated
6 funding levels for this year for Department of Interior
7 and Department of Agriculture which give us a total
8 estimate for the year 2022 of around \$3.4 million.
9 You'll note that the average annual cost changes for
10 2023, 2024, and 2025. This is because investigators
11 requested different levels of funding for each year of
12 the projects.

12

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14

15 This ends our presentation. We are
16 happy to take any questions from the Board.

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13 This ends our presentation. We are
14 happy to take any questions from the Board.

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
17 Staff, that was a good presentation. Appreciate the
18 information. I'll open the floor at this time for any
19 questions from the Board to Staff as they presented the
20 Monitoring Plan.

22 (No comments)

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
25 hearing none, we've received the recommendations on the
26 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. I think at
27 this time, do we open the floor, Sue, I believe, to
28 accept the recommendations from the Staff Committee and
29 the Staff has presented in the summarization we did
30 just get as far as the recommendations for the Fishery
31 Program -- I believe now we would open up and
32 entertain.....

34 MS. DETWILER: A motion, yes.

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:a motion,
37 Sue, yes, thank you.

39 MS. DETWILER: Uh-huh.

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So the floor is
42 open to accept the information as presented from the
43 Staff for the Fishery Monitoring Program 2022 Resource
44 Monitoring Plan.

46 MS. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, this is Karen
47 Cogswell.

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen, you have

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1 the floor.

2

3

MS. COGSWELL: I'd like to move that
4 the Board accept the recommendations for funding for
5 the 2022 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan based on
6 the Technical Review Committee ranking, the Regional
7 Advisory Council comments and the InterAgency Staff
8 Committee comments.

9

10 MR. BROWER: Second.

11

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
12 Karen, for that thorough motion there. Thank you for
13 the second. The floor is open for discussion, any
14 further Board discussion, questions, or deliberation.

15

16 (No comments)

17

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Call for the
18 question.

19

20 MR. SCHMID: Question.

21

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Since it
22 requires -- there's money involved, Sue, we'll just go
23 ahead and do a roll call at this time.

24

MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Start with Karen Cogswell.

26

27 (No comments)

28

MS. DETWILER: The motion is to accept
29 the recommendation and so the -- the vote would be yes
30 or no.

31

MS. COGSWELL: Yep, sorry, I thought my
32 mute was off -- yes.

33

MS. DETWILER: Okay, thank you.

34

BIA, Gene Peltola.

35

MR. PELTOLA: BIA votes yea.

36

MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

37

National Park Service, Sara Creachbaum.

38

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1 MS. CREACHBAUM: Yes.

2

3 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

4

5 BLM, Thomas Heinlein.

6

7 MR. HEINLEIN: Yes.

8

9 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

10

11 Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

12

13 MR. SCHMID: Yes, Forest Service
14 supports the motion.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

17

18 Public Member Rhonda Pitka.

19

20 MS. PITKA: Yes, I support the motion.

21

Thank you.

22

23 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

24

25 Public Member Charles Brower.

26

27 MR. BROWER: Eee, yes.

28

29 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

30

31 And, finally, Chair, Mr. Anthony

32

Christianson.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as
35 presented by the Committee and Staff. Thank you.

36

37 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. Motion
38 passes unanimously.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Cool, thank
41 you, Sue. And thank you to the Staff for all the hard
42 work that goes into these, the ISC committee members
43 and all the people that pour over these, look at them
44 and, again, rank them the way they do and work over
45 them and find all the good attributes to each project
46 and elevate them up and just thank you guys for all the
47 diligence that goes into that.

48

49 We'll go ahead and move on to the

50

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1 presentation and act on individual C&T request, Sue,
2 I'll turn that over to you.

3

4 MS. DETWILER: Yes. I believe that's
5 Barb Cellarius from National Park Service presenting
6 this agenda item.

7

8 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning, Mr.
9 Chair. Members of the Board. Can you hear me?

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can hear you
12 loud and clear, you have the floor.

13

14 MS. CELLARIUS: Great. Thank you. My
15 name -- for the record my name is Barbara Cellarius and
16 I'm the subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias
17 National Park and Preserve. Today I'll be presenting
18 an overview of the analysis for individual customary
19 and traditional use determination Proposal, ICTP21-02.
20 The written analysis begins on numbered Page 119 of
21 your meeting book and that's Page No. 123 of the PDF
22 file.

23

24 Federal Subsistence regulations allow
25 the Board to make individual customary and traditional
26 use determinations in NPS managed National Parks and
27 National Monuments where subsistence is authorized.
28 The Board revised its policy on individual customary
29 and traditional use determinations at its January 2021
30 meeting. Under the new policy proposals may be
31 submitted at any time and the Board will act on the
32 request at the first public meeting following receipt
33 of the recommendations from the affected Regional
34 Advisory Councils.....

35

36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted)

38

39 MS. CELLARIUS:submission.

40

41 On March 9th, 2021 the Park received a
42 request from Kathryn Martin for an individual customary
43 and traditional use determination for salmon in the
44 Batzulnetas area which is defined as waters of the
45 Copper River and Tanada Creek between National Park
46 Service regulatory markers. The map on Page 121 of the
47 meeting book shows the location of Batzulnetas off of
48 the Nabesna Road in the northwestern corner of
49 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

50

1 Analysis of customary and traditional
2 use requests, C&T for short, considers the so-called
3 eight factors, although the factors are treated
4 holistically rather than being a checklist. This
5 applies to individual C&T requests as well as to those
6 for communities and areas. The analysis that follows
7 addresses these factors.

8
9 Kathryn Martin is the granddaughter of
10 subsistence rights advocate Katie John and Batzulnetas
11 is the site of her grandmother's traditional fish camp
12 at the headwaters of the Copper River. Kathryn grew up
13 in Mentasta Lake Village which has a C&T determination
14 for salmon in the Batzulnetas area and she began
15 harvesting resources at Batzulnetas in 1992. In 2005
16 she moved away from Mentasta for employment and
17 consequently lost her eligibility to fish for salmon at
18 Batzulnetas under Federal regulation. She now lives in
19 Tazlina, which is a rural community on the Copper River
20 and a resident zone community for Wrangell-St. Elias
21 but it doesn't have C&T for salmon at Batzulnetas.

22
23 If approved, this individual C&T would
24 allow Kathryn to resume harvesting salmon at the
25 traditional site where her family has fished for
26 generations.

27
28 Batzulnetas is an important traditional
29 salmon fishing site at the headwaters of the Copper
30 River. The area was occupied until the 1940 when the
31 occupants relocated so that their children could attend
32 school but they continued to fish at Batzulnetas.
33 Kathryn Martin's family has fished for salmon and
34 harvested other subsistence resources at Batzulnetas
35 for many generations. Their ability to fish at this
36 site was disrupted by a State of Alaska regulation that
37 went into effect in 1964 prohibiting subsistence
38 fishing on the Copper River tributaries and on the
39 mainstem of the river above the mouth of the Slana
40 River. Fishing subsequently resumed following a series
41 of lawsuits in which Kathryn's grandmother, Katie John,
42 was the lead plaintiff. Salmon are harvested at
43 Batzulnetas using fishwheel and dipnet, subsistence
44 harvest methods characterized by efficiency and economy
45 of effort. In addition to fishing for salmon, Ms.
46 Martin has harvested moose, berries, firewood, roots
47 and steam bath rocks in the Batzulnetas area. Ms.
48 Martin preserves salmon by drying, jarring, and
49 freezing and she shares with family members who aren't
50

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1 able to harvest or preserve salmon themselves. She
2 learned fishing skills and values from her
3 grandparents, Katie and Fred John, her Aunt Ruth Hicks
4 and her great uncle Houston Sanford and she shares her
5 knowledge with family as well as others by taking them
6 with her to harvest, process and put away the fish. An
7 important venue for sharing knowledge is the annual
8 Batzulnetas Culture Camp.

9
10 If adopted, this proposal would
11 recognize Kathryn Martin's customary and traditional
12 use of salmon at Batzulnetas and allow her to resume
13 fishing at a site where her family has fished for
14 generations.

15
16 Because this C&T determination is for a
17 single individual with a history of salmon harvest in
18 the area, the effects on other users should be minimal.

19
20 The NPS preliminary conclusion is
21 listed on Page 127 of the meeting book. It is to
22 support ICTP21-02. Ms. Martin exhibits a long-term
23 pattern of use of salmon at Batzulnetas. This pattern
24 has been repeated for many years and through several
25 generations. Methods and means of harvest are
26 characterized by efficiency and economy of effort.
27 Knowledge of handling, preparing and preserving salmon
28 is shared among and between generations. Salmon is
29 regularly shared. The eight factors associated with
30 customary and traditional uses are evident. For these
31 reasons there is substantial evidence to support
32 granting the applicant the requested individual
33 customary and traditional use determination.

34
35 Although formal tribal consultation is
36 not required for individual C&Ts, I did reach out to
37 the Federally-recognized tribal governments for
38 Mentasta and Dot Lake, those are the two communities
39 that have C&T for salmon at Batzulnetas and both
40 replied that they had no concerns with it.

41
42 And, with that, I would be happy to
43 answer any questions. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Board
44 members.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
47 that, and thank you for the presentation. Is there any
48 Board members that would like to ask any questions.

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1 (No comments)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, hearing none, we'll give Kathryn Martins, the proponent, to go ahead and have an opportunity at this time to speak.

MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair, I believe Kathryn Martin is on the phone but I don't know if she needs to get let into the speaker's room.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for that. Operator, if you can see if Kathryn is available and open her line, thank you.

(Pause)

REPORTER: Hello.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, is that you Kathryn?

REPORTER: No, I'm sorry, this is Tina. I didn't hear anything, I thought I got dropped. Sorry, Tony.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, hi, Tina.

REPORTER: Hi.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's good to hear your voice. We're just waiting for Kathryn to get on and wait for the operator to open her line, thank you.

REPORTER: Okay.

MS. CELLARIUS: And, Mr. Chair, we also have recommendations from the RACs and the SRC when you're ready for those.

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. We'll take those two up following Kathryn, thank you.

OPERATOR: This is the Operator, Kathryn, if you would either like press star-zero, so I can find your line so I can open it.

(Pause)

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1 OPERATOR: All right, Kathryn, your
2 line is open.

3
4 MS. MARTIN: Thank you. Good morning,
5 this is Kathryn Martin, can you guys hear me?

6
7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good morning,
8 Kathryn, welcome, yes, we can hear you, you have the
9 floor.

10
11 MS. MARTIN: Thank you. I just want to
12 say I hope the Board would support this proposal. I've
13 been fishing at Batzulnetas pretty much ever since we
14 were able to start fishing there. I lived in Mentasta
15 at that time and as Barbara mentioned I moved in 2005.
16 I still go back to Batzulnetas every year for our
17 annual cultural camp that we have and the last two
18 years, the first year due to Covid it was cancelled,
19 but my kids all being adults now said, mom, you know,
20 we always go back to Batzulnetas and so we ended up
21 going back ourselves and just camped out. We weren't
22 able to operate the fishwheel at the time because I --
23 you know, we don't have the use and only my one
24 daughter is eligible right now because she's living in
25 Mentasta and then, you know, last year we -- they were
26 planning to do Culture Camp again and it got cancelled
27 but some of us had taken time off of work and they
28 said, well, if you guys want to still go up, you know,
29 we'll provide the food and stuff so we went up again.
30 But I've gone back every year to Batzulnetas. I've
31 always gone there. And even when I've -- I'm not able
32 to use the fishwheel, when they've gotten fish at
33 Culture Camp, I've been teaching the kids how to cut
34 fish, how to hang fish, how to preserve it, those types
35 of things, and I just want to be able to go back there
36 and be able to fish because that's what my grandma
37 fought for.

