

00111

1 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD
2 REGAL ALASKA HOTEL, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

3
4 VOLUME II

5
6 MAY 3, 2000
7 9:00 o'clock a.m.
8 PUBLIC MEETING

9
10 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Mitch Demientieff, Chairman
13 Gary Edwards, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
14 Niles Cesar, Bureau of Indian Affairs
15 Curt Wilson, Bureau of Land Management
16 Judy Gottlieb, National Park Service
17 Jim Caplan, U.S. Forest Service
18
19 Keith Goltz, Solicitor

00112

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3
4

(On record)

5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Good morning. We
6 are going to begin this morning moving to the
7 Kodiak/Aleutians region. The first proposal we have is
8 Proposal No. 28. I don't know who's doing the Staff
9 analysis -- oh, here we go, Helen.

10
11 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
12 Helen Armstrong from Fish and Wildlife Service, Subsistence
13 Office. Proposal 28 was submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians
14 Regional Council and it requested that Akutan be added to
15 the customary and traditional use determinations for Unimak
16 Island. This was a determination that was done last year.
17 And when it was being done last year the Council felt that
18 it needed to include Akutan.

19
20 The map shows here, Akutan, it's a pretty good
21 distance away from Unimak Island. And what I found in
22 doing this is actually the water is pretty rough between
23 there and the small skiffs can't get across very easily.
24 We looked in the available literature and found that there
25 is no evidence in the literature, anyway, that people have
26 hunted caribou from Akutan. There was a very extensive
27 study done in Akutan in 1990 by the Fish and Game,
28 Subsistence Division, and they sat down with people and
29 asked them what resources they harvested. Did, they felt,
30 a pretty thorough look at it and no one mentioned caribou.
31 There was also another study done by MMS in the late '80s
32 and no one reported hunting caribou at that time, either.
33 And then there was a dissertation from the '40s and nobody
34 reported hunting caribou in that.

35
36 So we made an effort to find more information and
37 sent out the proposal to people in Akutan. We made a
38 series of phone calls. There was one person who said that
39 he thought that his brother had possibly gone over to
40 Unimak Island on the way back from fishing but his brother
41 was no longer living so there wasn't verification. So we
42 were unable to find any information to support this
43 proposal.

44
45 But yesterday, Della Trumble, she called out to
46 Akutan to see if she could get some more information so I
47 got two faxes this morning and I just wanted to read these
48 into the record. So it is very late information but just
49 to put it into the record as to what we were able to get
50 yesterday.

00113

1 To whom it may concern. I understand that there is
2 a discussion right now about the traditional use of caribou
3 from Unimak Island by Akutan people. Apparently Fish and
4 Game says that people here did not use caribou in the past
5 and shouldn't be allowed to hunt there in the future.
6

7 I know that my grandfather used to go over to
8 Unimak Island and get caribou. He would get enough to
9 share with people in the village. There was also a man
10 named Paul Torgrimson from Unalaska that helped our people
11 go over to Unimak to get caribou. And when people came
12 back from fishing they could stop off and get a caribou on
13 their way home.
14

15 We don't get over to Unimak much these days because
16 the pass is petty dangerous in a skiff and that is what
17 most of us own here in Akutan. However, people are getting
18 larger fishing boats and once we have a boat harbor it
19 would be much easier for us to get over there. To cut off
20 our use of the caribou because we can't get there right now
21 does not seem right. There certainly has been traditional
22 use of the caribou, and we should not be denied our right
23 to them. Hugh Pelkey.
24

25 And the second one is from Zenia Borenin in Akutan.
26 And Zenia says: We understand that there is a
27 determination that Akutan should not be listed as a
28 community with traditional use of caribou from Unimak
29 Island. This is not correct.
30

31 When fishing boats come back that way, they often
32 stopped and got caribou on the way back home. There also
33 was someone from Unalaska that helped us get over there to
34 get caribou for the village. Usually we could get people
35 together and get several caribou that would be divided up
36 in the village. Aside from eating it fresh, people would
37 salt the meat and preserve it that way.
38

39 When people couldn't get anyone to help them get
40 caribou on Unimak they had to order reindeer from up north,
41 but caribou and reindeer were definitely part of our
42 traditional diet in Akutan.
43

44 Right now we do not have very good access to Unimak
45 Island. Although Unimak, in the Krenitzin Island group, is
46 only 10 miles away from Unimak, it is usually too rough for
47 our small skiffs to cross. However, when we have access to
48 larger boats, and especially once the boat harbor is built
49 and we can safely moor larger boats and subsistence use of
50 the caribou on Unimak will continue the way it was in the

00114

1 earlier days.

2

3 That's all I have. And you can do with this as you
4 wish. Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Summary
7 of written public comments.

8

9 MR. EDENSHAW: Yes, Mr. Chair. There
10 weren't any written comments.

11

12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Department comments.

13

14 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
15 Department doesn't support this proposal. We concur with
16 the justification that's presented in the Staff analysis
17 for not adopting this proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. We had no
20 request for additional public testimony at this time.
21 Regional Council recommendation.

22

23 MR. TUTIKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At
24 the last meeting of Kodiak/Aleutians Council the
25 recommendation was to defer it until further information
26 was gathered either by the members within the Aleutians
27 area or by Staff. That was our vote. Personally, I would
28 like to see this passed based on the information that we've
29 received from Akutan.

30

31 I also believe that there should be further study
32 by the Staff. And also take into consideration, those
33 people who moved from Akutan who now live in Unalaska.
34 There's a large group that live in Unalaska who have lived
35 in Akutan in the early and prior to and after World War II
36 that have not been part of this Staff analysis. I really
37 believe that they should be -- do more study on it and ask
38 that this proposal be deferred until further information is
39 gathered.

40

41 Thanks.

42

43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
44 Committee. Oh, I'm sorry, Dan.

45

46 MR. O'HARA: Yes, I agree with Vince on
47 that. We're the neighboring group from up there and
48 probably don't have the knowledge of what's going on here
49 but I hate to see people denied this if you could defer it
50 and get a little more information. We've done that for

00115

1 years to try to get enough information to make a decision
2 so we don't, you know, cut people off. It's always hard to
3 -- the farther and farther away you get the more difficult
4 it is to give that opportunity. But I was going to ask,
5 Dave, Mr. Chairman, if I could, is that the Black Hills
6 Caribou Herd that they're dealing with as far as animals
7 go?

8
9 MR. FISHER: Southern Alaska Peninsula
10 Herd.

11
12 MR. O'HARA: Thank you, very much.

13
14 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

17
18 MR. TUTIKOFF: I'd ask that Della Trumble
19 be able to make more comment. She has been in contact in
20 the last couple of weeks with people from False Pass who
21 have relatives at Akutan and Unalaska and would like to be
22 able to make comment?

23
24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes, that's more
25 than fair. I know that Della's been working hard on this
26 issue.

27
28 MR. TUTIKOFF: Thank you.

29
30 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In
31 regard to Proposal 28, I have been on the phone the last
32 day and was able to receive some letters. Originally this
33 request came from a resident of our region in our fall
34 meeting in King Cove. In our meeting in March we asked to
35 defer it because we felt strongly that -- Staff said that
36 they did not have information available and we know, living
37 in the region, that that information is out there. We need
38 to, I think, put a little more effort into trying to get
39 that. These two letters from Akutan yesterday, the call
40 into the Mayor, support that.

41
42 I also talked with Gilda Shellikoff who is from
43 False Pass, last night, and she has mentioned that there
44 are elders in False Pass that do recall people from Unimak
45 hunting -- or from Akutan hunting on Unimak.

46
47 I know there have been attempts made by Staff and
48 other people but I feel strongly that this is something
49 that shouldn't go away. It's historically been a part of
50 the people from Akutan and Unimak and we should not put

00116

1 this aside.

2

3 I would like to recommend, in talking to other
4 Council members from the Kodiak/Aleutians and they do agree
5 with this, is that we continue with the request of
6 Kodiak/Aleutians Council to defer until additional
7 information is collected. I know and, believe, strongly,
8 that this information is out there and a little more effort
9 needs to be put into trying to get that.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
14 Committee.

15

16 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I guess this is
17 a bit awkward for the Staff Committee. When the Staff
18 Committee developed this recommendation we didn't have this
19 new information available. And the Staff Committee
20 recommendation was to reject the proposal.

21

22 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Yeah,
23 Gilda, you just stay right there, you can participate -- I
24 mean, Gilda -- Della, I'm sorry. Just stay right there I
25 want you to help participate when we begin the discussions
26 in this, which is now.

27

28 Vince, you're talking about these people that are
29 original Akutan residents that have moved to Unalaska, you
30 say?

31

32 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: So I'm assuming
35 they've got families in both communities?

36

37 MR. TUTIKOFF: Right, in False Pass and
38 Akutan.

39

40 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: That still maintain
41 their family connections?

42

43 MR. TUTIKOFF: Right, they do. The reason
44 that people are in Unalaska is an economic reason, either
45 they've been trained to do a job that can't be filled at
46 Akutan so they fill that position in Unalaska. Along with
47 them comes their family, relatives, uncles that travel
48 through Akutan, going through Unalaska to Anchorage, and so
49 it's -- you know, they do have a lot of interaction. The
50 families that live at False Pass, they have interaction

00117

1 during the summer with the fishing season and accumulate
2 their subsistence for the communities, and Akutan and
3 Unalaska also.

4

5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: And people in
6 Unalaska have easier access to caribou in Unimak?

7

8 MR. TUTIKOFF: Well, the people in Unalaska
9 that are there, either have it shipped to them, via mail or
10 fishing vessel, so there is that access. But there they
11 are -- a younger group that's getting more and more into
12 the subsistence because of the economics of the region,
13 it's causing them to go to Unimak on their own or either as
14 a group, as they traditionally did in the past. As was
15 mentioned in the letter, Mr. Torgimson, who had a vessel
16 approximately 42-foot steel boat that he ran back and forth
17 from False Pass, Akutan to Unalaska, Unalaska being the
18 only place having an airport up to early or late '50s. So
19 he did have the mail, so he did haul, you know, a lot of
20 meat back and forth for the communities.

21

22 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, I guess I'm
23 just asking this because it -- and I know I've told this
24 story at this Board before, but a few years back, for the
25 first time in 40 years caribou migrated through Nenana, the
26 first time in 40 years that they'd migrated. And somebody
27 bumped into a couple and it was amazing. We didn't have
28 any permits or nothing but just a hunting license, I don't
29 think there was no season there or nothing because they
30 hadn't been through there in 40 years. But it's amazing to
31 me how the depth of the community memory was, that the
32 people knew right where to direct the younger people, two
33 major crossings. They say, well, go here and the rest of
34 you guys go there, and I'll be darn, sure enough, thousands
35 of caribou went right back to there and how did they have
36 the memory of where the crossings were, I don't know
37 because they hadn't crossed there in 40 years. But people
38 went out and harvested caribou anyway because it was the
39 first time they had access to them without going up into
40 the hills. Now, it's not that we didn't hunt them. But, I
41 mean to have access to them in our immediate area, you
42 know, was not the -- it was just amazing how that whole
43 dynamic of that thing worked. But then basically, you
44 know, there's a lot to be said for it just because you're
45 just displaced, a population, doesn't mean you're not
46 dependent on it.