38
39 And I do live in Tazlina, I do not have
40 a wheel down in this area just due to respect. I know
41 that, you know, there's other people that have family
42 fish sites and we never had a fish site down in this
43 area and I don't want to intrude on anybody's area to,
44 you know, put a fishwheel in. I've used other people's
45 wheels in the area by invitation and I greatly
46 appreciate that. I just want to be able to go back to
47 Batzulnetas, though, and be able to fish and get fish
48 from the fishwheel.

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1 And, with that, I'll stop my remarks.

2

3

Thank you.

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5

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
6 Kathryn. Thank you for calling in. Any questions from
7 the Board for Kathryn.

8

9

(No comments)

10

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
13 appreciate that and look forward to hopefully
14 supporting you today. We'll move on to the RAC and ISC
[sic] recommendations.

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MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
the record this is DeAnna Perry, Coordinator for the
Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
I'm providing information on behalf of the Chair, Greg
Encelewski.

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This Council supported the individual
customary and traditional use determination for Kathryn
Martin for salmon in the Batzulnetas area of the Copper
River drainage Prince William Sound. This Council's
recommendation is found on Page 132 of your meeting
books. The Council determined that based on the
information presented, there was sufficient evidence to
support this individual customary and traditional use
determination. They noted that Ms. Martin has a long
established use of this area which she learned from her
grandmother, Katie John, and she continues those
traditional practices today.

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That concludes the recommendation of
the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council.

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
we'll move on to the ISC recommendation.

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MS. WESSELS: Mr. Chair, this is Katya
Wessels. There is a recommendation from the Eastern

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1 Interior Council as well.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
4 floor, Katya.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Yes, thank you. For the
7 record my name is Katya Wessels and I'm Council
8 Coordination Division Supervisor. Today I am
9 representing here Sue Entsminger for the Eastern
10 Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

11

12 The Council reviewed this proposal and
13 voted to support it because they think there is
14 sufficient evidence to support an individual customary
15 and traditional use determination for Kathryn Martin
16 for salmon in the Batzulnetas area. The Council, by
17 unanimous consent supports granting Kathryn Martin an
18 individual customary and traditional use determination
19 for salmon in the Batzulnetas area of the Copper River
20 drainage Prince William Sound area. The Council Chair
21 has known Mrs. Martin for many years and has shared her
22 personal knowledge of Mrs. Martin being a true
23 subsistence user following the traditional ways. Other
24 Council members noting, supporting these determinations
25 would keep the old traditional ways alive.

26

27 This concludes the Eastern Interior
28 Council recommendation.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
33 Katya. Any questions for Katya.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
38 Hearing none, we'll move on.

39

40 MS. CELLARIUS: Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
43 the floor.

44

45 MS. CELLARIUS: This is Barbara
46 Cellarius again. I had a recommendation from the
47 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource
48 Commission to share.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you have
2 the floor, thank you.

3

4 MS. CELLARIUS: The SRC has determined
5 that there is sufficient evidence to support an
6 individual customary and traditional use determination
7 for Kathryn Martin for salmon at Batzulnetas. They
8 noted that Kathryn Martin has long-term customary and
9 traditional use of the area and her family's history of
10 using the area goes back thousands of years. Kathryn
11 practices traditional ways of processing and preserving
12 salmon and shares what she knows with her children and
13 others.

14

15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
18 Thank you to the Wrangell-St. Elias group. We'll go
19 ahead and move on, with no questions from the Board,
20 we'll go on to Board discussion on C&T individual
21 request, ICTP21-02 for Kathryn here, so we'll just open
22 up the floor for Board discussion, questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Good
27 presentation from Staff. Thank you for all the
28 recommendations. At this time, hearing no questions or
29 further discussion I would open up the floor for the
30 Board to take action in the form of a motion.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chairman, this is
35 Sara Creachbaum.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Sara,
38 thank you, you have the floor.

39

40 MS. CREACHBAUM: Mr. Chair and Board
41 members. The National Park Service moves to adopt
42 ICTP21-02 to recognize an existing pattern of use of
43 salmon in the Batzulnetas area between National Park
44 Service regulatory markers and waters of the Copper
45 River and Tanada Creek by Kathryn Martin as per the
46 request outlined on Page 119 of our meeting books.
47 Following a second, I'll be happy to explain why I
48 support my motion.

49

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1 MR. BROWER: Second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Second's been
4 made, you have the floor.

5

6 MS. CREACHBAUM: Thank you, Mr.
7 Chairman. I intend to support my motion to grant
8 Kathryn Martin an individual customary and traditional
9 use determination for salmon in the Batzulnetas area
10 consistent with the recommendations of the Eastern
11 Interior and Southcentral Regional Advisory Councils
12 and the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
13 Resource Commission. The analysis presented strong and
14 sufficient evidence regarding a long-standing pattern
15 of salmon fishing by Kathryn Martin in the Batzulnetas
16 area. Harvest methods are characterized by efficiency
17 and economy of effort and both salmon and knowledge
18 about how to process it are shared. All eight of the
19 factors associated with determining customary and
20 traditional uses are evident.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
25 that good, thorough justification. Any other questions
26 or deliberation from the Board.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
31 we'll call for the question.

32

33 MR. BROWER: Question.

34

35 MR. PELTOLA: Question, BIA.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Question's been
38 called. All in favor of accepting the individual C&T
39 request, ICTP21-02, please signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Opposed, same
44 sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion carries
49 unanimously. At this time I'm going to go ahead and

50

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1 call for a five minute break. If everyone could just
2 please stay online, I need to take a five minute break
3 here and we will come back with an update on deferred
4 Wildlife Special Action Request WSA21-01. So I want to
5 take a five minute break.

6

7

(Off record)

8

9

(On record)

10

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, welcome
back. I'm back. Sorry about that I needed to take a
quick break. So when everybody comes back, Sue, we can
go ahead and reconvene, thank you.

16

17

18

19

MS. DETWILER: Okay. Do you want me to
run through the Board members real quickly, Mr. Chair,
just to make sure we have everybody back online?

20

21

22

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, please,
Sue.

23

24

25

26

27

MS. DETWILER: Oh, okay, thank you.
Park Service, Sara Creachbaum, are you
there.

28

29

30

MS. CREACHBAUM: I am here, thank you,
Sue.

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MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
Thomas Heinlein, BLM.
MR. HEINLEIN: I'm here, thank you.
MS. DETWILER: Thank you.
Karen Cogswell, Fish and Wildlife
Service.

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MS. COGSWELL: I'm here, Sue, thanks.

MS. DETWILER: Thanks.

Dave Schmid, Forest Service.

MR. SCHMID: I'm here, Sue, thanks.

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1 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

2

3 Gene Peltola, BIA.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Roger. Roger. 10-4.

6

7 MS. DETWILER: Okay.

8

9 Rhonda Pitka, Public Member.

10

11 MS. PITKA: Here.

12

13 MS. DETWILER: Charles Brower, Public
14 Member.

15

16 MR. BROWER: (In Native)

17

18 MS. DETWILER: Thank you.

19

20 It looks like everybody's here, Mr.

21 Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
24 We'll go ahead and just get back to the agenda where we
25 were. We were on an update on deferred Wildlife
26 Special Action Request WSA21-01, Units 23 and 26A,
27 caribou and moose, and so if we can get the update from
28 Staff on that, Sue, I'll leave that up to you.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: That would be Hannah
31 Voorhees.

32

33 MS. VOORHEES: Good morning, Mr. Chair
34 and Members of the Board. This is Hannah Voorhees,
35 Anthropologist with OSM. This is an informational
36 update only.

37

38 Wildlife Special Action Request WSA21-
39 01 requests closure of moose and caribou hunting to
40 non-Federally-qualified users in Units 23 and 26A
41 during August and September. The Northwest Arctic
42 Regional Advisory Council originally submitted this
43 request in February 2021 due to lack of caribou during
44 the traditional harvest season. The Council expressed
45 concern that non-local hunters and transporters are
46 interfering with caribou migration. For moose, the
47 closure request was submitted due to conservation
48 concerns over declining local populations.

49

50

1 In June 2021 the Board deferred WSA21-
2 01 to the 2022/2023 regulatory year and requested that
3 the Office of Subsistence Management seek additional
4 input on concerns related to caribou from multiple
5 entities and stakeholders. These included, the Western
6 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, Federal land
7 managing agencies, local Fish and Game Advisory
8 Committees, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
9 Regional Advisory Councils, commercial guides and
10 transporters and subsistence users in the area. The
11 Board also asked OSM Staff to include comparisons of
12 moose harvest by survey area within Unit 23 in their
13 analysis. For clarity and simplicity, the analysis has
14 now been divided into WSA21-01(a) for caribou, and
15 WSA21-01(b) for moose.

16
17 Next, I will give you a brief overview
18 of OSM's outreach process as we followed up on the
19 Board's request.

20
21 OSM held guided discussions on the
22 special action request and concerns related to caribou
23 with each of the four affected Regional Advisory
24 Councils at their fall 2021 meetings. The executive
25 committee of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
26 Group asked that OSM Staff speak directly to members to
27 receive input. Staff spoke with 11 working group
28 members who reside within the range of the Western
29 Arctic herd and five members who do not reside within
30 the range of the herd. Results were then compiled and
31 sent out to all working group members prior to their
32 December 2021 meeting. At that meeting the group voted
33 on WSA21-01. Following deferral, OSM held two
34 additional public hearings to seek input on the
35 closure request and concerns related to caribou. Those
36 took place on November 17th and December 2nd, 2021.
37 Feedback from Federally-qualified subsistence users
38 came from Council members, testimony received during
39 public hearings, correspondence submitted during an
40 earlier written comment period, Western Arctic Caribou
41 Herd Working Group members and Subsistence Resource
42 Commissions. Feedback from transporters and guides
43 came from public hearings, Western Arctic Caribou Herd
44 Working Group members and correspondence submitted
45 during an earlier written comment period. In
46 September, OSM hosted a discussion on WSA21-01 with the
47 Federal land managing agencies to seek their feedback
48 on this closure request and discuss data needs. A
49 third round of tribal and ANCSA Corporation
50

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1 consultations were held on January 27th. OSM reached
2 out to State of Alaska Advisory Committees in affected
3 regions through written correspondence during the
4 course of this outreach. Following deferral, OSM and
5 Interagency Staff Committee members engaged the Alaska
6 Department of Fish and Game in discussion on this
7 special action request. OSM Staff summarized feedback
8 from all these groups and considered it as an
9 existential component of the revised analysis. New
10 data, such as an updated population estimate for the
11 Western Arctic Caribou Herd were also included in the
12 analysis.