47

48 Go ahead, Niles.

49

50 MR. CESAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I

00118

1 don't want to beat a dead caribou but I think one of the
2 hallmarks of this program is that we need to be flexible
3 when we can be. And certainly I think a motion to defer
4 gives the people more opportunity to put down in writing
5 and tapes, or whatever, or even have a general meeting
6 where folks can discuss it. And I think the eventual
7 outcome will be positive, you know, for the folks if we do
8 that as opposed to rejecting the proposal outright which
9 puts them into another category of reapplying and the
10 process, would seem to me to be a little more difficult
11 doing that. And I am probably one of the few people in
12 this room that understands the Aleutians, having spent 30
13 months on Adak, and I was there when we established the
14 caribou on Adak and so I know that times change. And where
15 maybe a thousand years ago there might have been all kinds
16 of caribou out there and the last 500 none. So I think
17 it's reasonable to defer something to allow people to get
18 it more refined and in a process that we can all endorse.

19
20 So at the moment that you think it's reasonable,
21 Mr. Chairman, I'm prepared to do that.

22
23 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. I know
24 we've been staffing here. In our latest restaffing have we
25 built additional anthropological capacity for that region,
26 do you know, Peggy?

27
28 MS. FOX: Yes, Mr. Chair. We've just hired
29 two additional anthropologists. I don't know if they've
30 been introduced to everyone. Perhaps this is an
31 appropriate time. We do have a new one for the
32 Kodiak/Aleutians Council.

33
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Have we had one in
35 the past?

36
37 MS. FOX: Yes, that was Rachel.

38
39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, yeah, okay,
40 right.

41
42 MS. FOX: She covered three regions.

43
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, yeah, that's
45 right. So now Rachel has a lighter load?

46
47 MS. FOX: Rachel has moved on to the Park
48 Service.

49
50 MS. GOTTLIEB: That's not a lighter load.

00119

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Retired to the Park
2 Service, has she?

3
4 MS. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
5 ask Della, since you have done so much work on this, Vince
6 and others, that you are willing to continue to do the
7 helpful data gathering that you have been working on?

8
9 MS. TRUMBLE: Yes, we will continue to do
10 that and this Council fully supports that. We also are
11 really happy to have Patty Petrovelli as our
12 anthropologist. She is from our region, she knows our
13 history very well and she knows the people well. I think
14 she'll do an excellent job. We'll be more than happy to
15 help.

16
17 MS. GOTTLIEB: Great. Thank you.

18
19 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, you know, given
20 the work that's already been done and also given the new
21 information, I guess, I would question whether it really
22 makes sense to defer at this time but not just go ahead and
23 approve the proposal. My guess is that, even with
24 additional work, there is not going to -- it's not going to
25 be changed that much. My guess is we'd get additional
26 letters or whatever, but apparently the historical written
27 record has already gone through fairly extensively. So
28 unless Staff thinks there is more, maybe, out there
29 historically in the written form that hasn't been reviewed,
30 then I guess I would be more inclined to go ahead and
31 approve the proposal and then if additional ones -- other
32 areas would be added, have those added at a later time.

33
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Further discussion.
35 Comments.

36
37 MS. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

40
41 MS. GOTTLIEB: I certainly don't want to
42 appear unsympathetic to the request but I do want to have a
43 little bit more information because I think my sense would
44 be, for our record, we'd want to have a little bit more
45 complete information. My understanding is we wouldn't have
46 to wait another year or anything to come back to discuss
47 this. When you have, perhaps a few more letters or
48 documentation for us, we could take it up then at any time.
49 That's just my initial thought on it.

50

00120

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I think myself, too,
2 I hear the Regional Council say there's more information
3 out there, we need to gather that and bring it forward.
4 And I think for myself I'm more comfortable in doing
5 diligence along with the Council in building that record so
6 that we have a solid decision because we have to make these
7 kinds of decisions all the time. We need to make sure that
8 we build a record. I don't know, Vince, Della, is that
9 comfortable for us to wait a little while to build the
10 record?

11
12 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. We would
13 ask that we be given the opportunity to get more
14 information if that's the desire of this Board. We really
15 do feel that there is -- that information is out there.
16 And we'd like to, as part as the deferment, if that's what
17 the Board does here, to a later date, is that they
18 authorize and direct the Staff to do more research to help
19 us in the region.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. EDWARDS: My only response is my guess
24 is even if we do that we're going to be kind of right back
25 in the same situations. So I guess I'm still more inclined
26 to just move forward with the proposal as submitted.

27
28 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any other comments.
29 Are we ready for an action?

30
31 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I'm sorry, Vince.

34
35 MR. TUTIKOFF: I'd like to reiterate that
36 the Board, you know, move to gather more information and
37 defer this but I believe a majority of this, at this point,
38 after listening and talking with Della and also the other
39 people that are in Akutan and in Unalaska that have
40 knowledge about the use of caribou, that I agree with Gary
41 that we will be back at this position again. And as I
42 mentioned earlier, it's my personal opinion that we ask the
43 Board to adopt this rather than defer it based on
44 information received today.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: And, again, the
49 concern of the Council was that you felt you didn't have
50 enough information yet, is that what we're.....

00121

1 MR. TUTIKOFF: Well, I believe it was the
2 Staff that was -- gave us the report in our meeting that
3 they didn't have enough information to base an opinion.
4 And, of course, after discussion amongst ourselves, those
5 that represented from the Aleutians area felt that there
6 was information there, they just did not receive it to --
7 to the Staff. So we asked, after discussion, to defer it
8 until more information can be gathered and hopefully pass
9 on this proposal at this meeting. That was the intent.

10
11 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: The Unalaska, Akutan
12 -- I'm sure -- I mean where is there and is there
13 continuing to be -- is barter common between those
14 communities?

15
16 MS. TRUMBLE: I think there probably is and
17 there's a history of that all over in the region. I think
18 the important thing to think and remember here is these
19 people did hunt on Unimak, in fact, they did it in small
20 boats and skiffs and it's a treacherous trip across there
21 but they've done it. And the majority of them do, just
22 like we do, which is, end of the salmon season and when the
23 weather is better and you're able to -- you have your boat
24 out and you're able to harvest a caribou. That's all
25 that's -- it's kind of something that we've all done. And
26 also with Akutan, they've sent a boat over to get more than
27 one caribou to provide for a number of families.

28
29 I think that the information is definitely out
30 there. I mean we've heard it, you know, from people in
31 Akutan, Unalaska, False Pass, and people even from King
32 Cove can -- that have lived -- used to live in Akutan that
33 are married to people in King Cove and lived there, the
34 history is there and I guess I'm just not sure how you'd
35 handle it. But I agree with Vince, too, that the
36 information is there, it's happened, it's real.

37
38 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I want to
39 clarify maybe what I said. What I was suggesting is that
40 we go forward with the proposal with Akutan and not include
41 Unalaska as part of that because that's what the original
42 proposal was. And then if there is additional, let's then
43 go forward and further search the record as it applies to
44 the other location and address that at a later date. But
45 at this point I was just suggesting that we would go
46 forward with what my understanding was, the original
47 proposal, and that was to include residents of Akutan into
48 the regulation.

49
50 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

00122

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

2

3 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yeah, I agree. I didn't
4 mean to implicate that Unalaska residents should be part of
5 this. But there are residents of Akutan that are living in
6 Unalaska is what I meant and that their families, even
7 though they have a home and residence in Unalaska, they
8 also have a home that was built in World War II that they
9 maintain during the summer time at Akutan. And we'd like
10 to see those individuals given the opportunity to go to
11 Unimak, and right now they're not. And that's the whole
12 point here is that we need to get -- have them able to go
13 to Unimak and get the caribou for their family.

14

15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I guess maybe I was
16 misleading people on where I was going with that. And
17 basically where I was going with that is I wanted to build,
18 if nothing -- you know, we've done this before, I mean if
19 we build a verbal record and then I was trying to get to
20 the fact of was there barter between communities that had
21 access to Unimak, you know, and was there barter in between
22 there and that's the record I was trying to build. I
23 wasn't trying to include Unalaska, I'm just trying to build
24 a record that Akutan residents have continued to -- even
25 when they have been displaced from access to the herd that
26 they've continued to have caribou from that population.
27 That's what I'm trying to get at.

28

29 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. In regards
30 to that, Akutan has a long history of a whaling community.
31 Whale meat and its blubber, salted fat has been traded
32 between the communities of False Pass, King Cove, Unalaska
33 from Akutan, and part of that trade was caribou from False
34 Pass and Unimak. And from Unalaska they received sea lion,
35 sea lion meat which is part of their diet also. So there
36 has been, you know, history of barter and trading and
37 primarily because Akutan had the whaling station, whale
38 meat and salted fat was available to all the communities
39 for a long period of time.

40

41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Judy, you had
42 something.

43

44 MS. GOTTLIEB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
45 just wanted to ask if C&T were given, when would hunting
46 season be approximately?

47

48 MS. ARMSTRONG: Proposal 29 addresses that
49 and there has not been an open season but in Proposal 29
50 they're suggesting two bulls by Federal registration permit

00123

1 from August 1st to March 31st. And I wanted to add that
2 there will be a designated, if it passes, there's a
3 designated hunter provision so that somebody from False
4 Pass could hunt for somebody in Akutan if they had C&T.
5 And apparently that's, from what information we've
6 gathered, that's already happened. That people from False
7 Pass have given caribou meat to people in Akutan. Because
8 -- I didn't say this earlier because I didn't go into
9 details, but when the ADF&G Subsistence Division did their
10 survey, they found that people did receive caribou but they
11 didn't hunt it themselves. So we do know that they are
12 eating it because of receiving it from other communities in
13 the region.

14
15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Well, I'm
16 comfortable, actually with the record that we've built
17 here. I mean it's clear to me that people have Akutan have
18 had access to that caribou, even if they haven't been able
19 to hunt they still have -- I think we still have barter on
20 our law books and that's a big part of subsistence. We all
21 know that. So I'm getting like Gary now, he's starting to --
22 he changed my mind, I'm prepared to move on with this.
23 Terry.

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
26 feel a little uncomfortable that if you're planning to move
27 ahead and adopt a positive C&T finding, it might be useful
28 to review some of this new information in the context of
29 the eight factors just so that you're record is clear. It
30 seems to me that the documentation in here, if it is
31 incomplete, then it would be useful to see how well the
32 additional information is being presented fits in and it
33 may well be that you have enough to feel comfortable making
34 a decision. I think that it would be useful to maybe go
35 through that exercise.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Ida.

38
39 MS. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Chairman, the analysis
40 already addresses that information by stating that the
41 pattern in this area is that they use and meet those
42 factors as they're neighbors would. I, personally think
43 that it's sufficient to support a finding of positive C&T
44 at this time. And also in the ADF&G analysis or survey
45 that was done in the '80s or '90s or whenever that was
46 done, there was previous testimony from an ADF&G staffer
47 that they did not specifically asked them had they hunted
48 caribou and that make a big difference. If he didn't ask
49 them, they're likely not to talk about it. And also the
50 testimony from Della and other people from that region

00124

1 supports a positive finding.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

8

9 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, to your left.

10

11 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah.