13

14 In terms of development of the analysis
15 for the closure request pertaining to moose, OSM
16 submitted a request to ADF&G for more detailed data on
17 Unit 23 moose harvest by survey area. ADF&G provided
18 data on moose harvest by user group and drainage which
19 is included in the revised analysis.

20

21 Part A and B analysis were reviewed by
22 Team field members, the OSM Leadership Team and
23 InterAgency Staff Committee members in December and
24 January. On January 14th the revised analysis were
25 finalized for the Regional Advisory Councils and are
26 currently being distributed to Council members in
27 preparation for their winter meetings. The revised
28 analysis will be available on the OSM website before
29 the winter 2022 Council meetings.

30

31 In February and March, the Northwest
32 Arctic, North Slope, Western Interior and Seward
33 Peninsula Councils will have the opportunity to make a
34 recommendation on the revised analysis.

35

36 The Board meeting on deferred Wildlife
37 Special Action WSA21-01(a) and (b) is scheduled for
38 March 30th at 1:00 p.m., via teleconference. The
39 meeting will be open for the public to listen in and a
40 news release will announce the call-in information.

41

42 Thank you. That concludes my update on
43 WSA21-01. I would be happy to answer any questions and
44 my colleague Lisa Grediagin is also available if
45 needed.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
48 questions from the Board on the update.

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0041

1 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
4 have the floor.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
7 Good morning. Appreciate that summary. One question I
8 raised when the Board voted to push back this proposal
9 until later on this spring, is that we had a verbal
10 report from the land management agencies about the
11 efforts put in to permitting on impacted lands and I
12 was wondering -- and in reference to the Section .810
13 requirements of issuing permits, and I was wondering if
14 OSM has looked at those from the impacted land
15 management agencies as part of the evaluation of this
16 proposal.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
21 Gene. We'll direct that to Staff.

22

23 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. Through the
24 Chair, this is Hannah. We have met to discuss this
25 with Federal land managing agencies. I know that the
26 way this is done has been a matter of discussion
27 internally but we have not been given access to the
28 whole scope of that process.

29

30 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thank you
31 appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the
32 opportunity.

33

34 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, hi.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hello, Rhonda,
37 you have the floor.

38

39 MS. PITKA: Yeah, so I was wondering,
40 how was the caribou harvest this year, do we have any
41 updates on that? Because I thought part of the reason
42 to defer was what Gene said, but also that the harvest
43 would be increasing on State lands, so do we have any
44 data on the actual harvest for that area?

45

46 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you for that
47 question. The pattern this year appears to have
48 repeated the previous several years. There were -- for
49 example, in Unit 23, there were few caribou available

50

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1 locally around Kotzebue and none around Noorvik. Let's
2 see, in Kiana, the community was able to hunt but only
3 very late, immediately before freeze-up set in. In
4 Selawik, people have not been able to put nearly
5 enough, if any caribou in their freezers for the last
6 several years. Shungnak reported extremely late
7 harvest. Buckland has expressed extreme hardship with
8 getting harv -- with getting caribou in 2021.

9

10 So the picture was a little bit better
11 in Unit 26A where caribou have been relatively abundant
12 and available.

13

14 But in Unit 23 the hardship has
15 certainly continued based on the feedback we have
16 received.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
19 other questions for Staff from the Board, thank you,
20 Rhonda.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right,
25 thank you, hearing no other, thank you on that deferred
26 and we'll be taking this up later. Any additional
27 questions, or hearing no other comments we'll go ahead
28 and move on to update on annual report reply process
29 and review.

30

31 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, sorry, I
32 have a question really quick.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Rhonda,
35 you have the floor.

36

37 MS. PITKA: You mentioned taking this
38 up later, when will we be taking it up?

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think at
41 the.....

42

43 MS. VOORHEES: Through the Chair, this
44 is.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Staff.

48

49 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you. This is

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0043

1 Hannah. This is scheduled to be taken up on March 30th
2 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

3

4 MS. PITKA: And that's when we'll also
5 be getting public testimony at that time, and a summary
6 of all the tribal consultations?

7

8 MS. VOORHEES: So the compilation of
9 all the feedback, including tribal consultation will be
10 coming to the Board two weeks prior to that meeting and
11 the analysis, and, yes, public testimony will be
12 compiled there -- I am unsure of the Board's plan for
13 accepting any public testimony on March 30th, but my
14 understanding was it may just be a listen in session
15 for public -- for members of the public.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. PITKA: Thank you very much for
20 that answer, I appreciate it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
23 questions for Staff, any comments from the Board.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
28 thank you for that. Update -- we'll move on to update
29 on annual report reply process review.

30

31 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
32 Members of the Board. For the record my name is Robbin
33 LaVine and I'm the Subsistence Policy Coordinator for
34 OSM. The meeting materials for this agenda item begin
35 on Page 135 of your Board book and this is not an
36 action item.

37

38 During the Federal Subsistence Board's
39 August 2021 work session the InterAgency Staff
40 Committee briefed the Board on the annual report reply
41 process and possible revisions to improve workload
42 efficiency and response to Regional Advisory Council
43 concerns.

44

45 As you are aware, ANILCA, Section .805
46 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual report to
47 the Board containing information related to important
48 subsistence resource issues within their region and
49 these reports are invaluable. With this knowledge, the

50

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1 Board can make informed decisions. Historically the
2 Board has strived to provide responses to every topic
3 listed in annual reports, regardless of its authority
4 to address the issues raised, however, it is unclear if
5 Board responses on all annual report topics are helpful
6 to the Councils, while taking considerable Staff time
7 to complete and Section .805 does not require replies
8 to these reports.

9

10 The ISC has suggested process
11 revisions.

12

13 One would be consider annual reports to
14 serve solely as a means to inform the Board of local
15 conditions, issues and needs; and, two, a proposed
16 letter writing as a way to request Board response on
17 any topics of concern.

18

19 The Board reviewed and discussed report
20 reply process in August and agreed to forward this
21 topic to the Councils for their input on the suggested
22 revisions, including possible ideas of their own, OSM
23 Staff briefed the Councils on the suggested changes
24 during the fall meeting cycle and prepared them to take
25 action and provide input on the annual report reply
26 process this winter meeting cycle. So we hope to brief
27 you, the Board, on Council comments on your next work
28 session.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 I'm ready for any questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
35 that. Any questions for Staff.

36

37 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda again,
38 sorry, for all the questions. So you mentioned our
39 March -- wait, did you say the March meeting, that we
40 will be taking this up in the March meeting or we'll be
41 getting another update?

42

43 MS. LAVINE: Probably during the -- the
44 March meeting -- so you have two meetings scheduled at
45 the moment. The first is a meeting just to take action
46 on Wildlife Special Action 21-01 and that's March 30th,
47 and then following that meeting there is the wildlife
48 regulatory session, which is April 12th through 15th.
49 And both -- well, that agenda is pretty full, so we
50

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1 might anticipate that you will take action on this
2 agenda item during the summer work session. We haven't
3 scheduled that yet but that might be, you know, some
4 time in July or early August. That's also the time
5 when the Board reviews the annual reports and confirms
6 Board replies, it's a good time to review Council input
7 during that session.

8
9 Thanks.

10
11 MS. PITKA: Okay. So this is -- sorry,
12 this is Rhonda again. I have some concerns about it
13 because I really want the Regional Advisory Councils to
14 have that sort of flexibility in their annual report to
15 the Board, that they can discuss anything that's not
16 normally like an agenda topic in that report. I think
17 that's an important part of the program so that's my
18 concern about this particular review. I think it's an
19 important part of the process and I would hate to see
20 it go away.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Council Member
25 Pitka. This is Robbin. And, through the Chair, I
26 would agree with you. And I think, you know, as has
27 been noted, both in my briefing and in the briefing
28 document in your Board book, we recognize how
29 critically important these reports are to ensure that
30 you are informed on all things that impact our regions
31 and their subsistence way of life. This review has --
32 is in no way intending to change that reporting
33 process. We continue to value it. It's about ensuring
34 that we know, from the Councils as well, what they feel
35 is -- would be the most responsive way to both
36 acknowledge their expertise and to respond to those
37 critical issues in a way that's useful.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
42 Robbin. Thank you, Rhonda, for those good questions.
43 Any other questions from the Board.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Discussion.

48
49 (No comments)

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0046

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate the
2 effort, and thank you for those reports. And, again,
3 it is good to get the entirety of every situation and
4 what affects -- what's happening on the ground in rural
5 Alaska that affects our subsistence way of life. So I
6 always encourage and like to see that information
7 myself because it gives a broader picture of the
8 impacts that do end up on our Board agenda items and we
9 do have to discuss them and figure out a path and the
10 replies because those replies give direction to the
11 rural members and then they find other relationships
12 they can build that can help strengthen their
13 subsistence base in rural Alaska as well. So thank you
14 guys for those replies and all the work that goes into
15 it because it leads people down the path to an answer
16 to the questions that they have so thank you for that.

17
18 We'll go ahead, any other discussion.

19
20 MR. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Go ahead,
23 Charlie.

24
25 MR. BROWER: Just concern, you stated
26 that the only way the Council report and
27 recommendations could be changed to process how the
28 Board responds to the Council, how would that be done
29 to proceed. Just a question, thank you.

30
31 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Charlie, this
32 is Robbin. Through the Chair. Per the Board direction
33 during your work session, we are taking these suggested
34 process revisions to the Councils and we're looking to
35 have a guided discussion with all 10 Councils on this
36 -- the report reply process. Again, asserting how
37 critically important the reports are to informing the
38 Board and Board action on many things. And really
39 we're looking at Council feedback on these suggested
40 revisions and then Board discussion on this during our
41 next work session in the summer.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council Member
44 Brower.

45
46 MR. BROWER: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
49 Charlie. Thank you, Robbin. Any other questions or
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1 discussions from the Board, update on annual report
2 reply process.

3

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. That takes us to No. 7, Federal Subsistence Management Program budget briefing and so I'll turn that over to you, Sue.

MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll kick this item off and I also want to note that the briefing document that we will be working from is also online on the Board's web page along with the other materials for this meeting.

So by way of background, the Board asked Staff to prepare a report providing an overview of the Federal Subsistence Program budget. The main purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information from each of the Federal agencies on the Board, describing their subsistence-related budgets and how those budgets are allocated within their agencies for the purposes of implementing Title VIII of ANILCA. The report includes separate individual reports from each agency. When you look at the document you can see the formats for each agency are different. As we go through the presentation here, each InterAgency Staff Committee will present their own agency's budget. We'll start with Jill Klein who will do an overview of the Fish and Wildlife Service overall subsistence budget, and then I will present the OSM portion of the Fish and Wildlife Service budget, and then the InterAgency Staff Committee members from the Park Service, BLM, BIA and the Forest Service will each present their respective agency budgets.

When the Board has previously discussed the Federal Subsistence budget they have also raised issues such as whether the budget is adequate to meet current Subsistence Program needs, whether expenditures are appropriately aligned with Federal Subsistence Management Program priorities, and whether current Federal Subsistence Management priorities should be evaluated and modified, and, if so, what would be the budgetary needs to address those priorities. So Pat Petrivelli from BIA has gone back through budget-related concerns that the Regional Advisory Councils have brought up in previous Council reports and

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1 recommendations and she'll present that information
2 after the agencies are finished presenting their
3 individual reports. Pat's memo to the Board is located
4 at the end of the budget document.