12

13 MR. THOMAS: Sorry for being late but I
14 find this discussion very interesting. Number 1, these
15 eight points with regarding to finding -- these eight
16 factors with regard to finding C&T is coming back to bite
17 us and it's not going to stop here. Secondly, I've had the
18 privilege during my working years to spend time working in
19 Kodiak and the region that's mentioned here all the way out
20 to Attu, and there's no question that the character, the
21 history, the integrated cultures of those areas still
22 demonstrate a long history of barter and the points that
23 these people are trying to make. So Mr. Chairman, I would
24 support that this Board find a positive finding with this.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

27

28 MS. CROSS: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

31

32 MS. CROSS: I guess we also ought to keep
33 in mind that certain parts of Alaska, not necessarily the
34 Aleutians, but there are parts of Alaska that do not have
35 adequate written documentation of many things because of
36 our past histories. And we have to rely on oral history
37 from the people that have been there that have been
38 displaced in certain parts of Alaska. So I really think
39 that in this situation it's very important that we listen
40 to individuals from different parts of the Aleutian Chain
41 and make that determination.

42

43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Further discussion.

44 Yes, Della.

45

46 MS. TRUMBLE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank
47 Grace for that comment because that's what I wanted to
48 bring up a little while ago. We have a history in our
49 region of not being open about what we have subsisted on
50 for years. We grew up being told don't tell anybody

00125

1 anything but we ate what we did, we survived on it.
2 Unfortunately, it has, in a sense, come back to bite us
3 because we don't have good documentation on it, and I hope
4 that in the future people are learning to be -- that it
5 helps us more than anything else, that we do get that on
6 the record.

7
8 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Any
9 further discussion. Are we ready for a motion?

10
11 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion
12 that we approve the proposal as amended by the Council; is
13 that correct, if I understand it properly.

14
15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It's a Council
16 proposal, right -- yeah. Yes. Is there a second to the
17 motion.

18
19 MR. WILSON: Second.

20
21 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. I agree
22 with the comments that Della had. I know it took us a long
23 time. And I know there's people at home that still won't
24 talk to Subsistence Division when they're coming out to
25 gather information. It took a long time for people -- some
26 people and still, like I say, there's a lot of people. I
27 didn't tell them what I did until I actually went to work
28 for -- I didn't work for Subsistence Division but I
29 happened to work for Division of Boards and Terry and
30 Staffers and it was only then that I realized that, no,
31 these people are trying to help, they're not trying to
32 hurt. So I know. And I know that, historically,
33 Subsistence Division has had to deal with that all over the
34 state because people are taught, keep to yourself, you
35 don't need to be causing trouble or bringing stuff down on
36 you.

37
38 Any other discussion. Hearing none, all those in
39 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

49 Proposal 29.

50

00126

1 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

4
5 MR. HAYNES: Was this proposal then
6 deferred or a positive finding made for Akutan?

7
8 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It was a positive
9 finding.

10
11 MR. HAYNES: Okay.

12
13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: We passed the
14 original proposal as submitted, adding Akutan. We rolled
15 the Staff Committee and the Regional Council -- no, just
16 joking. With that little bit of humor, I do have a little
17 comment I need to make and I'm just going to stop and make
18 it right now.

19
20 I think humor in a meeting is a great thing. I
21 think it breaks the ice. I don't have no problem with
22 that. But I think we need to pick the things that we're
23 saying and, by that, I mean there was a perception that we
24 were being insensitive to debating the CRNA resolution, sex
25 organ thing, and there was a perception that we may have
26 insulted some people in the course of our deliberations.
27 It was just, you know, really poor attempts at humor on our
28 part, several of us, so I just encourage you, while I do
29 encourage humor and I like to joke while we're doing
30 business, sometimes it can be perceived to be something
31 else and so we just need to be mindful of that. And we're
32 debating these issues that we all know that they're
33 heartfelt issues out there by the people so we just need to
34 be careful of the kind of humor that we use, especially
35 given the fact that we're on the record.

36
37 Having said that, we're ready for Proposal 29.

38
39 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

42
43 MR. THOMAS: Before you move into that,
44 first of all people need to lighten up a little bit and get
45 with the program. Secondly, with regards to keeping
46 secrets, in Region 1 we spill our guts, we don't save
47 nothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Proposal 29.

50

00127

1 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 Proposal 29 was submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
3 Council. And what Proposal 29 would do would establish a
4 caribou hunting season for Unit 9(D) in Unimak Island from
5 August 1st through March 31st, two bulls by Federal
6 registration permit. The proposal would also establish or
7 allow a designated hunter process for any number of hunters
8 but no more than two harvest limits would be in possession.
9 The proposal also establishes C&T for Akutan and we just
10 discussed this in Proposal 28. Map 1 shows the Federal
11 public lands from Unimak Island and Subunit 9(D).

12
13 In 1991, Federal public lands were closed to
14 caribou hunters by non-qualified Federal hunters. In 1993
15 the Board of Game closed State and private lands due to low
16 caribou population and the Federal Subsistence Board also
17 responded by closing Federal public lands. Over the last
18 three years, these areas have been open for hunting but
19 it's all been by special action. And just recently, the
20 Board of Game extended the caribou season to September
21 25th. This proposal would establish a permanent season for
22 Subunit 9(D) and also Unimak Island.

23
24 The Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd started
25 to decline in the early '80s. In 1983 there was an
26 estimated 10,000 animals, 4,000 in 1989 and less than 2,000
27 in 1996. Since then the population has increased. There's
28 an estimated 3,600 animals in Subunit 9(D) and around 600
29 on Unimak Island.

30
31 The harvest over the last three years from Federal
32 public lands has all been within sustainable levels.

33
34 That's all I have right now, Mr. Chairman. Thank
35 you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Written
38 public comments.

39
40 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there weren't any
41 public comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
44 Department comments.

45
46 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
47 support this proposal with modification. Particularly in
48 light of your previous action in making the community of
49 Akutan now eligible. We don't -- we haven't had an
50 opportunity to really evaluate what effect that might have

00128

1 on caribou hunting in this area if this proposal is
2 adopted.

3
4 We would recommend that if a Federal subsistence
5 hunting season is adopted for caribou in Unit 9(D) it
6 should be aligned with the current State season which is
7 September 1 through 25, and November 15 through March 31
8 with a bag limit of one caribou. And we would recommend
9 the same season and bag limit be established in Unit 10.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. There is
14 no request for additional public testimony at this time.
15 Regional Council recommendation.

16
17 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
18 Kodiak/Aleutians Council recommendation under 9(D) was for
19 one bull, August 1 - September 25th, November 15th - March
20 31st. This would also include Akutan as passed by the past
21 motion of 28.

22
23 There was no hunting season adopted for this area.
24 We'd ask that the recommendations of Kodiak/Aleutians for
25 9(D) and Unit 10 be adopted, it'd be the two bull under
26 Unit 10 would also -- we took into consideration Akutan and
27 the ability of those individuals to -- communities to come
28 over to Unimak, so we'd ask that the Council adopt our
29 recommendations.

30
31 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Staff Committee.

32
33 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair. The Staff
34 Committee's recommendation is to adopt the proposal as
35 modified by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council.
36 Adopting the modified proposal will provide opportunities
37 for subsistence users to harvest caribou from the Southern
38 Alaska Peninsula Herd. And alignment with the current
39 State September season would reduce confusion for local
40 caribou hunters.

41
42 Allowing hunters to take caribou for other eligible
43 hunters would be consistent with customary and traditional
44 use practices of local residents.

45
46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Vince or Della, did
47 the Council have a chance at looking at the possibility of
48 aligning the seasons the State or Federal seasons?

49
50 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, we did. And based on

00129

1 the information by the hunters from King Cove, Sand Point
2 and False Pass, that are the primary users and now Akutan,
3 but they felt that the seasons that they made
4 recommendations for would be the best seasons for the
5 communities involved. The hunting seasons that were
6 established by the State, September 1 through September
7 25th, they felt was too late in the season, would cause a
8 lot of problems in transportation and weather, inclimate
9 weather. They felt the herd then would be dispersing and
10 they would have a lot harder time getting to the herds.
11 They don't have the ability of the State or other agencies
12 of an airplane to spot them so they have to go looking for
13 them by foot.

14

15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Della.

16

17 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
18 want to add a little bit to what Vince has said. I think
19 in '97 and '98 we appreciate, you know, this Board's effort
20 for us being able to hunt caribou after four years of not
21 being able to hunt caribou. There was a lot of anger and
22 dissention and confusion just as to why this even happened.
23 And as part of that whole process, having a local person
24 from our communities, in a couple of the communities as
25 part of this survey process with this caribou, actually the
26 people were able to find where this caribou was. And last
27 year we did not ask a request for a subsistence opening
28 because the State did open for caribou which -- and in a
29 positive way helped us because the prior two years, with
30 the weather being so extreme, we weren't able to harvest
31 caribou when we weren't allowed.

32

33 There was a lot of anger last year with the 50
34 permits that were allowed by the State for non-residents of
35 the region. And I understand and I appreciate the State's
36 efforts in trying to align this to when you would get a
37 minimum amount of non-residential hunters. This reasoning
38 and after all this went through, that and I've heard just
39 numerous and numerous times from people in our region that
40 they'd like to see this August 1 hunt so they are able to
41 get the first chance to harvest their caribou. Not only
42 that but the fact that they're dealing with weather, it's a
43 better time. They do that when their boats are out and
44 it's the end of the salmon season. So we agree, to be
45 honest with you, to change the -- and I've talked to Gilda
46 about this and other Council members in our region, to
47 change that from the two bulls that the State recommended
48 to two caribou but we do not agree with the aligning of the
49 dates and for the very reason is we would like to have our
50 subsistence preference recognized.

00130

1 Thank you.

2

3

CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. And let
4 me just mention a little bit. In the previous proposal, in
5 finding positive for Akutan, we built and I just want to
6 build it in the record of this proposal, we built a record
7 that right now, Akutan residents still don't have direct
8 access to Unimak so their caribou that they're going to get
9 is going to continue to be barter until they have access.
10 So I don't think there's going to be an impact is what I'm
11 getting at here by the previous action on the proposal
12 directly on the populations as they exist now.

13

14 MS. FOX: Mitch, it does open it.

15

16 MR. BOYD: It would open it.

17

18 MS. FOX: It does open it to Akutan.

19

20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: This one does.

21

22 MS. FOX: Yeah.

23

24 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: But what I'm saying
27 is that in the previous proposal we built a record that
28 Akutan residents still don't have direct access to Unimak
29 so that they're going to continue to get their caribou by
30 barter until they are able to, you know, get to Unimak.

31

32 Della.

33

34 MS. TRUMBLE: I think we might also add the
35 fact that in Unimak, even the people in False Pass have a
36 hard time harvesting those caribou. The people from our
37 communities have normally harvested caribou from Unimak
38 after fishing so our weather hasn't allowed us to do that
39 in a number of years. I feel that it really shouldn't
40 probably be a concern.

41

42 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Greg.

43

44 MR. BOS: Yes, Mr. Chair. I guess I should
45 clarify the statement I made, I may have misspoken when I
46 spoke to alignment of seasons I meant the closing of the
47 fall season of September 25 and not the alignment of the
48 opening dates. The proposal would open on August 1 and the
49 State season opens September 1.

50

00131

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any further
2 discussion.

3
4 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

7
8 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
9 particular area I'm very familiar with. Not being from the
10 area and not living out there, I can probably direct you
11 right now to where to find the herd. And the discussion
12 that you're hearing from this area is very positive. And
13 given the physical location of Akutan from Unimak, those
14 people are going to exercise their version of C&T
15 regardless of what action we take here. And the proposal
16 that's before you is a good one and being as familiar with
17 that as I am, I certainly speak in support of the
18 Kodiak/Aleutians RAC.