5

6 And, so, with that, I will turn it over
7 to Jill Klein, the Fish and Wildlife Service ISC member
8 to begin the Fish and Wildlife Service part of the
9 presentation.

10

11 MS. KLEIN: Hi, Sue, this is Jill. I
12 just want to check that you can hear me?

13

14 MS. DETWILER: yes.

15

16 MS. KLEIN: Okay, great. All right.
17 Good after -- or good morning everybody. My name is
18 Jill Klein, as Sue mentioned, and I am the Regional
19 Subsistence Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service and also as Sue mentioned I participate on the
21 InterAgency Staff Committee. I'm going to give an
22 overview of the subsistence appropriations for the
23 Alaska region of the Service. And just for your
24 reference, I will refer to either the U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Service as the Fish and Wildlife and/or the
26 Service throughout my presentation.

27

28 I am first going to share some budget
29 history information before I start walking through the
30 table. And I also just wanted to mention that myself
31 and Karen Cogswell will be available for questions at
32 the end of the overall presentation.

33

34 And so I thought sharing a little bit
35 of the budget history would be helpful for some of the
36 new Board members as well as a refresher for the
37 others. And this information that I'm sharing can be
38 found, if people are interested in further reading, on
39 the National Park Service's website, there's a document
40 called Alaska Subsistence; A National Park Service
41 Management History, and some of this information is
42 found in Chapter 9.

43

44 As folks know, the Federal Subsistence
45 Management Program first began with season funds in
46 1990 and this was for wildlife management, the Federal
47 Subsistence Board and the Regional Advisory Councils.
48 The first earmark from Senator Stevens began in 1999 --
49 1991, with most funds coming through the U.S. Fish and
50

1 Wildlife Service as the lead agency administering the
2 Federal government's Subsistence Program, however,
3 there were funds that were also distributed to other
4 Federal land management agencies and also at times to
5 the State of Alaska. When the Federal government
6 expanded into management of subsistence fisheries in
7 1999, the participating Federal agencies of the
8 Department of Interior and inclusive of the Forest
9 Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well
10 as the Office of Subsistence Management, they began to
11 consider their Staffing and budget requirements. An
12 InterAgency Staff Committee was formed and it had
13 members from the National Park Service, the Bureau of
14 Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service
15 along with Staff from OSM, and the Committee developed
16 what was known as the unified plan, and it was for
17 implementation of the Subsistence Fisheries Program.
18 And the plan, which was inclusive of a budget was
19 adopted, in principle, by the Federal Subsistence Board
20 in September 1999. This then led to coordinated
21 efforts by the Departments of Interior and Agriculture
22 for appropriations request beginning in 2001. And you
23 can also see the Federal agency needs for subsistence
24 management were also identified and communicated in
25 their internal budget justification documents, which
26 are known as (indiscernible - muffled) that get
27 submitted to Congress.

28
29 For the past two decades, the Alaska
30 Fisheries Subsistence funds to the Service continue to
31 follow the spirit of that unified plan that was
32 outlined, as I mentioned, two decades ago. And these
33 funds, plus the subsistence wildlife funds that are
34 allocated to the Service are distributed to the Office
35 of Subsistence Management; Fisheries and Ecological
36 Services, which is a division of the U.S. Fish and
37 Wildlife Service; and the National Wildlife Refuges in
38 Alaska and it's to fulfill the wildlife and fishery
39 subsistence mandates and delegated authorities that are
40 consistent with ANILCA, subsistence management
41 regulations for public lands in Alaska and the policies
42 of the Federal Subsistence Board.

43
44 So with that I would then like to turn
45 your attention to Page 2 of your supplemental materials
46 where you'll see a summary budget table. And it has a
47 blue header, it's called summary table FY2021, Fish and
48 Wildlife Service, Fisheries and Wildlife Subsistence
49 Appropriation. And so I'll first go over the fund
50

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1 categories that come into the Fish and Wildlife Service
2 in Alaska and I'll go over the amounts that were
3 received and a short description of those amounts.

4

5 And we did present some more
6 information to the Federal Subsistence Board in 2020,
7 we're now presenting Fiscal Year 2021. And you can see
8 in the center column the total amount is \$12,389
9 million, so that's the total subsistence funds
10 appropriated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
11 the Alaska region. And you'll see on the left-hand
12 column there are two lines that I'll be going through
13 and they're named Alaska Fisheries Subsistence and
14 Alaska Wildlife Subsistence and they're both underlined
15 to help you differentiate as you look at it.

16

17 So the Alaska Fisheries Subsistence
18 line is \$9,554 million. This is a line item in the
19 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services allocated budget, and
20 you can see it's in the section called Fisheries and
21 Aquatic Conservation/Population Assessment and
22 Cooperative Management. And then you'll see
23 underneath that, there's some italicized language that
24 reads: *Less HQ Service-wide Enterprise Assessments.*
25 And these are Service-wide national assessments that
26 are done at the headquarters level that, in turn,
27 provide services such as information technology which
28 is IT, network security, human resources and emergency
29 management. And so the cost to the Service for the
30 Alaska Fisheries Subsistence line in FY21 was \$313,445.
31 And so underneath that you'll see remaining fisheries
32 subtotal becomes \$9,240,555 million and you'll see in
33 the notes that this is the amount that gets regionally
34 distributed to OSM, and it shows the percentages and
35 that refers back to the unified plan that I was talking
36 about that helps guide the breakout of how these funds
37 are distributed; so 83 percent goes to OSM, 10 percent
38 goes to Fisheries Ecological Services, which we call
39 FES, and then the Refuges in Alaska at 7 percent. And
40 I'll discuss more about that in the tables on Pages 3
41 and 4.

42

43 So next I'll share about the Alaska
44 Wildlife Subsistence line item, and that's \$2,835
45 million, and that gets allocated in the Refuges,
46 Wildlife and Habitat Management. And you'll see again
47 in the italicized language the headquarters Service-
48 wide assessment for the same services such as IT,
49 ethics, emergency management and that's at \$159,000.

50

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1 And so you get the Wildlife subtotal below that at
2 \$2,676 million. And that gets distributed to the
3 Office of Subsistence Management at 100 percent.

4
5 So if you look at the blue header at
6 the bottom of that table on Page 2 it's titled Total
7 Subsistence Fisheries and Wildlife allocated to Region,
8 and so that amount is now \$11,916,555 million, and that
9 is comprised of the 83 percent from the Alaska
10 Subsistence Fisheries line, so if we take 83 percent of
11 the \$9,240,5555 million, that then totals \$7,669,661
12 million and there you'll see that breakout in the
13 notes, and that gets added to the wildlife subtotal of
14 the \$2,676,000 million and so you get that total amount
15 of \$10,345,661 million and that's the total Fisheries
16 and Wildlife Subsistence distribution to OSM and Sue
17 Detwiler will share information about OSM's budget in
18 her presentation. But you'll see that that's their
19 starting number.

20
21 And then the final row on the table on
22 Page 2 is the total Fisheries Subsistence distribution
23 then that goes to Refuges, and Fisheries and Ecological
24 Services at \$1,570,894 million, and that goes to
25 fulfill delegated subsistence fishery management
26 activities, such as on the Yukon River, Kuskokwim
27 River, Chigniks, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and
28 Aleutian Islands plus Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

29
30 So if we now move to the table on Page
31 3 it starts off with a big green header and it's called
32 the Detail Table, and so this is where I'll share some
33 more detail about the distribution of funds and how
34 they're further broken down. And you'll just see the
35 note on the green row where, again, we mention that the
36 percentage of the fisheries subsistence distribution
37 between OSM, FES and Refuges has been consistently in
38 place for two decades and we've made a note that the
39 regional allocation to the Service as been mostly flat
40 for these past decades and remained at about the same
41 amount on an annual basis and it follows that unified
42 plan strategy that I mentioned that was created in
43 1999.

44
45 So, again, for the Office of
46 Subsistence Management their distribution is in that
47 peach row and you'll see their total amount is
48 compromised of the Alaska Fisheries Subsistence funds
49 at \$7,669,661 million and that's the 83 percent of the
50

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1 Alaska Fisheries Subsistence line item, and then you'll
2 see the Alaska Wildlife Subsistence Funds at \$2,676,000
3 million, and that's 100 percent of the Alaska Wildlife
4 Subsistence. And you'll see that subtotal again at
5 \$10,345,661 million. And Sue will go into further
6 information but we just give some notes here about what
7 the OSM funds are used for, such as Board support, the
8 regulatory cycle, special action analysis, Regional
9 Advisory Council Coordination, Fisheries Resources
10 Monitoring Program, Partners Program, coordination of
11 the InterAgency Staff Committee, Program
12 administration, liaison with the Alaska Board of
13 Fisheries and Board of Game, and tribal communications
14 and consultations.

15

16 So below that we'll have the Fisheries
17 and Ecological Services Subsistence Fisheries
18 distribution, and this is in a yellow header, and this
19 is 10 percent of the Alaska Fisheries Subsistence line
20 that's allocated to the region and it's broken down
21 between four offices. And so the first one is the
22 Anchorage and Kenai Field Offices and that amount is
23 \$352,830; and it's similar to what I mentioned earlier,
24 it supports in-season fisheries management out of these
25 two offices for the regions of Cook Inlet, Bristol Bay,
26 Chignik, the Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, and it
27 also includes time for outreach and consultation with
28 communities and subsistence users, resource monitoring,
29 regulatory analysis and Regional Advisory Council
30 participation. Then below that is the Conservation
31 Genetics Lab at \$24,762 and that is for biometric and
32 in-season management technical support so this would
33 include work like the Yukon chum salmon genetic mixed
34 stock analysis that takes place in- and post-season.
35 Then there's the Fairbanks Office at \$399,031 and that
36 supports in-season fisheries management delegated
37 responsibilities for the Yukon River. It includes
38 outreach and tribal consultation with communities and
39 subsistence users, resource monitoring, regulatory
40 analysis, Regional Advisory Council participation and
41 coordination among the three different Councils. And
42 then there's the Regional Office, which is in Anchorage
43 and that's at \$147,432 and that's for participation in
44 the Federal Subsistence Board processes, Staff support
45 to the Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Subsistence
46 Board member, the Fish and Wildlife Service InterAgency
47 Staff Committee representative to participate in
48 special action and regulatory analysis plus tracking
49 Alaska Board of Fish and Board of Game actions. So
50

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1 that subtotal to Fisheries and Ecological Services,
2 which is FES is \$924,055.

3

4

5 So if you then move to the Page 4, this
6 is our last table that shows the breakout that goes to
7 the National Wildlife Refuge system and this is the 7
8 percent allocation from the Alaska Fisheries
9 Subsistence line item. And we can see the Refuges
10 listed on the left hand side and their financial amount
11 breakout and over the -- for all of them the annual
12 Subsistence Fisheries budget helps to provide support
13 for personnel that work in multiple offices throughout
14 the State of Alaska and this includes Refuge
15 Information Technicians, interpreters, subsistence
16 coordinators, fisheries biologists and resource
17 monitoring activities that provide data to inform
18 scientific bases for fisheries management. It also
19 includes support for in-season fisheries management
20 delegated responsibilities for the Kuskokwim River and
21 Kodiak. And that total to the National Wildlife Refuge
22 system is \$646,839.