19
20 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any further
21 discussion.

22
23 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

26
27 MR. TUTIKOFF: In our discussions with the
28 communities, even at our last meeting, I see still here,
29 Della brought it to my attention, we asked that Units 9(D)
30 and 10 refers to two caribou or one caribou rather than
31 bulls. It might be a misprint but I believe our
32 recommendation was one in Unit 9(D), caribou, and Unit 10
33 two caribou. And on the written proposal here that's
34 presented to you it's put down as two bulls, we'd ask that
35 that be changed back to caribou.

36
37 The opportunity to go hunting, as Mr. Bill Thomas
38 mentioned, the abilities of the communities to go to Unimak
39 from King Cove, Sand Point, they have a very narrow time
40 line that they can get over to the community. They're not
41 going to waste their time, if they run into a herd of seven
42 or eight or whatever, and trying to determine if they're
43 bulls, they're going to get them as caribou and move on. I
44 believe that the incidental taking possibly of a female
45 during this subsistence hunt is not going to impact that
46 herd. I mean we're not talking thousands, we're talking 10
47 or 12 maybe even in the whole season.

48
49 So I would ask that when the motion is made to
50 insert the word, caribou, in both instances.

00132

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: That places a real
4 problem on us at this time, Vince, because we don't have no
5 capacity to go back and -- I mean the original proposal is
6 as we have in our books says, two bulls, by the Regional
7 Council.

8

9 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair, if this is going
10 to cause a lot of confusion and possibly kill this
11 proposal, I believe that I can speak for our Advisory
12 Council that we'd continue with this and come back with a
13 modified proposal on the next go around. At least give the
14 opportunity for the communities to be able to have a
15 subsistence hunt and we'll be able to deal with this issue
16 at a later date, if that's going to create a big problem.

17

18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It's my
19 understanding that the State regulation already has caribou
20 in it, it doesn't have bulls; is that correct? That's
21 correct?

22

23 MR. MACHIDA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's
24 correct.

25

26 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: And that was the
27 original intent of the Regional Council?

28

29 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That was
30 the intent of the Council. We did not differentiate
31 whether it was bull or female, I mean we wanted caribou and
32 that's the intent here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Judy.

35

36 MS. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman, I remember
37 this from several special actions. I'm really pleased to
38 get it in the annual cycle. But if either of you recall,
39 for those special actions were you asking for bulls then or
40 was it caribou? Thanks Della.

41

42 MR. TUTIKOFF: I think there was there
43 special actions, if I can remember back that far, five
44 years ago, the original deal was for bull and then after
45 the following -- I think it was two years later they came
46 back with a bigger count, they said, caribou and it was
47 caribou in the last round also.

48

49 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Della.

50

00133

1 MS. TRUMBLE: I might just add to that.
2 Vince, is correct, that we did for one bull for the 9(D),
3 and then I think Unimak increased the last two years to two
4 bulls because the ability not to be able to harvest. Last
5 year when the State opened it just specified caribou
6 because the concern had been that this herd is starting to
7 increase, that they don't want this population to explode
8 in the next couple of years.

9
10 MR. TUTIKOFF: Mr. Chair.

11
12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

13
14 MR. TUTIKOFF: I believe that the Council
15 and the people in the communities are not opposed to a
16 special action to bring this item back if the Council so
17 desires to keep it at bulls then we'll go back and make
18 recommendation for caribou. But if it is possible we'd
19 like to get it to caribou now. And what I'm saying is that
20 if two years down the road that herd starts to deplete
21 itself because of natural weather or whatever is decimating
22 the herd, then we would be favorable to go back to one
23 bulls or two bulls. We just need to have that opportunity
24 for these communities.

25
26 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Let me stop here a
27 minute and ask Staff if we know of any biological reason
28 why we couldn't use caribou over bulls at this time?

29
30 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
31 original Staff recommendation was for caribou and we felt
32 that this would provide more opportunities for subsistence
33 users and it would also align with the State regulation of
34 caribou. At this time there's no biological problems that
35 we foresee.

36
37 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thank you.
40 Just the words I was hoping to hear. Bill.

41
42 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
43 forgot to mention earlier, that this herd on Unimak Island
44 is not a difficult herd to monitor. For the most part you
45 find the herd spending most of its time on the western side
46 of Sheshldon, Montesheldon on there and it's a healthy
47 herd, it's easy to monitor and I think we're putting more
48 effort into this than the impact that we'd have on the herd
49 if we adopted this.

50

00134

1 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Well, I'm prepared
4 for a motion if anybody has one to offer.

5

6 MR. EDWARDS: I'm going to try but I'm a
7 little unclear. I guess what the motion would be would be
8 that we would adopt the proposal as submitted by the
9 Council but with the exception that bulls would be changed
10 to any caribou.

11

12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Or just to caribou.

13

14 MR. EDWARDS: Just to caribou.

15

16 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Right. Delete the
17 word -- what's it say, bull?

18

19 MR. BOYD: Yes.

20

21 MS. FOX: C&T

22

23 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Bull caribou.

24

25 MR. BOYD: It just says bull.

26

27 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Oh, yeah, yeah, so
28 we'd substitute bull for car -- for caribou, that's your
29 motion? [sic]

30

31 MR. EDWARDS: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

32

33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there a second to
34 the motion.

35

36 MS. GOTTLIEB: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It's been seconded
39 by Judy. Is there any further discussion. Hearing none,
40 all those in favor signify by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
45 sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

50 Proposal 30.

00135

1 MR. FISHER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Proposal
2 30 was also submitted by the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional
3 Council. This proposal would remove the marine waters
4 access restriction for elk hunting on Afognak Island within
5 the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

6
7 The map there shows the Refuge lands there on
8 Afognak Island. In 1997 C&T use was established for elk on
9 Federal public lands. In 1998 a hunt season was
10 established and also at this time the marine access
11 provision was put in. In 1999 this hunt was extended and
12 the marine access was also -- this was retained. The
13 current Federal season is September 1st through November
14 30th, one elk per household by Federal registration permit.
15 The current State season for Afognak Island, September 25th
16 to November 30th, one elk by State registration permit.

17
18 Survey data for Afognak Island and Raspberry Island
19 indicate that the elk population is ranged somewhere
20 between 600 and 1,500 animals with a current estimated
21 population of around a thousand. There is a small herd
22 ranging from a 80 to 150 and this is what we refer to as
23 the Waterfall herd and this herd uses Refuge lands
24 throughout the year. The last estimate we have on that is
25 in 1998 the population was around 150 animals.

26
27 As I mentioned earlier the Federal season was
28 established in 1998 and at that time the Council had
29 concern that logging roads on Afognak Island in close to
30 the Refuge land there, improved access and gave personnel
31 from logging camps advantage to using Refuge lands for elk
32 hunting as many of these people that -- they did have C&T
33 for use of elk. At that time the Council recommended and
34 it was approved by the Federal Subsistence Board that
35 access be restricted to boats only in order to equalize the
36 harvest opportunity for all communities in that area for
37 having the C&T use for elk.

38
39 That's all I have at this time, Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Written
42 public comments.

43
44 MR. EDENSHAW: Mr. Chair, there weren't any
45 written public comments.

46
47 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Department comments.

48
49 MR. MACHIDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
50 Department supports this proposal with modification. We

00136

1 agree with the Regional Council that the marine access
2 restriction does not need to be in place for the entire
3 season. However, we would like to see the restriction --
4 the marine access restriction continue to remain in place
5 for the September 1st through the September 25th period.
6 And I'll outline the reasons for that.

7
8 Currently the State season opens September 25th for
9 this portion of Afognak Island which encompasses the range
10 of the Waterfall herd which is, we believe the population
11 to range right now to about 150 animals. We currently have
12 a harvest quota on this herd of 15 percent which comes out
13 to 23 elk. What's happened in this area is there's --
14 there were several new logging roads that were put in that
15 allowed road access to this herd from the logging camps.
16 And for the first time ever, in 1998, the Department had to
17 close the season there by emergency order just because the
18 harvest quota had been reached, prior to this the harvest
19 quota had not been reached.

20
21 The concern we have is that if this portion of
22 Afognak Island opened with the only area that has an early
23 season then and potentially there could be a large amount
24 of hunting pressure from the logging camps and the logging
25 roads in this area because it would be the only area that
26 would be open at this time of the year. In addition,
27 another thing that's happened is that the Afognak
28 Corporation has posted much of their land as requiring an
29 access fee. And most of the residents in the logging camps
30 are transients, they're not shareholders so they would
31 probably be funneled into the Refuge portion of Afognak
32 Island. So we have the factors of the concentration of
33 hunting pressure and the fact that this area would be the
34 only area open during the early part of September, we
35 believe, we would really concentrate hunting pressure on
36 this small herd.

37
38 Another factor that entered into this is that the
39 reason that the State has not elected to open the season
40 earlier in September is because the elk rutting occurs
41 during the first three weeks of September. And this is a
42 time of year when they're relatively more vulnerable to
43 hunters. I mean they spend more time out in the open in
44 the Alpine and they're just -- they become more vulnerable
45 to hunting pressure and hunting activity.

46
47 So with that, if the marine access restriction
48 remain in place for the first 25 days of September, then we
49 believe that we wouldn't see the impact from the logging
50 camps on the logging roads and that permanent local

00137

1 residents who do have access to boats could continue to use
2 this herd and we don't believe that their hunting activity
3 would severely impact the population.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have
8 no additional request for public testimony at this time.
9 Regional Council recommendation.

10
11 MR. TUTIKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
12 Regional Council had a long debate and, of course, you
13 heard some of that from the Department, was in regards to
14 the closure by Afognak to the village -- corporation to
15 outside hunting has caused a great problem. It's caused
16 the problem that was mentioned that with the marine access
17 availability to this particularly herd has caused an
18 imbalance as regards to the State and Federal hunting
19 ability. This opened up a problem that we -- the residents
20 that would have access to that area felt that access by
21 marine ability was given the State hunters more and more
22 time and more access than what was needed. So they felt,
23 to protect the long-term herd's benefit to the communities,
24 that they would have to ask that the marine access be
25 removed and it would also put State and Federal in
26 alignment in regards as to how they're going to hunt this
27 herd.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
30 Committee recommendation. Oh, sorry, you had something
31 else?

32
33 MR. TUTIKOFF: Yeah, I'd like Della --
34 because she's been talking to Mr. Squartsoff and to the
35 other members at Kodiak, since they could not be here to
36 testify, they have very strong -- have some strong opinions
37 on this proposal.

38
39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: And Della, you'll
40 get full chance, we've got the Regional Council
41 recommendation and then we'll have the Staff Committee
42 recommendation and then we'll open up with you right after
43 that. Go ahead Staff Committee.

44
45 MR. BOS: The Staff Committee
46 recommendation is to adopt the proposal consistent with the
47 recommendation of the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Council.

48
49 Restricting access to boats only has not provided
50 equal harvest opportunity for all communities having

00138

1 customary and traditional use of elk as originally
2 intended. Most of the elk harvested has not been from
3 Refuge lands. This has created an advantage for hunters
4 hunting under State regulations, some of whom, are not Unit
5 8 residents. By removing the marine access only provision
6 under the Federal regulations, access will be improved for
7 Federal hunters.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Della.