22

23

24 So that concludes the FY21 Fish and
25 Wildlife Subsistence appropriation to the U.S. Fish and
26 Wildlife Service. And I'll now turn it back over to
27 Sue Detwiler.

27

28

29 MS. DETWILER: Thank you, Jill. This
30 is Sue Detwiler again. So transitioning from the Fish
31 and Wildlife Service overall budget and the breakout to
32 the other two programs, Fisheries and Ecological
33 Services and Refuges and Wildlife, as you can see our
34 budget starts on Page 5 of this document. And as you
35 can see our budget, as Jill said is \$10,345,661
36 million, and this is for FY21, and that was last year.
37 And our -- on Page 5 our budget is broken out by office
38 divisions which correlate to the different functions
39 that we have so in the middle column you see the
40 description of what that office function is, that
41 division function is and then our costs, our salary
42 costs in the right-hand column.

42

43

44 And so in the yellow column -- or the
45 yellow section, the first line is the ARD office and
46 that's the Assistant Regional Director's Office and
47 that -- and in this group of people are me, the
48 Assistant Regional Director, the Deputy Assistant
49 Regional Director, the Native American Liaison, Liaison
50 to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Policy

50

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1 Coordinator and the Executive Secretary. So we provide
2 overall management and supervision and policy direction
3 for OSM in general. We also provide liaison to Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game, to tribes. We help the
5 Board with tribal consultations. We provide
6 InterAgency Staff Committee support to the public Board
7 members. We coordinate the InterAgency Staff Committee
8 and then work on subsistence policy issues as they come
9 up. So the personnel costs for that group of people is
10 \$731,009.

11

12 The next division is the Fisheries
13 Division. They provide technical analysis of fisheries
14 regulatory proposals, closure reviews and special
15 action requests. They also provide technical support
16 to the Regional Advisory Councils, administer the
17 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and Partners
18 Program, and also provide technical support to the
19 Regional Advisory Councils -- sorry, that's a duplicate
20 in there. Also -- so the salary costs for FY21 for the
21 Fisheries Division were about \$630,472.

22

23 Wildlife Division is similar to the
24 Fisheries Division. They provide technical analysis
25 for wildlife regulatory proposals, closure reviews and
26 special action requests as well technical advice to the
27 Regional Advisory Councils. The salary cost shown here
28 of \$271,956 was low last year because we had so many
29 vacancies in the Wildlife Division at that time.

30

31 Moving further down, the Anthropology
32 Division provides technical analysis of both fisheries
33 and wildlife proposals, along with special actions,
34 customary and traditional use determinations,
35 rural/non-rural determinations, cultural and
36 educational permits and technical support to the
37 Regional Advisory Councils. The Anthropology Division
38 also co-administers the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
39 Program with the Fisheries Division. Salary costs for
40 the Anthropology Division last year were \$589,384.

41

42 Council Coordination Division
43 coordinates the Regional Advisory Councils, including
44 meetings, travel, outreach, Federal Advisory Committee
45 Act, or FACA reporting, administrative record, Regional
46 Advisory Council membership and the nomination process.
47 Salary costs for the Council Coordination Division were
48 -- in FY21 were \$739,538.

49

50

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1 The Regulatory Division handles the
2 rulemaking process such as Federal Register notices,
3 coordination with Fish and Wildlife Service
4 headquarters, Department of -- coordination with Fish
5 and Wildlife Service headquarters, Department of
6 Interior and Department of Agriculture. That Division
7 also handles subsistence permitting, the Federal
8 Subsistence Program administrative record and
9 litigation and outreach such as proposal books, public
10 regulation books, informational fliers and media,
11 advertisements such as print and radio announcements
12 for upcoming Board and Council meetings. The salary
13 costs for the Regulatory Division were \$524,617 in
14 FY21.

15
16 And, finally, still on Page 5 is the
17 Statewide Support Division, which provides
18 administrative support in our office, OSM, for handling
19 correspondence, phones and other office administrative
20 tasks and last year those costs -- salary costs were
21 \$271,247.

22
23 Turning to Page 6 we have some other
24 expenditures, these include the Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring Plan where in FY25 [sic] we had -- or FY21
26 we had 25 active project agreements totaling about \$2.6
27 million. We had the Partners Program where we had
28 seven active partner agreements totaling about \$1
29 million last year.

30
31 We also provide about \$150,000 to a law
32 enforcement program. They conduct enforcement
33 activities relative to the subsistence priority and
34 conservation issues.

35
36 We also have mandatory court reporting.
37 It's mandatory for Regional Advisory Council and Board
38 meetings, and that was about \$225,000 last year.

39
40 Travel costs in a normal year would be
41 \$400,000. We did not travel this year because of the
42 pandemic.

43
44 Office space for OSM in the Fish and
45 Wildlife Service's Regional Office in Anchorage was
46 about \$580,000.

47
48 Printing costs such as for Regional
49 Advisory Council books, Board books, regulation books
50

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1 and so on is about \$85,000.

2

3 And then general supplies and
4 operations are about \$84,000.

5

6 And each year OSM also gets some
7 funding from USDA Forest Service to help support our
8 work by our anthropologists and biologists for the
9 regulatory processes with Southeast Alaska, which is
10 primarily Forest Service land as well as Southcentral
11 Alaska. So that funding provided by the Forest Service
12 helps support OSM work on regulatory processes, FRMP,
13 database management and Regional Advisory Council
14 support in Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. So the
15 funding that Forest Service provides varies by year but
16 in 2021 it was \$478,474.

17

18 So that concludes the OSM and Fish and
19 Wildlife Service presentation of our budgets and next
20 up would be Kim Jochum to present the National Park
21 Service Subsistence Budget.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
24 Any questions from the Board.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
29 move on to the next. Thank you, Sue.

30

31 MS. JOCHUM: Hello. Thank you. This
32 is Kim Jochum with the National Park Service. For the
33 record my name is Kim Jochum. I'm currently the Acting
34 Subsistence Program Manager. And I'm also an ISC
35 member in my current position but also in my normal
36 position as Subsistence Program Analyst for the
37 Regional office.

38

39 So the budget I'm presenting to you
40 today is a representative budget estimate for our
41 current Subsistence Program region-wide and it's based
42 on estimates of FY20 and separated by our Regional
43 Office Subsistence Team, the National Park Service
44 Regional Directorate costs as well the Park operations.
45 I updated the Regional office FTE estimates because --
46 and the travel -- only to reflect travel costs pre-
47 Covid, and to account for our Regional Staff increase
48 from one to four Staff between FY20 and FY21. So we
49 used to have a larger Regional Staff quite a while back
50

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1 and then as I was hired on, one -- a couple of other of
2 my co-workers now, we can -- we're trying to get more
3 capacity back at the regional level that's when we were
4 up to four Staff, that's what that represents.

5

6 So overall, our annual cost estimate is
7 \$2,420,626 million. For the Regional Office
8 Subsistence Program itself is estimated at \$791,126,
9 that includes the FTE, travel, some other costs,
10 awards, training, utilities and printing.

11

12 And then we have a Subsistence Advisory
13 Council project fund of \$300,000 for a few years now.
14 That's subsistence research funding and the source was
15 established to provide -- to procure long-term funding
16 to conduct baseline community socioeconomic studies as
17 well as to conduct time sensitive research on specific
18 resource management issues that require decisions by
19 the National Park Service managers for wildlife and
20 fisheries decisionmaking bodies in order to
21 appropriately implement provisions of ANILCA related to
22 subsistence use management as well as to continue to
23 develop close relationships between Park Staff and
24 local communities, cooperatively conduct community-
25 based subsistence studies and is intended to be used to
26 support Alaska National Park Subsistence Management
27 Program. We're pretty happy to have that funding
28 source available through our regional program.

29

30 Then we additionally have costs at the
31 Regional Directorate level that's estimated at about
32 \$58,500, and the Deputy -- the Regional Director FTE
33 percentage is a little higher and includes amongst
34 others engaging with individuals on questions,
35 Subsistence Advisory Council and Subsistence Resource
36 Commission Chairs engagement, traveling to Parks,
37 navigate hard issues, reviewing proposals and standing
38 in for the Board member in absence. The Associate
39 Regional Director for resources role in years past has
40 been more expansive as well and it includes standing in
41 for the Board member during absences, Subsistence
42 Advisory Council contributions, program involvement,
43 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meetings, the
44 National Park Service Subsistence Advisory Council
45 meetings, amongst others and has gone up as high as 25
46 to 30 percent FTE for the associate Regional Director
47 itself. So it does, you know, obviously variable a
48 little bit and depends on what's going on as with
49 everybody right now during limited travel time during
50

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1 Covid, it's been less than usual and it's been
2 definitely having a little bit of harder time to keep
3 engagement we need to have with all of our subsistence
4 participants and Parks.

5
6 So Park Operations itself is estimated
7 at \$1,571,000 million and it varies drastically by Park
8 as you can see. I'm not going to, you know, read every
9 number for each Park here, I think it provides a decent
10 overview of the estimate for each Park.

11
12 We do have -- I do want to point out
13 that we do have seven Subsistence Resource Commissions,
14 that's Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, Cape
15 Krusenstern National Monument, Denali National Park and
16 Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and
17 Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Lake Clark
18 National Park and Preserve, as well as Wrangell-St.
19 Elias National Park and Preserve, so obviously there's
20 higher costs associated with (indiscernible) and
21 coordinator and so forth.

22
23 Overall, it's difficult to estimate
24 correct estimates on FTEs across Parks as well as many
25 positions such as biologists and anthropologists
26 partially support our, you know, Subsistence Team when
27 needed. So I think that's a challenge for every agency
28 obviously. So I just want to point that out.

29
30 And then as an example I wanted to
31 mention Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve,
32 for their Park and Preserve alone there has been 17
33 percent of the budgets, over \$83,000 a year in
34 permitting alone, so they have a huge permitting load
35 on their end.

36
37 And I also wanted to mention that since
38 2021 we have a five year agreement with ANSEP, the
39 Alaska Native Science Engineering Program in place to
40 fund at least three summer bridge students annually and
41 that's about \$245,000 we have in agreements with ANSEP
42 right now, that's not directly part of this budget but
43 I wanted to make you aware of that.

44
45 That's all I have to share. I'd be
46 happy to answer questions as well.

47
48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49
50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
2 that. Any questions from the Board.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
7 that, thank you guys for your work. Sue, next.

8
9 MS. DETWILER: Yep, that would be BLM,
10 and Chris McKee.

11
12 MR. MCKEE: Hi everybody, can you hear
13 me okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I could hear
16 you good, Chris, welcome.

17
18 MR. MCKEE: Great, thank you. For the
19 record my name is Chris McKee, I am the Subsistence
20 Coordinator for BLM in Alaska out of the regional
21 office here in Anchorage. I have a pretty short
22 presentation, just a couple of pages, and it starts, I
23 believe on Page 9 of the budget overview document.