10

11 MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you. I did talk, quite
12 extensively, with Pete Squartsoff last night and he has
13 talked with Ivan Lukin and Mark Olsen in regard to this
14 issue. Both of them -- what Pete has asked me to bring
15 forward is a couple of things and I'll just go through
16 them.

17

18 He says, we've had the marine water restriction
19 since the hunt was implemented so Unit 8 residents, at
20 least, for the subsistence hunt haven't had same day
21 airborne hunting. The Regional Council requested that one
22 elk per hunting party of two and the specific reason for
23 this was so that the harvest of meat is -- they're able to
24 harvest the meat and it doesn't spoil. So that's one elk
25 per two hunters. And he did say so the meat wasn't spoiled
26 due to weather flies and possible predation by bear. And I
27 know we discussed with our Council in detail on that.
28 Close to 50 percent of the hunters are non-resident while
29 ADF&G reports close to 4,000 applicants each year. You
30 look at the ADF&G comments on Proposal 30, 3,300 applicants
31 each year for 646 drawing permits for elk in Game Unit 8,
32 half of these applicants are from out of state. Between
33 400 to 600 with about 50 percent of the Game Unit residents
34 and annual harvest about 130 elk. What the people -- and
35 from Port Lions who are originally from Afognak in this
36 area are requesting is the ability to hunt in a way that
37 doesn't -- that's easier for them to be able to harvest elk
38 for subsistence.

39

40 And that's what Pete has asked me to bring forward.
41 He also stated that in '98 that 32 elk were harvested by
42 mixed residents. '99 the village corporation did start
43 charging for a land use fee and that has curtailed the
44 amount of hunters that have been in this region harvesting.
45 So that is what he had asked for me to bring forward. He
46 said they strongly support this as is.

47

48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Additional
49 discussion. Gary.

50

00139

1 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like the
2 Council maybe to respond to what the State was suggesting
3 which I understood was to -- or at least, for a portion of
4 the season, to remove the restriction on marine but for the
5 first part, to maintain that -- that restriction would be
6 in place. I guess I'd be interested in a response to that.

7
8 MR. TUTIKOFF: The Council has not heard
9 this. I was reading this just now, that there was
10 possibility that the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory
11 Committee had potential revisions. But we haven't had an
12 opportunity as a Council to discuss the temporary opening
13 and closing of that season for marine access. And I think
14 we need to look at that from the communities that are
15 involved rather than make a recommendation at this time.

16
17 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead, Gary.

18
19 MR. EDWARDS: I'd like to ask then, one of
20 the things of the State, it's my understanding that there
21 has been some discussions about actually changing the time
22 frame for the State season, maybe to move it back later in
23 the year and then have the Federal opening actually later
24 in the year which would allow both access other than
25 through marine but also at the same time provide that
26 protection during those first three weeks in September that
27 folks seem to have concern about, the fact that the elk are
28 in the rut, warmer weather and those types of things. I
29 guess I'd like to ask the State if they've further
30 considered doing that which might be a solution that would
31 accommodate everybody.

32
33 MR. MACHIDA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Well,
34 this portion of the regulation comes up next March in the
35 regulatory cycle. And we certainly will consider it. In a
36 way, I mean the season on Afognak is a balancing act. On
37 the one hand you need to make it earlier enough so that
38 individuals can have decent weather and be able to
39 participate and late enough so that you protect animals
40 during the rut. So the September 25th opening is the date
41 that's been in place for a number of years and it seems to
42 provide the best compromise between those two needs.

43
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Further discussion.

45
46 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Go ahead, Bill.

49
50 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, with the

00140

1 biological information we're hearing and the health of that
2 population, if this was in Region 1, we wouldn't take too
3 much time finding our way to .804 to check out .804 to see
4 if it's necessary to do some implementing for providing
5 access in a priority level -- at a priority level. So I
6 think we need to consider that in our deliberations here.
7 But I support the Kodiak proposal.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Della.

10

11 MS. TRUMBLE: I think I just wanted to
12 respond a little bit to the State's comments in discussing
13 this with Pete. His point was, the earlier date allows
14 them to use their boats -- utilize their boats, that's one
15 thing. But it also allows them the subsistence priority
16 which they feel they have not been able to receive under
17 the State openings. And I just wanted to reiterate that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Further
20 discussion. We're prepared for a motion, I guess. Terry.

21

22 MR. EDWARDS: Let me just say one comment.
23 I guess I would feel, personally, more comfortable if, in
24 fact, we do go along with it as recommended, which I'm
25 leaning to, that the Service certainly make a commitment
26 that we would monitor that very closely and if, in fact,
27 this is resulting in an increased harvest or a lot of waste
28 or whatever then we would revisit the issue.

29

30 So saying that, I guess, I would move that we would
31 adopt Proposal 30 as recommended by the Regional Advisory
32 Council.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: There's a motion, is
35 there a second.

36

37 MR. CESAR: I'll second.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay. Discussion.

40

41 MR. CESAR: Mr. Chairman, I think this,
42 again, is a proposal that would lead itself to some
43 flexibility as monitored by the Service. I think that we
44 should be able to, as we get an understanding of it, and be
45 able to adjust to it. So that's the reason I would support
46 it with that information from the Service.

47

48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Further
49 discussion. Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion
50 signify by saying aye.

00141

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
4 sign.

5
6 (No opposing votes)

7
8 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.
9 We're just going to take a short break while we change
10 Staff and move into Region 1. So it's just going to be a
11 brief break, don't go too far.

12
13 (Off record)
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I'll call the
17 meeting back to order. The first proposal we have in
18 region one is Proposal No. 3.

19
20 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

23
24 MR. EDWARDS: It's my understanding that I
25 may have not stated -- I think it was 29, correctly, is
26 that right Greg, that for the record we need to go back and
27 say it the right way.

28
29 MR. BOS: Just clarify that it was the
30 recommendation of the Council that you were.....

31
32 MR. EDWARDS: It's my understanding that
33 apparently what I said was -- or that I failed to say is
34 that we were adopting Proposal 29 as modified by the
35 Regional Advisory Council with the exception that we change
36 bull to caribou.

37
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Right.

39
40 MR. EDWARDS: But apparently I did not say,
41 as modified. So at this point in time, for the record,
42 that's certainly what I meant.

43
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Clarify that, yeah.
45 I don't know what we need to do to clarify that, is that
46 enough? Where's Bill -- is that enough just to clarify
47 what the motion was.

48
49 MR. BOYD: It is. So that we know for the
50 record and we can.....

00142

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: That's what I was
2 following but I didn't catch you even had done that. But
3 is that the understanding of the full Board what he was
4 meaning to do, Kurt, Ida -- okay. Okay. Jim, that's what
5 you understand the intent of his motion to be?

6
7 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, we're all on
10 board with you. Okay, Proposal No. 3.

11
12 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, the first
13 proposal, Proposal 3 deals with restricting use of wheeled
14 vehicles on Kuiu Island. Kuiu Island is in central
15 Southeast Alaska on the Tongass National Forest. The
16 proposal was submitted by Sam Jackson of Kake.

17
18 As you can see the issue was the roading of Kuiu
19 Island. And there were certain questions about the amount
20 of bears being taken by people on the road system,
21 particularly from the logging camp there. The key points
22 of the proposal are that there's a current C&T that
23 includes all the rural residents of Unit 3. Less than five
24 percent of the successful hunting in that unit occurs on
25 the road system. The biology of the black bear population
26 is healthy and to close the roads would decrease
27 opportunity for some rural residents.

28
29 The handout that you were just given is in response
30 to a request that came from one of the members of the
31 Southeast Regional Advisory Council, I believe it was Patty
32 Phillips, that actually wanted to see some of the actual
33 biological harvest numbers for black bear harvest in Unit
34 3.

35
36 That's all, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Written public
39 comments.

40
41 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There
42 were two comments that were submitted in support of the
43 proposal. One from Edna Bay Fish and Game Advisory
44 Committee which essentially just says that they support the
45 Kake community on the issue. The other is from the Alaska
46 Native Brotherhood Camp No. 1 and it simply says that they
47 support it.

48
49 There was one written public comment in opposition
50 to the proposal from Michael Quinn in Klawock. He just

00143

1 doesn't agree with it. He says that the real problem is
2 the use of tribal corporation lands on Kupreanof where Kake
3 is located. He suggested changing the proposals to read no
4 wheeled vehicles may be used for hunting black bear or deer
5 on Kupreanof Island at any time during the open season
6 rather than Kuiu Island.

7

8 That concludes the public comments.

9

10 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
11 Department comments.

12

13 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
14 Department supports the Staff Committee recommendation to
15 reject this proposal for reasons presented in the Staff
16 analysis. The percentage of successful black bear hunters
17 on Kuiu Island using motorized vehicles has averaged only
18 five percent and ranged from zero to 15 percent since the
19 late 1980s. Most hunters have used boat access. For these
20 reasons and in the absence of a biological need to reduce
21 black bear harvest on Kuiu Island, the Department does not
22 support imposition of the proposed access restrictions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have
25 no request for additional public comment at this time.
26 Regional Council recommendation.

27

28 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
29 Regional Council supports this with modification and you'll
30 see that highlighted with no motorized land vehicles may be
31 used. That was all, it didn't require a lot of discussion.
32 But we support this proposal with that modification.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

35

36 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
37 Committee.

38

39 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
40 Staff Committee recommends rejecting this proposal contrary
41 to the recommendations of the Southeast Regional Advisory
42 Council.

43

44 There's no biological evidence to warrant closing
45 the road system on Kuiu Island to wheeled vehicles or any
46 motorized land vehicles for hunting black bear or to
47 prohibit hunters, other than those from Kake. The closure
48 would decrease subsistence opportunity for eligible
49 subsistence users was our rationale.

50

00144

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, thank you.
2 Board or Regional Council discussion.

3
4 MR. CAPLAN: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

7
8 MR. CAPLAN: I intend to support the
9 proposition from the interagency Staff to reject the
10 proposal. First I wanted to assure the Board of my
11 continued respect and support for the Council in its
12 deliberations. In this case, however, we perhaps have the
13 situation of unintended consequences where it would
14 restrict other eligible subsistence users from accessing
15 resources on Kuiu Island. It also would create an unusual
16 anomaly in that we would have sport users that had access,
17 wheeled access and subsistence users that didn't. And
18 that, in and of itself, would be somewhat difficult to
19 explain. Third, it does raise some troubling issues with
20 respect to road management for the Federal land management
21 agencies. The Board, I think, has always shown admirable
22 restraint in trying to deal with access issues, focusing
23 insofar as possible on game populations and method of take
24 as verse as trying to evaluate whether a given road system
25 or a given method of access was the best or whatever. And
26 I think we want to be careful of that in the future.

27
28 The Forest Service, for example, is going through
29 extensive analysis with public comment on its road systems.
30 I know other agencies do the same thing. And many times
31 there are other considerations so there may be other people
32 on the island during that time period that are not engaged
33 in hunting bears or hunting at all who might be caught up
34 in some sort of enforcement action. So it goes far beyond
35 simply hunter access.

36
37 Anyway, that concludes my remarks, sir.

38
39 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

40
41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

42
43 MR. THOMAS: The Regional Council would
44 certainly concur with the discussion that's gone so far.
45 But I would like the record to reflect that I was held down
46 at gun point when this was being rejected and that we
47 didn't succumb willingly to any suggestions.

48
49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

00145

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: The record shall
2 reflect that. Further discussion.

3
4 MS. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman.

5
6 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

7
8 MS. GOTTLIEB: I would like to say that I
9 concur with Forest Service comments and share concerns
10 about regulation of access when I assume each agency has
11 their own access regulations. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any further
14 discussion. We're ready for a motion.

15
16 MR. CAPLAN: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

19
20 MR. CAPLAN: I make a motion to reject the
21 proposal contrary to the recommendations of the Southeast
22 Advisory Council.

23
24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there a second to
25 that motion.

26
27 MR. CESAR: I'll second it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It's been moved and
30 seconded. Additional discussion.

31
32 MR. CESAR: Mr. Chairman, I support the
33 motion for rejection. I think there are times that require
34 us to act with additional information and try to balance
35 what we're doing, given a three criteria for rejection and
36 I think that this is one of them.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Any other
41 discussion. I intend to vote no on the motion, while
42 they're holding Bill down I'm going to represent his
43 interest. All those in favor of the motion signify by
44 saying aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
49 sign.

50

00146

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

4 Sorry about that Bill. Proposal No. 4.

5

6 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Proposal No. 4
7 is in Unit 4 and deals with brown bear harvest. The
8 proposer is submitted by the Southeast Regional Advisory
9 Council. And the proposal would change the existing bear
10 harvest from one bear every four years to one bear every
11 other year.

12

13 The handout you're receiving now is the draft
14 analysis that had to do with questions or issues regarding
15 involvement with the State ADF&G biologist, Jack Whitman,
16 and it shows a personal communication there that indicated
17 that from a biological standpoint there is no reason to not
18 support this proposal.

19

20 As you can see on the map, it shows where Unit 4 is
21 located, it's a fairly large area. In Southeast, again, on
22 the Tongass. Again, the current C&T includes residents of
23 Unit 4 and Kake. It's unlikely to substantially impact the
24 bear population and it would increase subsistence
25 opportunity.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Written public

30 comments.

31

32 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, thank you. There
33 were four public comments that were submitted for this
34 proposal all in opposition. Opposed were the Alaska Native
35 Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1, the Elfin Cove Advisory
36 Committee, the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee and
37 the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team.

38

39 The Board has received a letter from the Unit 4
40 Brown Bear Management Team, which I believe is in the front
41 part of your booklet in blue. They make some points there
42 about the proposal, that it's too broadly applied to all
43 Unit 4 Federally qualified subsistence eligible residents
44 and therefore open to abuse by those who are not using it
45 for subsistence. The proposal may cause harvest to exceed
46 the team's recommendations. Current one bear every four
47 years regulation hasn't been maximum and not all the bears
48 that can be taken have been taken. Existing regulations
49 allow experienced hunters to serve as back up for novice or
50 student hunters as often as they want to. And there's an

00147

1 additional concern that there are too many bears in
2 portions of Unit 4 which should not be addressed by this
3 type of proposal.

4
5 They go on to make some recommendations for some
6 options that the Board may wish to follow. I believe Kim
7 Titus, Alaska Department of Fish and Game will have more to
8 say on this.

9
10 That concludes written public comments, Mr.
11 Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
14 Department comments.

15
16 MR. TITUS: Thank you and good morning and
17 good morning Bill Thomas. I appreciate the opportunity to
18 make some comments here today on a proposal that is quite
19 important to my region and to Southeast Alaska and to the
20 Department. My name is Kim Titus, I'm the regional
21 supervisor for the Department of Fish and Game, Division of
22 Wildlife Conservation in Douglas and for a number of years
23 I've also served as the brown bear research project leader
24 down there so I'm extremely familiar with brown bear
25 population biology.

26
27 I have a few minutes of comments because, once
28 again, this issue is important to the Department.

29
30 The Department wishes to preface our comments by
31 fully recognizing and supporting traditional subsistence
32 uses of brown bears in Southeast Alaska. However, we do
33 not favor the proposal as written because it is a broad-
34 based relaxation of a harvest system that has been in place
35 for many years with little controversy. The Department
36 believes the current regulations generally provide ample
37 brown bear hunting opportunity for Federally qualified
38 residents of Game Management Unit 4 and Kake. Where there
39 are additional needs for customary, traditional or
40 educational uses of brown bears, we believe that there are
41 existing Federal or State regulations to accommodate these
42 activities.

43
44 The Department is concerned because this proposal
45 will increase brown bear hunting opportunities throughout
46 Game Management Unit 4, and that's the ABC Islands of
47 Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof and that includes some
48 areas where current harvest levels are at or near the four
49 percent total harvest guideline and the one and a half
50 percent female harvest guideline. These harvest

00148

1 guidelines, and I want to emphasize this, were determined
2 by a public stakeholder process group with significant
3 involvement from Federally qualified subsistence users.
4 The most noteworthy significant and potential problem area
5 is that of Sitka, a community with some 8,000 residents
6 with a large number of hunters. I performed an analysis
7 over the weekend of our brown bear harvest records of which
8 we have records of every dead bear we know about since 1961
9 and I closely examined the Federal Staff analysis statement
10 that says from a biological standpoint the brown bear
11 population in Unit 4 can withstand at least a doubling of
12 subsistence harvest rate while maintaining a sustainable
13 population. That may be true for the unit as a whole but
14 it's certainly not true for the Sitka area. From 1994
15 through 1998, Sitka residents harvested eight, 14, 18, 12
16 and nine brown bears annually. A recent analysis put
17 forward through the Unit 4 brown bear management team
18 indicated recent concerns for the harvest of brown bears on
19 Baranof Island. That's where Sitka's located.

20
21 Put simply, we're nearing this harvest guideline.
22 Doubling the harvest rate by Sitka residents or hunting
23 areas near Sitka could exceed these harvest guidelines.
24 Should the harvest increase by Sitka residents, emergency
25 closures or changes in the hunting seasons may be
26 necessary. Subsequent to the emergency closures there
27 would likely be restrictions, first on non-resident
28 hunters, then on non-Federally qualified residents and then
29 finally on Federally qualified hunters. It was a goal of
30 the brown bear management team to reach consensus and
31 develop hard guidelines that would preclude taking these
32 drastic actions. Should these regulatory actions occur
33 brown bear populations would have already been
34 overharvested and they would take many years to recover.
35 This risk is not worth taking.

36
37 While Federally qualified users may be the last
38 group to be impacted, they, too, would experience fewer
39 bears to hunt. In this sense, we disagree with the Federal
40 Staff assertion that the proposed regulation is no cause
41 for alarm and the risk is insignificant.

42
43 One of the objectives of this proposal, according
44 to Federal Staff analysis, is to provide key bear hunters
45 and individuals they're training with more consistent
46 access to the bear hunting experience. An alternative for
47 these bear hunters is to apply to a Federal agency or to
48 the State for some sort of permit to take game for
49 cultural, educational or some other type of customary or
50 traditional purpose. In a community such as Angoon, where

1 this type of cultural training and education with regard to
2 brown bear hunting may take place, the annual brown bear
3 harvest by residents of Angoon have been, in the last five
4 years, one, four, three, two, and one. Clearly an increase
5 in this harvest rate is not significant to the brown bear
6 population and it could be accommodated through some type
7 of permit or other blanket relaxation other than this every
8 other year permit system for all Unit 4 residents. In
9 fact, some type of permit could be issued annually. There
10 has been testimony that such permits might be too
11 burdensome to obtain. But please note that as currently
12 proposed in the proposal before you, the relaxed regulation
13 would still require a permit.

14
15 A detailed report on the subsistence use of brown
16 bear in Southeast Alaska was prepared by Tom Thornton in
17 1992. This report indicated that Alaska Natives have
18 harvested brown bear for food, clothing, tools and other
19 purposes for centuries. Dr. Thornton's research revealed
20 that the subsistence harvest of brown bears has declined
21 from aboriginal levels and that possible factors
22 contributing to this decline include, first the low
23 desirability of meat in comparison with other wildlife
24 species. Second, the availability of alternative and more
25 economically viable resources. Third, the labor-intensive
26 methods of preservation. Increased regulation of the
27 harvest and finally the erosion of the cultural complex of
28 beliefs and practices surrounding bear hunting.

29
30 The report went on to conclude, although there were
31 some conflicts between traditional brown bear hunting
32 practices and contemporary regulation of the harvest the
33 present low level of harvest does not suggest a need to
34 modify seasons or bag limits.

35
36 The Department believes that these activities can
37 be accommodated through existing regulation. Possible
38 examples include designated hunter regulations or
39 regulations for a community harvest system to ensure
40 continued opportunities for subsistence or enhancing those
41 opportunities, proxy hunting type regulations or a Federal
42 or State cultural or educational permit to accommodate
43 those activities.

44
45 We ask that you explore these or other types of
46 legal opportunities that might exist in other parts of
47 Alaska that could be applied to Southeast Alaska where
48 there is a desire to allow for the customary and
49 traditional take of brown bears.

00150

1 There has been discussion of the need to teach
2 novice hunters about brown bear hunting. Let me emphasize
3 that this activity is already covered under existing
4 regulation although perhaps an additional permit may make
5 people feel more comfortable. As long as an experienced
6 hunter is serving as a backup for the student and that
7 student is taking the first shot, this activity is legal
8 and it is an appropriate way to hunt brown bear.

9
10 The Department urges the Federal Subsistence Board
11 to carefully consider the testimony and comments of
12 Federally qualified users who do not support this proposal
13 as written. This includes the Alaska Native Brotherhood,
14 Sitka Camp No. 1, the Elfin Cove Advisory Committee and the
15 Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee. We also ask you
16 carefully consider the letter and suggestions provided to
17 you by the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Team. Nine of the
18 15 members of this Unit 4 Brown Bear Committee are, in
19 fact, Federally qualified rural users in Southeast Alaska
20 and one of those members also sits on the Southeast
21 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council.

22
23 In conclusion, the Department does not believe that
24 the proposal is supported by substantial evidence. We
25 believe that an alternative, easy to obtain cultural and
26 educational permits provide a more culturally appropriate
27 and biologically safer approach to managing this world
28 renowned brown bear resource.

29
30 Should you pass this proposal, as written, we
31 believe that there is a high risk of violating the
32 principles of wildlife conservation and that an overharvest
33 of brown bears could occur in the Sitka area by Sitka
34 hunters. One of the principles of sound wildlife
35 conservation for species such as brown bears is accurate
36 tracking of the harvest and population size. When brown
37 bears are legally hunted, every hunter killed bear matters
38 and accurate tracking is essentially.

39
40 Finally, the Department believes that if the
41 proposal is passed, as written, it increases the risk of
42 being detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs.
43 If Federally qualified users overharvest bears in some
44 locations they will either have fewer bears in the future
45 because, first, hunting seasons will remain open but bear
46 numbers will be reduced or, two, seasons and/or bag limits
47 could even be reduced for Federally qualified users such as
48 in the Sitka area.

49
50 Thank you for your time this morning.

00151

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We don't
2 have no additional request for public testimony at this
3 time. Regional Council recommendation.

4
5 MR. THOMAS: Let me say that again.

6
7 REPORTER: Yes, thank you.