24
25 Funding for subsistence is expended as
26 part of the normal activity for multiple program areas
27 within BLM in Alaska but it should be noted that
28 there's no specific subsistence program or funding
29 stream that could be tracked and so that makes it
30 difficult, if not impossible, to provide the kind of
31 accurate specific outlay that other agencies have been
32 discussing so far this morning. But in effort to try
33 to describe why it would be problematic to give that
34 specific outlay, I'm just going to kind of briefly
35 describe the structure and function of various BLM
36 programs and how subsistence is integrated into just
37 about every one of them, in just about everything that
38 BLM does in Alaska.

39
40 So there are more than a dozen
41 different program areas of funding within BLM-Alaska
42 and I list a subset of them here. They're pretty
43 diverse, anywhere from rangeland and cultural resources
44 management all the way to oil and gas management and
45 also resource management planning assessment and
46 monitoring.

47
48 Under any one of these programs there
49 could be a subsistence component involved. For
50

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1 instance, the wildlife and aquatic habitat management
2 includes funding for resource stewardship and
3 monitoring as well as inventory and assessment of
4 wildlife and aquatic resources. Any number one of
5 these sources of funding could have an impact specific
6 to subsistence-related resources. Furthermore,
7 rangeland, oil and gas and cultural resource management
8 also have funding for resource management plans and
9 NEPA documents such as environmental impact statements
10 and all of these involve work that has an obviously a
11 critical impact on subsistence management on BLM lands
12 in the state as well. Oil and gas management has had
13 funding for components involving planning, permitting
14 and enforcement, and obviously subsistence is involved
15 in -- at some level on all of those as well. And also
16 the Recreation Resources Management Program is involved
17 in stewardship and monitoring as well as permitting and
18 BLM is very heavily involved in the permitting process
19 when it comes to subsistence management which is what
20 I'll mention that in just a little bit.

21
22 However, in all of these program areas
23 that I mentioned there's no specific subsistence
24 funding stream that's tracked and, yet, as I mentioned,
25 subsistence is pretty much deeply ingrained in almost
26 everything that BLM does here in the state. It's one
27 of the major reasons why it would be difficult to
28 describe specific funding outlays. And, for instance,
29 my position, the Subsistence Coordinator, is the only
30 position in the state for the agency specifically
31 designated to work on duties exclusively dedicated to
32 subsistence management for the agency. But even my
33 position doesn't solely work on tasks related to the
34 Federal Subsistence Management Program itself. While a
35 huge amount of my work does involve working with the
36 Board and issues related to the InterAgency Staff
37 Committee, I'm also involved in helping review and edit
38 NEPA related documents, like EIS's and EA's and also do
39 the same for resource management plans as well as
40 writing and reviewing ANILCA Section .810 evaluations
41 and updating policy the same as well.

42
43 I mentioned permitting earlier, I just
44 wanted to mention as kind of a closing aspect to show
45 just how involved BLM is involved in subsistence, is
46 that, for FY21 BLM issued more than 4,500 subsistence
47 hunting permits to Federally-qualified subsistence
48 users and this comprises the vast majority of
49 subsistence permits given out among all the land
50

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1 management agencies involved with the Federal
2 Subsistence Management Program. Furthermore, BLM Staff
3 are involved in many subsistence resource inventory and
4 research projects as well as writing resource
5 management plans and NEPA documents that have a direct
6 impact on any number of subsistence resources and
7 subsistence users across pretty much the entire state
8 of Alaska.

9

10 So not a detailed specific outline like
11 the other agencies have reported but I just kind of
12 wanted to kind of share how subsistence is involved in
13 just about everything BLM does here in the state. So
14 with that, unless there's any questions I'll hand it
15 over to BIA.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. CHEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
20 Board members. My name is Glenn Chen. I'm the
21 Subsistence Branch Chief for the Bureau of Indian
22 Affairs. Our program is housed within the Trust
23 Division here in the Alaska region. And I'll turn your
24 attention to Page 11 in the first table that we've
25 provided in our briefing.

26

27 For each fiscal year we receive about
28 \$550,000 Central Office through the Tribal Management
29 and Development Program, and added to that we also
30 receive monies from the Alaska Region Realty Program.
31 These ANILCA funds amount to about \$160,000 per year.
32 So that gives us an annual operating budget of about
33 \$710,000.

34

35 We spend about \$416,000 on Staff, and
36 when we were able to go to Regional Advisory Council
37 meetings about \$20,000 was expended on travel to attend
38 those meetings. And a small amount that we spend each
39 year on IT equipment, office supplies and so forth.

40

41 The remaining monies, which typically
42 amount to about \$270,000 per year are given to
43 individual Alaska tribes to support their subsistence
44 efforts, subsistence studies and so forth. And that
45 gives us our annual operating budget -- that accounts
46 for our annual operating expenditures of \$710,000.

47

48 If I could then turn your attention to
49 the next page of the briefing.

50

0062

1 I wanted to mention another avenue for
2 funding subsistence efforts by tribes here in Alaska.
3 Next is the Alaska Subsistence Special Congressional
4 Appropriation. These funds are appropriated by
5 Congress each year, or have been appropriated by
6 Congress each year to support Alaska InterTribal
7 Organizations collaborative management efforts that are
8 associated with ANILCA Title VIII. And that's a key
9 word here at the end of that sentence, is that, these
10 dollars are dedicated to projects that involve
11 collaboration with Federal managers on ANILCA Title
12 VIII. So, for example, these organizations cannot
13 expend the money to do projects related to
14 (indiscernible), or waterfowl, or other aspects of
15 subsistence if they're not directly tied to Title VIII.
16 These are given to Alaska InterTribal organizations
17 consisting of two or more tribes via competitive based
18 awards. And because it's an annual appropriation,
19 funding is only available for a single fiscal year and
20 reliant on future appropriations to be continued.

21
22 We received \$2 million each fiscal
23 year, Fiscal Year '17 through '20, and last year in
24 '21, \$2.7 million were available. And so these funds
25 are passed through our Central Office. The awards
26 require use of Public Law 638 grant, those particular
27 awards are then processed through our Self-
28 Determination Branch here in the Alaska region. Past
29 recipients have included the Yukon River InterTribal
30 Fisheries Commission, the Kuskokwim InterTribal
31 Fisheries Commission, the InterTribal Resource
32 Commission, the Bristol Bay Native Association, and the
33 Chugach Regional Resource Commission. These
34 organizations represents a total of 103 tribes here in
35 Alaska.

36
37 That concludes our presentation and
38 I'll take any questions if you have any.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue Detwiler. I
43 just wanted to see if Chair Christianson was back
44 online yet, he got dropped off.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. DETWILER: Okay. We'll keep trying
49 to get him on and I think in the interim, I think it --
50

0063

1 next -- the Board's Chair responsibilities go to you
2 Rhonda. And we do have a couple more presenters on
3 this topic. With Glenn concluding his
4 presentation.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sue, I'm here.

7
8 MS. DETWILER: With Glenn concluding
9 his presentation it would go next to Greg Risdahl with
10 Forest Service. And, Tony, was that you that was on or
11 was that Charlie Brower?

12
13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You can hear me
14 now, Sue?

15
16 MS. DETWILER: Oh, oh, yes, Charlie --
17 sorry, Anthony.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, no,
20 that's -- you have the floor here, just keep doing
21 business, you're doing fine, thank you.

22
23 MS. DETWILER: Okay. Thank you for
24 that. And now I -- I think we may -- yes, I think we
25 may have lost Rhonda to the non-speaking room, we'll
26 get her on as quickly as possible as well.

27
28 MR. RISDAHL: Sue. Mr. Chairman. This
29 is Greg Risdahl. Just let me know when you're ready to
30 go, we're waiting for Rhonda.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We'll
33 just wait for her to sign on and then you'll have the
34 floor, Greg. Good to hear you.

35
36 MR. RISDAHL: You bet, same here, Tony.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue again.
41 We're checking with the operator right now to get
42 Rhonda back in the speaking mode, Rhonda, are you on.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MR. BROWER: She said to press star,
47 zero to get back on.

48
49 MS. DETWILER: Oh, okay. I have a text
50

0064

1 message, she can hear but apparently she is not in
2 speak -- are you -- is that you, Rhonda?

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MS. DETWILER: Uh. Rhonda is trying to
7 get through to the operator but she pressed star, zero,
8 no response.

9

10 REPORTER: Or you can press star, one.

11

12 (Pause)

13

14 MR. BROWER: Yeah, Sue.

15

16 MS. DETWILER: Yes.

17

18 MR. BROWER: Yeah, she pressed star,
19 zero and she still gets nothing.

20

21 MS. DETWILER: Okay. And we're working
22 it from our end, too.

23

24 MR. BROWER: That's what I'm telling
25 her.

26

27 (Pause)

28

29 MS. DETWILER: Robbin, or Katya, do we
30 have any updates from the operators?

31

32 MS. ROBBIN: I think she's on, I see her
33 name, her phone number in the line up.

34

35 MS. DETWILER: So is there a way we
36 could get to her and have the operator get that number
37 and open it up to the speaking line.

38

39 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda, I'm
40 here.

41

42 MR. BROWER: She's on.

43

44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46

47 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, this is Robbin.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Robbin,

50

0065

1 you have the floor.

2

3 MS. LAVINE: I just want to note that
4 there is somebody whose line remains open who may be
5 walking across some wonderful hardwood floors. I'd
6 like to remind all people to mute their lines unless
7 they are speaking and that will help our court reporter
8 keep accurate records.

9

10 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 REPORTER: Thank you.

13

14 MS. PITKA: Hi, this is Rhonda, I'm
15 here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Amen. Thank
18 you, Rhonda. We'll get back to where we're at again.
19 We're all online, we've just been getting dropped, and
20 so we're back to business. Sue, you have the floor.

21

22 MS. DETWILER: Yes. Greg Risdahl was
23 going to start with the budget presentation for Forest
24 Service.

25

26 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Sue. Members
27 of the Board and Mr. Chairman. This is Greg Risdahl,
28 the Subsistence Program Leader for the Forest Service
29 and InterAgency Staff Committee member.

30

31 The Forest Service budget for FY2021 is
32 the last table in your supplemental handout on Page 13
33 and it displays the Forest Service subsistence budget
34 for Fiscal Year 2021. Note that the Forest Service
35 subsistence budget is a line item in the Congressional
36 budget. The total Alaska Forest Service budget for
37 2021 was estimated to be \$2,649,373 million. Of that,
38 approximately half, just slightly over half, or
39 \$1,351,761 million went to salaries and travel costs
40 specifically to support the Subsistence Program.

41

42 Now, the total dollar value for
43 salaries was derived from an estimate of the percent of
44 time that each Forest Service Staff person spent
45 conducting subsistence work. This includes Staff in
46 the Regional office as well as Staff from both the
47 Tongass and the Chugach National Forests. The dollar
48 values for individual salaries were further estimated
49 to be at the GS5 step -- excuse me, GS5 level. Note
50

0066

1 that since this budget was put together the Forest
2 Service has started a new budget process called budget
3 modernization and salaries will no longer come out of
4 the subsistence budget, there is a specific budget cost
5 code for salaries only.

6
7 That takes us to the other half of the
8 Subsistence Program budget. The other half, about 49
9 percent, or \$1,297,612 million went to subsistence
10 monitoring projects on the two Forests, support to OSM,
11 which Sue Detwiler had mentioned during her
12 presentation, about \$50,000 to law enforcement and a
13 small amount to the Regional Office.