8
9 MR. THOMAS: Where did that come from,
10 they're just now letting me out. The Southeast Regional
11 Advisory Council's recommendation is to support without
12 modification per Staff analysis.

13
14 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
15 Committee.

16
17 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
18 Staff Committee recommends adopting the proposal consistent
19 with the recommendation of the Council. However, I'm
20 reminded that this new information that the State has just
21 provided you and perhaps additional information that may
22 come to light in the Board's discussion was not a part of
23 the Staff Committee deliberations.

24
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Board or
26 Regional Council comment.

27
28 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

31
32
33 MR. THOMAS: That applies to the Regional
34 Advisory Council as well. I want to mention that the
35 Department has really put forth a concerted effort in
36 giving us up-to-date information in Region 1 and with very
37 professional analysis. And so I really respect the
38 comments brought forth by Mr. Titus.

39
40 A couple of things, it was mentioned that emergency
41 closures and restrictions could occur. That wouldn't be
42 anything new, that we do that anyway with different -- in
43 different situations. Given the new information that we
44 have, should this proposal not be adopted as it's
45 presented, and given the information that you just heard,
46 we would accept that providing that documented information
47 be forwarded to our Council that gives us options to take
48 advantage to meet the intent of the proposal.

49
50 Secondly, there's a lot of speculation about what

00152

1 the users may or may not do. This happens as a matter of
2 habit with management. We find ourselves managing the
3 users instead of the resource.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6
7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Mr.
8 Titus, the concern again, I just want to reiterate, it's in
9 the immediate Sitka area, is that correct?

10
11 MR. TITUS: Yes, that's correct. With the
12 large number of residents in Sitka we're near the harvest
13 guidelines that have been established through this public
14 stakeholder process and we're concerned about the risk.

15
16 I also want to emphasize that I do not look around
17 the state and see that, on an annual basis, while
18 ungulates, to some extent are managed through emergency
19 orders, brown bears are, in my opinion, not something we
20 want to manage through emergency orders.

21
22 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: So there's not a
23 real biological concern in northern Unit 4?

24
25 MR. TITUS: Well, actually that would be,
26 for example, Admiralty Island, as opposed to Baranof and
27 parts of Chichagof. I have extremely detailed records here
28 of where Sitka residents hunt.

29
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Jim.

31
32 MR. CAPLAN: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Just a
33 couple of points. First of all I intend here, in a couple
34 of minutes, to offer a friendly substitution for the
35 proposal as passed by the Advisory Council. And the
36 Chairman and I have discussed this and the Staff and I have
37 discussed this. And my reasoning is as follows: First,
38 there still are some questions around the biological
39 situation, based on what I'm reading right now, I believe,
40 that subsistence take could be increased and there might be
41 restrictions by area but we're not quite sure of that. The
42 data are somewhat old and the analysis may be somewhat
43 flawed as a result of that. In addition, there is quite a
44 bit of difference across Unit 4 in terms of use and
45 patterns of use.

46
47 There's a lot of cooperation going on right now
48 between the Forest Service and the State and private
49 interests in north and southeast to look at recreational
50 capacity, outfitter and guide activities and so forth. And

00153

1 part of that information from that consultation is being
2 presented here, that brown bear committee is a part of
3 that. It's not all done yet and we expect it to be much
4 further along next year this time when we might reconsider
5 the approach being currently proposed.

6
7 And second, in my consideration I went back and
8 looked at the record from the Advisory Council's hearing
9 and what I discovered was, first, there was considerable
10 disagreement within the traditional community as to whether
11 this was a good idea or not. For example, the Sitka ANB
12 Camp came out and said, no, and others -- respected people
13 within traditional communities said they were very troubled
14 by this. Which meant to me that, although, the elders who
15 offered up the concern that the young were not being
16 educated properly, were -- that their opinion was respected
17 and supported. This approach to solving the problem, they
18 articulated, wasn't necessarily supported.

19
20 And therefore, what I intend to propose, in a
21 friendly manner to this is that we do establish
22 registration permitting for educational purposes under the
23 Federal subsistence rules with an eye down the road towards
24 making that process more and more convenient to those who
25 are educating the young in the taking of brown bear. That
26 will focus on the specific need that the elders
27 articulated. And if, in the next year or so, the Council
28 receives a proposal from someone that would like to double
29 the take of brown bears and has more compelling evidence,
30 that this would be appropriate to increase subsistence take
31 then I think we could take that up at that time. But it's
32 just -- it's like the solution didn't match the problem and
33 thus there was some disagreement and misunderstanding there
34 amongst the agencies and the people in Southeast even
35 within the traditional community.

36
37 So that's what I intend to do and I think it will
38 solve the problem for the time-being and let us reconsider
39 this down the road when maybe we have more compelling
40 information to share.

41
42 That's all I have, sir.

43
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I guess the reason I
45 was asking Mr. Titus about northern Unit 4, if we see no
46 serious biological problems I'm wondering if we -- if one
47 of the things we may want to do is go ahead with the -- or
48 one of the thoughts that I had and I'd just like to see
49 what people think about that is maybe just to delete
50 Baranof Island from this. And if that would set aside some

00154

1 of the concerns with regard biological concerns.

2

3 Mr. Titus.

4

5 MR. TITUS: I guess I -- unfortunately from
6 my standpoint, the geography of the Sitka area makes that a
7 little complex because it's really the western part of
8 Baranof Island and portions of Chichagof Island that are
9 near Sitka where most of the -- you know most of the
10 harvest by Sitka residents takes place. I don't currently
11 have a convenient way to draw that on a map for you in
12 front of you here at this time, although the State guide
13 use area is one way to do that.

14

15 MR. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman.

16

17 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

18

19 MR. THOMAS: Just as an observation, I
20 would recommend that you move this along in order to hear
21 Mr. Caplan's language he has to offer.

22

23 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

24

25 MR. EDWARDS: Mr. Chairman, does the State
26 have a response to what Mr. Caplan proposed?

27

28 MR. TITUS: Yes, the State would support.
29 And I know from sitting through most of the Unit 4 Brown
30 Bear Management Team, that in the vicinity of five to 10 or
31 even more of these cultural/educational permits are -- have
32 long been through the subsistence analysis to be
33 appropriate types of numbers that could be annually
34 harvested with little or with no impact to the population
35 resource so we're fine and pleased with that.

36

37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Further discussion.
38 Mr. Caplan.

39

40 MR. CAPLAN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I would move that five Federal registration permits will be
42 issued for the taking of brown bear for educational
43 purposes associated with teaching customary and traditional
44 subsistence harvest and use practices. Any bear taken
45 under an educational permit would count in the one bear
46 every four year regulatory limit. Permit information may
47 be obtained from the Forest Service office in Sitka. That
48 would be my motion.

49

50 MR. CESAR: I'll second that.

00155

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, it's been
2 moved and seconded, now where does that leave us? That
3 leaves us -- where does that leave us with this proposal?
4 What's your intent with regard to the proposal, are you
5 adding to it?

6
7 MR. CAPLAN: This would be a friendly
8 substitution for the proposal as stated here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, it's a motion
11 in the nature of a substitute?

12
13 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, that's correct.

14
15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Seconded.

16
17 MR. CESAR: Second.

18
19 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, it's been
20 moved and seconded -- well, Niles actually seconded it.

21
22 MR. BOYD: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: You have that
25 understanding, Niles, that this is a motion in the nature
26 of a substitute?

27
28 MR. CESAR: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay.

31
32 MR. CESAR: I followed Mr. Caplan pretty
33 well.

34
35 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Okay, discussion on
36 the motion. Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion
37 signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
42 sign.

43
44 (No opposing votes)

45
46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.
47 Proposal 5.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 5 has
50 to do with deer in Unit 2. The existing regulation

00156

1 provides for one antlerless deer to be taken during the
2 period October 15th to December 31st and the proposer, Mr.
3 Andy Savland of Craig proposes to eliminate the doe harvest
4 or antlerless harvest and it would just be four bucks.

5
6 The biological data does not support the need for a
7 reduction in that antlerless harvest. Historically, we've
8 been harvesting approximately 300 does per year. That's
9 the number of permits that have been issued. We've not had
10 good success in the return of those but we've only been
11 issuing approximately 300. Also eliminating the doe
12 harvest would not significantly improve the deer population
13 and would also decrease subsistence opportunity for rural
14 users.

15
16 That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
19 Written public comments.

20
21 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, there were five
22 written public comments that were submitted in support of
23 the proposal. Those were from Steve Merritt from Prince of
24 Wales Island, the Edna Bay Fish and Game Advisory
25 Committee, Craig Turlock from Thorne Bay, Elzie Isley from
26 Ketchikan and the Eastern Prince of Wales Fish and Game
27 Advisory Committee. There was one written public comment
28 in opposition to the proposal, that was from the Alaska
29 Native Brotherhood, Sitka Camp No. 1.

30
31 That concludes the public comments, Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
34 Department comments.

35
36 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
37 support this proposal. The Department continues to
38 recommend that hunting of doe deer not be authorized in
39 Unit 2. Continuing to authorize the harvest of does
40 affects population growth in an area where the habitat can
41 support more deer.

42
43 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have
44 no request for additional public testimony at this time.
45 Regional Council recommendation.

46
47 MR. THOMAS: The Regional Council opposes
48 this. Biology supports this to occur. It's one of the --
49 when we first introduced the harvesting of does, the
50 commitment was made then and still intact that that would

00157

1 be monitored every year and should there be a biological
2 determination that that population is threatened,
3 specifically and identified by the hunting of does, that
4 they would submit proposals to make a change. But so far
5 that isn't the case. If we look at the information
6 provided to accompany this proposal, all the biology shows
7 you that there's no reason to support this proposal.

8
9 So our Council opposes it, Mr. Chairman. Thank
10 you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
13 Committee.

14
15 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Staff
16 Committee recommends the Board reject the proposal
17 consistent with the recommendation of the Southeast
18 Council.

19
20 Data available to us did not indicate a major
21 decline in the deer population in Unit 2. And retaining
22 this season maintains a subsistence opportunity for
23 eligible users.

24
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
26 Discussion.

27
28 MR. CAPLAN: Mr. Chairman.

29
30 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

31
32 MR. CAPLAN: I intend to support the
33 Council in rejecting this proposal and I want to take just
34 a second and note that for all of my experience in Alaska,
35 which extends back many years, and the time of others that
36 I've consulted on this and the fact that in front of us in
37 the last couple of days have been some really great
38 examples of game management plans prepared by the local
39 people, cooperative efforts, and I'm thinking of the
40 Koyukuk work and the work that's been done in the Cordova
41 area, the one thing that's lacking for us with deer in
42 Southeast and perhaps in other areas, too, is a lack of a
43 game management plan. And I know that's a big enterprise
44 for the Forest Service, for our partner Federal agencies
45 and for the State, but it seems to me many of the questions
46 that have continued to puzzle us around this issue could be
47 answered through that game management planning.

48
49 And in addition to that, I think the ability to
50 work with local communities in dealing with some of these

00158

1 issues is very important. But I also find, as the Chairman
2 does, that the practice as currently allowed under the
3 Subsistence Board is a beneficial ones and subsistence
4 users have shown continuing support for that.

5

6 So I intend to move to reject the proposal.

7

8 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is that what you're
9 doing?

10

11 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, sir.

12

13 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there a second to
14 that motion.

15

16 MR. EDWARDS: Second.

17

18 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Discussion. Yes.

19

20 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, just a comment
21 with respect to pursuing a joint management with the State,
22 we're currently doing that with Boyd Porter who is the
23 Division Wildlife conservation biologist in Ketchikan. We
24 also are looking at looking at the habitat issues
25 associated with Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2, and we're
26 also completing -- this is the third year of a study with
27 the Subsistence Division by Mike Turek on the amount of use
28 and need that's being done on deer for communities in Unit
29 2. That also concludes a non-rural community, Ketchikan,
30 to see what the needs and use are of the deer resource from
31 Unit 2 in Ketchikan.

32

33 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Further
34 discussion. Hearing none, all those in favor of the
35 motion, please, signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
40 sign.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

45 Proposal No. 7.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Proposal No. 7 has to do with
48 deer harvest in Unit 3. This proposal is similar to the
49 other proposal that dealt with the black bear harvest in
50 the same unit. It has to do with the issue of no wheeled

00159

1 vehicles being used for deer hunting on Kuiu Island. The
2 proposal was submitted by Sam Jackson of Kake.

3
4 Again, the biology regarding harvest of deer in
5 Unit 2 does not indicate that there is an issue with
6 respect to overharvest. And also the current C&T includes
7 Unit -- rural residents in Unit 1(B) and 3, and all of
8 Southeast and that also includes the logging community that
9 is of concern to Mr. Jackson. Also the proposal would not
10 significantly improve the deer population if it was
11 adopted.

12
13 That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Summary
16 of written comments.

17
18 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There
19 were three public comments submitted in opposition to the
20 proposal. Those are from Richard Stoe in Wrangell who
21 believes that people from Wrangell should be able to
22 continue to hunt on Kuiu with wheeled vehicles. Michael
23 Quinn from Klawock, and from Elfin Cove Advisory Committee.

24
25 There were two written public comments in support
26 of the proposal. One from Edna Bay Fish and Game Advisory
27 Committee and one from the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka
28 Camp No. 1.

29
30 That concludes the public comments.

31
32 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
33 Department comments.

34
35 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department
36 supports the Staff Committee recommendation to oppose this
37 proposal. A very small percentage of the reported Unit 3
38 deer harvest occurs on Kuiu Island. Of the 41 individuals
39 who reported hunting on Kuiu Island in 1998 and '99
40 regulatory year, six were Kake residents who hunted for a
41 total of six days and harvested no deer during the five
42 month season. No non-residents of Alaska reported hunting
43 on Kuiu Island. The difficulty of transporting a vehicle
44 to Kuiu Island makes it impractical to use motorized
45 vehicles there for hunting. The Forest Service enforcement
46 officer for this area has reported that few motorized
47 vehicles were used for hunting deer there. The potential
48 for conflict between hunters using boat access and those
49 using motorized vehicles is low due to the large size of
50 the island and the resulting dispersal of hunting over a

00160

1 large area.

2

3 For these reasons and in the absence of a
4 conservation need to reduce deer harvesting opportunity,
5 the Department does not believe a prohibition on the use of
6 motorized vehicles on Federal lands on Kuiu Island is
7 warranted at this time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have
10 no request for public testimony. Regional Council
11 recommendation.

12

13 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
14 Council recommends support with modification similar to a
15 previous proposal that was acted on. And I think the
16 attitude of this one here would be consistent with the
17 action that was taken on a prior proposal.

18

19 So I think what happened in a case like this, our
20 Council was just caught up in supporting one of their
21 brothers. But I, under gunpoint again, will yield to
22 consideration by the Board, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
25 Committee.

26

27 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The
28 Staff Committee recommends rejecting this proposal.
29 There's no biological reason to close the road system on
30 Kuiu Island to vehicles for hunting deer or to prohibit
31 hunters other than those from Kake. The closure would
32 result in a net decrease in subsistence opportunity.

33

34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
35 Discussion. Additional discussion. We're ready for an
36 action.

37

38 MR. CAPLAN: Mr. Chairman.

39

40 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

41

42 MR. CAPLAN: I move that we reject the
43 proposal contrary to the recommendation of the Southeast
44 Advisory Council.

45

46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: There's a motion, is
47 there a second.

48

49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Second.

50

00161

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Discussion. Hearing
2 none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying
3 aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.
13 Proposal No. 8. Can we send out for an ambulance for
14 standby, oxygen machine or something for.....

15
16 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, Proposal 8 has
17 to do with the change in season length in Unit 4, which
18 again is the area around Sitka and surrounding islands, ABC
19 Islands. It would change the existing season from
20 September 15th through January 31st to December 31st.

21
22 Again, the recent winters in that area have
23 indicated that there have been some mortality issues with
24 deer, however, the biological analysis does not demonstrate
25 a need for changing the season. It was submitted by Ray
26 Nielson of Sitka.

27
28 And also Proposal 9 is a similar proposal but it
29 proposes to reduce the bag limit from six deer to four deer
30 and this also was submitted by Mr. Nielson.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Written public
35 comments.

36
37 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, Sitka resident
38 Ben Mitchell wrote in support of Proposal No. 8. Two
39 written comments were sent in in opposition to the
40 proposal, those from Alaska Native Brotherhood Sitka Camp,
41 No. 1 and the Hoonah Indian Association.

42
43 Proposal No. 1, Alaska Native Brotherhood, Sitka
44 Camp No. 1 is in support of that proposal [sic]. Elfin
45 Cove Advisory Committee is in opposition to Proposal No. 9.

46
47 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd also like
50 to make a correction, the second proposal actually is

00162

1 submitted by Andy Savland of Craig, rather than Mr.
2 Nielson.

3
4 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.
5 Department comments.

6
7 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, the Department
8 supports adoption of Proposals 8 and 9. The effect of
9 adopting these proposals would be to align the State and
10 Federal seasons and bag limits. However, we're not aware
11 of major conservation issues that would necessitate
12 aligning the seasons at this time.

13
14 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. We have
15 no request for public testimony. Regional Council
16 recommendation.

17
18 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
19 Region 1 opposes both of these using the same rationale as
20 we did with Proposal -- I think it was five with regards to
21 the deer. There's no biological alarm.

22
23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you. Staff
26 Committee.

27
28 MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, the Staff
29 Committee recommends the Board reject Proposals 8 and 9
30 consist with the Council recommendation. Hunter success
31 and deer population trends indicate there's no biological
32 need to reduce the season or the harvest limit of deer in
33 Unit 4. A reduction of the season and harvest limit would
34 unnecessarily restrict subsistence opportunity for eligible
35 users.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Board discussion,
38 Regional Council. Is there a motion.

39
40 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I move that
41 we reject Proposals 8 and 9 as recommended by the Southeast
42 Advisory Council.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Second.

45
46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: It's been moved and
47 seconded, discussion.

48
49 MS. HILDEBRAND: Question.

50

00163

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Question's been
2 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify by
3 saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
8 sign.

9
10 (No opposing votes)

11
12 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Motion carries.

13 Proposal 11.

14
15 MS. FOX: We're done.

16
17 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: What?

18
19 MR. JOHNSON: Actually, Mr. Chairman, I
20 believe it's Proposal 10 that has to do with moose in Unit
21 5 (A).

22
23 MR. CLARK: That's not an item, that's
24 consent agenda.

25
26 MR. JOHNSON: I beg your pardon, Mr.
27 Chairman.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: What?

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: I beg your pardon it is
32 Proposal 11. No, it's not, 11 was withdrawn.

33
34 MR. CAPLAN: Mr. Chairman, I think we're
35 done with this morning's regional proposals.

36
37 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: No, we're not, we
38 will be soon, though, we need a motion to adopt consent
39 agenda items, Proposals 6, 10, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26,
40 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49,
41 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57 and 59; is there a motion to
42 adopt?

43
44 MR. WILSON: So moved.

45
46 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Is there a second.

47
48 MR. CAPLAN: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Discussion. All

00164

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2
3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4
5 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Those opposed, same
6 sign.

7
8 (No opposing votes)

9
10 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Before we close this
11 morning we have another friend of ours that we've been
12 working with for a while that's moving on and towards that
13 end I'd like to turn the floor over for a minute to Terry
14 Haynes.

15
16 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Many
17 of you in this room and myself, included, have had the
18 opportunity to work with Elizabeth Andrews over the years.
19 She's going to be retiring from the Department at the end
20 of May. I know she would like to have been here today to
21 express her appreciation to all of you for all of your
22 support and for the opportunity to work with you over the
23 years. But I don't know if she'll be able to touch base
24 with all of you again, I'm hoping she'll at least be able
25 to get up to Anchorage and stop by the Federal Subsistence
26 Office. But I just wanted to let Council members know
27 especially how she's appreciated working with many of you,
28 herself, over the years and getting to know you here at
29 Council and Board meetings.

30
31 I, personally, have worked with Elizabeth off and
32 on for 25 years and I'm really going to miss her. She's a
33 tremendous resource for the Department. I know she's
34 really enjoyed working in this process. It's a big gap for
35 the Department to fill. So I just wanted to pass that
36 information on to you today.

37
38 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Thank you.

39
40 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

41
42 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

43
44 MR. CLARK: It was a tough job but somebody
45 had to do it. I was able to attend Elizabeth's going away
46 party, her retirement party last weekend and she expressed
47 to me, also, her great affinity for the Chairs and Council
48 members and people on the Staff in the Federal program, so
49 I'd just like to reiterate what Terry was saying.

50

00165

1 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: I know I speak for
2 the full Board as well as the Staff that have worked with
3 her and as well as the Regional Councils, you know, she's
4 done a great number of duties over a long period of time.
5 So you convey to her our deep appreciation. I'll be
6 following that up with a letter, but just convey to her
7 that we appreciate her professionally. I, personally, have
8 worked with her also in the same office and worked with
9 her, of course, in my various capacities through the years
10 and, you know, I just really appreciate her personal
11 commitment to her job and the professionalism that she
12 brought with it. So we'll be following that up with a
13 direct communication but if somebody talks to her before I
14 do, please convey that to her from the Board because she's
15 been a great asset to us.

16
17 Thank you, Terry.

18
19 MS. GOTTLIEB: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: Yes.

22
23 MS. GOTTLIEB: I'd just like to thank
24 everybody who made the consent agenda happen. I think the
25 strength of this program continues to grow as all of you
26 solve problems long before they come to this Board and I
27 think that goes towards our lasting success. Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: We are going to --
30 at this time we'll be -- well, before I do that, for the
31 Board members who didn't get it, we are going to have an
32 executive session at 3:00 o'clock today. It will be closed
33 and it will be right here. So let's make sure we get back
34 at 3:00 o'clock because that completes our business
35 actually for the day. We will convene in the morning at
36 11:00 a.m., and then we will do our proposals -- our
37 research project proposals, we have four outstanding. We
38 have time before lunch, after that, we may talk about our
39 next informal meeting, you know, try to set a -- did we set
40 a date already?

41
42 MS. FOX: No.

43
44 CHAIRMAN DEMIENTIEFF: We haven't. If we
45 have time tomorrow morning, anyway, let's be thinking about
46 that, if we have time tomorrow morning let's set our
47 regular informal meeting so that we can keep caught up with
48 everything that we have. And then, of course, we'll recess
49 and then come back at 1:00, something to do with someplace
50 called Kenai or something, so with that we shall recess for

00166

1 the day. Thank you one and all.

2

3 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)