14
15 The summary breakdown looks something
16 like this.

17
18 So for 2021, the total distribution to
19 the Regional Office was \$522,023, as Sue mentioned
20 \$378,474 of those dollars went to OSM for support. The
21 total Chugach distribution was \$95,000. And the total
22 Tongass distribution was \$680,589. The reason why the
23 Tongass distribution is much higher is because this is
24 where all the FRMP projects took place last year.

25
26 And that concludes my summary, thank
27 you very much. If you have questions I am ready to
28 respond.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 MS. DETWILER: This is Sue Detwiler.
33 And I believe we had one more presentation after Greg
34 Risdahl, and that was Pat Petrivelli summarizing budget
35 related concerns that the Regional Advisory Councils
36 have brought up.

37
38 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair, this is Pat
39 Petrivelli with the BIA Subsistence Branch.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hi, Pat,
42 welcome aboard and feeling you're up to something, good
43 to hear you.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. PETRIVELLI: My presentation is
48 Page 14 of the handout, it's the last page. And I
49 looked at the Council issues that were submitted by the
50

0067

1 Councils in their annual reports from 2000 to 2020,
2 which almost stretches -- I started with Fish and
3 Wildlife Service in 2000.

4

5 But I searched for concerns that
6 related to funding and I found 50 of the 908 issues
7 dealt with funding-related issues. The majority
8 related to research concerns and I broke those down in
9 those three bullet points. 14 involved increased
10 funding for Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, or
11 other fisheries related concerns. 12 involved
12 wildlife, either the need for a wildlife research
13 monitoring program, or species specific concerns. And
14 four involved just the need for increased fishery and
15 wildlife monitoring in general. And those concerns
16 were expressed with the need for more monitoring
17 information to make decisions about proposals.

18

19 The remaining 20 concerns that were
20 submitted usually -- a lot of them were submitted in
21 response to a period when there were subsistence budget
22 reductions and I think in past presentations those
23 years covered, I think 2010 to 2015 where the budgets
24 were drastically reduced. And in those categories the
25 Councils had eight agency specific concerns and six
26 related to increased funding for adequate Staffing to
27 implement subsistence management activities and those
28 were to Fish and Wildlife and BLM. And then the other
29 two related to species-specific recommended
30 activities where they just wanted more agency related
31 projects for those species-specific activities.

32

33 The next categories were just either
34 Council-specific or OSM-related concerns, and they
35 mainly related to funding for travel to smaller
36 communities or more Council training.

37

38 And then there was only two categories
39 left out of those 50 and that related to one for
40 partners, more funding for Partners Program and more
41 funding for tribal consultation. And the Councils --
42 the Council that submitted that concern somehow decided
43 that if there was more travel funds to go to smaller
44 communities then the tribe could -- that tribes could
45 directly participate in the Council meetings, so that's
46 how it got categorized as tribal consultation.

47

48 And that was all I had.

49

50

0068

1 MS. DETWILER: So, Mr. Chair, that
2 concludes our presentation on the Board -- on the
3 budget -- I'm sorry.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Sue.
6 Any questions from the Board, any discussion on the
7 budget as presented. The floor is open.

8
9 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
12 have the floor.

13
14 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 First off I'd like to thank the individual agencies,
16 their ISC members for coming up with this review of the
17 budget. I do appreciate the time and effort. I know
18 it was very challenging at times to go through of what
19 was requested from the Board, what is anticipated or
20 expected, and I do greatly appreciate the effort going
21 through here.

22
23 I have a series of questions, if I may,
24 Mr. Chair, to try to get to a complete understanding of
25 how we are today and I'd like to -- just before I start
26 with the questions, point out, on average based on my
27 rough calculations it looks like each of the programs
28 or agencies provides anywhere from three-quarters to a
29 little over a million dollars a year of their
30 operational budget to support of a Subsistence Program
31 within the individual agency.

32
33 And a little back history for some of
34 our newer members. At a Federal Subsistence Board
35 retreat, which was held at Alyeska several years back a
36 similar budget presentation was provided to the
37 individual Board members and there is some
38 discrepancies associated with the inflow and outflow
39 and so that prompted the initial request for reviewing
40 the subsistence budget throughout the program. Now,
41 going through things that stood out to me of the -- and
42 I'm going to kind of summarize and paraphrase for
43 expediency-sake, but of the roughly \$12.4 million that
44 come into the Federal Subsistence Program, and it is
45 managed via 50 CFR 100.10(b)(9), of that, there is
46 approximately 500,000 that goes to the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service under the terms the Less headquarters
48 Service-wide enterprise assessments, and I understand
49 that varies by year, that is very common with agencies
50

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1 that have pass-thru. And if anybody that's done any
2 interagency agreements with others know that there is a
3 little -- overhead associated with transferring the
4 money. If you take the 12.4, subtract the 500,000,
5 that roughly leaves you 11.9 that goes to OSM. Of the
6 funding that goes to OSM, the -- and I'm trying to flip
7 my paperwork around here, there is a little bit more
8 than a million dollars, I believe, that is not
9 associated with the Office of Subsistence Management,
10 and as far as -- it's 1.435. If I recall the Fish and
11 Wildlife Service presentation, that is determined based
12 on a formula that was identified in the unified plan;
13 is that correct? That's my first question.

14
15 MS. COGSWELL: Mr. Board [sic], Karen
16 Cogswell. Or, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, you.....

19
20 MS. COGSWELL: Or Gene, the answer is
21 yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:have the
24 floor. Yeah, sorry.

25
26 MS. COGSWELL: Yeah, yep, no worries.

27
28 MR. PELTOLA: Okay, thanks, Karen,
29 appreciate it. So if we go down, the breakdown of that
30 1.435 and compare it to the expenditures from OSM, that
31 means that of the 10.3 and change going to OSM, that
32 figure is retained by the Fish and Wildlife Service.
33 Based on the unified plan which was adopted by the
34 Board some time ago, I think it was 1999, if you look
35 at the OSM expenditures that includes the regulatory,
36 council coordination, anthropology, you know,
37 administrative expenses, including space for the Office
38 of Subsistence Management, that is very significant,
39 yet, those expenses are not accounted for in the 1.435
40 that goes through. So of the 1.435, I'm assuming that
41 either is, since we had in the presentation at 100
42 percent to OSM, the 1.435, I assume that that goes back
43 to Fisheries Ecological Services, Refuges, via the
44 1534/1535 and 1261 budgetary codes. And when we look
45 at those expenses incurred by Fisheries Ecological
46 Services and Refuges there are some unique situations,
47 but also there are some expenditures that the other
48 agencies are absorbing within their own operating
49 budgets. Especially when you look at in-season
50

0070

1 management authority, which seems to be a large portion
2 of that 1.435 that is retained within the Service and
3 those additional responsibilities, whether it be other
4 agencies in Alaska with in-season management authority
5 are incurred and absorbed by the existing budgets.

6

7 So with that, and I can't emphasize I
8 do appreciate this effort because I know a lot went
9 into it to getting us a more concise view of our
10 operating budget for the Subsistence Program.

11

12 With that being said and the history of
13 why we are here today at the point we are here today,
14 going back several years about the original budgetary
15 concern, all this is based on the unified plan which is
16 approved by the Board. So I'd recommend, Mr. Chair,
17 that if some agencies feel that that 1.4 may be spent
18 on very worthy -- worthy projects, i.e., that benefit
19 that Program, although I'd like to point out that it is
20 not the FRMP or Federal Subsistence Program or Board
21 directive on how to spend those funds, that prior to
22 our July/August work session, Mr. Chair, I'd recommend
23 that the Board establish a committee and look at the
24 unified plan such that if -- as a group, and bring it
25 to the Board's full consideration whether that unified
26 plan should be modified or not.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
31 Gene. Any other Board comments or discussion.

32

33 MS. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, Karen
34 Cogswell.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Karen, you
37 have the floor.

38

39 MS. COGSWELL: Thanks. Yeah, thanks,
40 Gene, for walking through that. I think the one
41 addition I would make to what you outlined regarding
42 the unified plan is that that plan was created by the
43 InterAgency Team that then forwarded that through the
44 appropriate -- through USDA and the Department of
45 Interior to put into budget books that then got
46 appropriated by Congress. So I think the -- I just
47 want to make sure that there is clarity around that
48 larger process. That it wasn't just something that
49 internally was decided and done, it really had to go
50

0071

1 through a full budget cycle process within the full
2 Department -- both Departments and the Administration
3 and Congress.

4

5 MR. PELTOLA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, BIA.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene, you
8 have it.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 And I appreciate that explanation. In addition to, if
12 we go through this process, one thing I'd hope that'd
13 be identified each and every agency's monetary
14 obligations to execute the Federal Subsistence Program
15 and that be part of the equation as well.

16

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
20 Appreciate all the input and, you know, if we do it
21 from the Board's perspective here and start to take a
22 look, it's good that we are getting a capture of all
23 the agency budgets and where it's at, especially with
24 the big review going on, both in the public and in the
25 Department of Interior and also seeing today with the
26 amount of projects we had on the list, knowing we need
27 \$17 million and we can only fund, you know, limited
28 amounts of that. Not everybody gets the funding. You
29 know getting where this money is, what the color is,
30 how it flows, that gives us a better opportunity to
31 maybe bolster it but also, you know, look for
32 additional partnerships that the public knows, you
33 know, where the money is and how it transfers from each
34 agency, you know, because I say there's a lot of local
35 possibilities for partnerships as well as additional
36 money coming down through other agencies and for other
37 means that could help address these in rural Alaska.

38

39 So appreciate the effort by all the
40 agencies to pull together your budgets and getting this
41 information and look forward to working through how we
42 collectively prioritize this and keep moving forward as
43 a Board.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 Any other Board discussion, comments or
48 questions.

49

50

0072

1 MS. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, Karen
2 Cogswell.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
5 floor Karen.

6
7 MS. COGSWELL: Thanks. One other
8 thought that I have is around the history of flat
9 funding for the Program. We've essentially, over time,
10 since the unified plan and the initial budgets,
11 particularly the funds that come to the Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, I can't be sure about that for other
13 agencies, so that'd be interesting to hear, but we have
14 essentially stayed flat so our purchase power is very
15 different now than it was 20 years as we've all
16 experienced in many other ways. So I'm wondering if
17 there is -- this is a good time to really start
18 focusing on how we can grow our budget. If this is an
19 opportunity for us to pull together what would be a
20 larger budget proposal to move through our agencies to
21 ask for additional funding, to even just get us up to
22 where we were 20 years ago in today's dollars, but
23 potentially even to go beyond that, if appropriate.

24
25 We heard from Pat's report out from the
26 Councils around budget needs and I don't -- I don't
27 know what all those numbers add up to but I think we
28 could probably make a good case for the need for
29 additional funding overall for the Subsistence Program
30 in Alaska.

31
32 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You got it
35 Gene.

36
37 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 I'd have to concur with Karen's statement. When I
39 arrived at the Office of Subsistence Management in '13
40 the budget hadn't been flat yet but within five to
41 seven years prior to my arrival within the Office of
42 Subsistence Management, the budget had been three-fold
43 larger prior to '13 and my arrival, then when I did
44 arrive, and then actually we didn't get to that solid
45 12.4 until like a year or two later. So just from '13
46 on, or '14 or '15 when we did have that plateau, just
47 the amount we may have lost in purchase power over time
48 with regard to inflation definitely does decrease our
49 buying power of the dollar. In addition to, if you
50

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1 look at the 12.4 versus historic levels, and granted
2 there's a lot more required of the Program than in
3 initial establishment of the Program but there was a
4 significantly larger budget for subsistence even after
5 that had been accounted for and additional
6 responsibilities of fisheries.

7

8 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MR. SCHMID: Mr. Chair. Dave Schmid
11 from the Forest Service.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Dave, you
14 have the floor.

15

16 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, I'll just tag on to
17 the conversation. I know we opened this discussion
18 here, gosh, a couple years ago and I certainly concur
19 and agree with Karen and Gene. You know I left Alaska
20 after about 25 years working, and then in subsistence,
21 came back and just saw that the budgets not only had
22 gone down significantly but have been flat in recent
23 years and have lost that. And I would just add that I
24 think the time is ripe here, given certainly some focus
25 with this Administration, a few of the Executive
26 Orders, and even the Secretarial orders here by the
27 Department of Interior and Agriculture, that if we
28 could jointly move up proposals to increase, enhance
29 our budget to just restore some of the capacity within
30 our Councils and the efforts. And as you pointed out,
31 Mr. Chair, there is just such a need, if you're looking
32 at the proposals for fisheries monitoring that came in,
33 well above current funding levels. I think the time is
34 ripe and if we can do this jointly through the Federal
35 family, with a lot of support from our partners, and
36 the communities, I think we would have a fair shot at
37 enhancing the budget.

38

39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
42 that Dave. Any other Board members, discussions,
43 feedback.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, hearing
48 none I just want to say that was a good discussion and
49 I think we have a few points there that we can pay
50

0074

1 attention to as far as moving forward and, you know,
2 maybe looking at sitting down and doing a pull together
3 meeting, as Gene suggested, and setting what our
4 priorities look like and then developing a plan and,
5 you know, reinforcing what Dave said, is a good
6 opportunity to look at a spectrum of projects, money
7 and things coming down the pike where we could increase
8 those opportunities and get locals involved in
9 prioritizing that as well. And then, you know, really
10 taking subsistence to the next level. It seems to be a
11 top priority in the, you know, tribal and public
12 arenas. And additional money coming to the state,
13 hopefully this will be something that gets prioritized
14 by all of our partners in these FRMP projects as well
15 as they do represent mostly tribal governments and
16 rural agencies that stand to be in a primary place to
17 assist the Program in moving forward. And so hopefully
18 all the players on the table continue to do the good
19 job they've been doing in promoting subsistence and
20 finding the funding and making sure that we can
21 adequately get our information and monitoring needs met
22 for the subsistence priority.

23

24 So I just want to thank all of you for
25 the optics, the update on the report, the grants and
26 monies and how it flows and I hope that helped answered
27 some of the questions and concerns that maybe the
28 public has or the Board members.

29

30 If there's any other additional
31 comments I'll just turn it over to Sue.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, it looks
34 like Sue just got -- Sue just got back on. You missed
35 my long-winded speech there, Sue, you were lucky.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. DETWILER: Yes, well, my first
40 question would be -- I'm sorry I missed the discussion
41 there but I would be interested in knowing if there was
42 a Board action, Board direction coming out of this and
43 what specific direction there might be to Staff,
44 including the ISC and OSM, about what we are to pursue
45 from here and also if there's an assignment for us, you
46 know, exactly what that -- what that assignment is, and
47 depending on the assignment, I think we'd also like to
48 make sure that there is some continuing Board
49 involvement, Board member involvement as the ISC and
50

0075

1 OSM pursue whatever the assignment is.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, Sue,
5 that's what I was talking about. It sounded like a
6 couple of the Board members were in concurrence here,
7 Dave, Gene and Karen, also myself, with the offer to
8 everybody else to weigh in at, you know, that
9 additional meetings do need to occur, like you just
10 suggested, and that we pull together this
11 comprehensive, what happened today, you know, gave us a
12 pretty good starting point. And then looking at, you
13 know, moving forward with a committee of like a Council
14 member or two as well as ISC Staff and people that are
15 credible in the budget arena in each of these agencies
16 and then look to get that information -- probably just
17 another summary at our next meeting, I would think --
18 if any other Board member has another suggestion, but
19 that we come back together again and then use the
20 information that we have here to look at the shortfalls
21 we have in our budget, knowing that, you know, we had a
22 -- how much money that we do get requested from versus
23 what we can fund annually and what our current
24 commitments are and then see if how do we develop a
25 plan to move that shortfall up the chain and encourage
26 people to bolster their budgets or find additional
27 monies or create partnerships that can fully fund these
28 projects.

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And so I think the first step, Sue, was
to orchestrate a meeting between, and then with the
spirit of moving that towards that prioritizing listing
and then how do we increase these partnerships and the
funding for the overall needs for the Program as they
will be increasing as time goes on.

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If there's any other input from the
Board you can add to that if Sue needs any direction.

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MS. DETWILER: So, Mr. Chair, just so I
can -- I'm trying to crystalize this in my mind and I
want to make sure I understand. I think I have a
general direction on which way we want to go. And I --
it sounds like what we want to do is kind of take it
from this point, and the information that Pat
Petrivelli provided about budget concerns from the
Regional Advisory Councils could help inform this
effort as we move forward to figure out, you know, what

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1 are -- what are the things that are not being funded,
2 what should be funded, maybe take a look at what the
3 current priorities are, what additional funding is
4 necessary for those to address those priorities. And
5 so.....

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7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes. Yes.

8
9 MS. DETWILER:we would need to --
10 need to establish a working group, that would at least
11 include the ISC, and, I, again, would like to get a
12 commitment from Board members if they can -- they'll be
13 involved in this as we move along to help provide
14 direction from that upper level position that's more
15 connected to, you know, the higher levels at both
16 Departments. So I think I understand that.

17
18 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair. BIA would be
19 more than happy to work with the ISC and might I
20 recommend also that Karen at Fish and Wildlife Service,
21 and Dave, at least, in addition to probably a public
22 member be a small group to work in conjunction with the
23 ISC, if others are amenable.

24
25 MR. SCHMID: Yeah, Gene and Sue, I
26 certainly am. This is Dave with the Department of Ag.

27
28 MS. COGSWELL: This is Karen. Gene,
29 you beat me to it, I'm in.

30
31 MS. PITKA: This is Rhonda, I'll do it.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Right on. It
34 sounds like we have some good commitment here. I think
35 we have some clear direction. It sounds like the
36 spirit is to get together and, you know, work out the
37 shortfalls, the budget needs and assessments from each
38 area and then develop that needs versus this, and then
39 also you heard from the Board's -- the buying power, so
40 what that dollar was buying before and what it buys now
41 and then what we currently have funded and then the
42 needs that we have existing and then working on
43 upscaling that to how do we start to build an alliance
44 to go ask for more money. So I think we're developing
45 a team here, we have a committee and some direction and
46 then Staff is confident and crystallized in the
47 approach we'll take here is to continue these meetings
48 between the committee who just said they're available
49 and move forward from there with getting some semblance
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1 of a plan pulled together, but time to be determined,
2 availability by Council and ISC Staff.

3

4 MS. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair, Karen
5 Cogswell.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Karen, you
8 have the floor.

9

10 MS. COGSWELL: Just one thing to add.
11 With the goal, all of what you said but, in addition,
12 with the goal of working towards an incremental funding
13 request.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

16

17 MS. COGSWELL: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Karen, yes,
20 that.....

21

22 MS. COGSWELL: Okay. I thought I heard
23 you mention that but I wanted to make sure that that
24 was part of a larger goal.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah. I think
27 the end goal would be to -- you know, I've been
28 involved in the Program for several years now and, you
29 know, we've never really went back and attacked, you
30 know, a bigger ask other than, you know, each agency,
31 you know, fighting for the Program but the Program
32 itself, in the capacity is pretty limited to lobbying
33 and all that other stuff and I don't want to even use
34 the word in my speech but, you know, being able to sit
35 here and talk about creating a bigger ask and making a
36 plan and prioritizing, you know, the shortfalls as
37 something to target. It makes me feel good that we're
38 on the right path here as the Program for Office of
39 Subsistence Management and involvement of all you guys
40 -- agencies because, you know, it's going to get to be
41 a bigger problem. It's a way higher concern to the
42 state and each of the perspective regions, if you look
43 at the annual reports. This is elevating as a concern
44 to the public. And we're going to need more money to
45 do this and more boots on the ground if we're going to
46 get the information and resources to all the people who
47 depend on them and to conserve those resources for
48 future generations it's going to require all hands on
49 deck.

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1 And so thank you guys for starting this
2 process now and, you know, doing it in a way that can
3 give clear and articulate plans and orders to our Staff
4 and so just thank you guys for all of your input.

5

6 MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, BIA.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Gene.

9

10 MR. PELTOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Just to build upon Karen's comment about the purchase
12 power of the subsistence dollar. If we go back to when
13 the 12.4 was solidified like '13/14, in that area, the
14 purchase price of a dollar say compared to there, we've
15 lost 20 percent. If you go back to 2010 the last
16 Secretarial review, that dollar has lost 30 percent of
17 its purchase power.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
22 Gene. Any other Board input or discussion. Anybody
23 have anything to add.

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. It
28 sounds like we've pulled together a pretty good
29 priority plan here for the Staff in coordination with
30 representatives and InterAgency Staff and people with
31 knowledge of the budget and so we'll put that ball into
32 Sue's court as an OSM directive there and look forward
33 to a good productive program there.

34

35 So we'll go ahead and move on to the
36 next agenda item -- Sue, I ran out on seven here.

37

38 MS. DETWILER: Well, that's -- I ran
39 out as well.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, I
42 was just making sure because I was like all right -- if
43 it don't say adjourn then I'm stumped.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I'm just
48 teasing. Hey, well, if there's any other business
49 today, any other comments I'd entertain a comment at
50

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1 this time, but if not it looks like we did a two day
2 meeting before lunch. So I want to thank you all.
3 Thank you everybody for calling in and participating in
4 the meeting and look forward to continuing to work
5 towards providing a priority preference for the rural
6 users in Alaska for subsistence and conserving the
7 resource for future generations. And without any more
8 comments or questions I will ask and open up the floor
9 for adjournment.

10

11 MR. PELTOLA: So moved.

12

13 MR. SCHMID: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion's been
16 made and seconded to adjourn. Any opposition to
17 adjournment.

18

19 (No opposition)

20

21 MS. COGSWELL: Question.

22

23 MR. PELTOLA: One other thing, Mr.

24 Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, go ahead,
27 Gene.

28

29 MR. PELTOLA: Before we adjourn I'd
30 like to say happy birthday to one of our rural public
31 members and I'll leave it at that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Happy Birthday.

34

35 MR. BROWER: Happy Birthday.

36

37 REPORTER: Happy Birthday.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: (In Native)
40 All right, any opposition to the motion to adjourn.

41

42 (No opposition)

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
45 motion to adjourn accepted. Have a good day and God
46 bless you all. Bye.

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48 (Off record)

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(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court
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February 2022.

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