

1 EASTERN INTERIOR REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
2 PUBLIC MEETING

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4

5 BOARD MEMBERS:

- 6 MR. RANDY MAYO
MR. JEFFREY ROACH
7 MR. CHARLIE TITUS
MS. SELINA PETRUSKA
8 MR. STEVEN GINNIS

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13 SOPHIE STATION PLAZA
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

14

OCTOBER 4, 1995
6:30 P.M.

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REPORTED BY: LISA G. ESLINGER, RMR

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

2 MR. TITUS: We're going to call the Eastern
3 Interior Regional Council meeting to order. We'll
4 have a roll call.

5 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we were going
6 to, if you agree, have kind of an informal wildlife
7 management session before really going to the official
8 meeting, so it frees up the council and others just to
9 talk and not have to worry about making motions and
10 seconds and all that.

11 So, what direction would you like?

12 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that we
13 just move on with agenda as it's presented to us here.
14 I guess I have a little concern about having meetings
15 in the evening like this. Personally, I would prefer
16 to have two full days of meetings, but the way it's set
17 up now, we're going to have a half -- essentially a
18 half a day of a meeting and then the next couple of
19 days possibly, you know.

20 It just kind of concerns me to have to meet
21 in the evening like this. It doesn't fit in very well
22 with my schedule. And in the future when we have
23 meetings, I would respectfully request that we have
24 these beginning in the morning so to have full-day
25 meetings.

I wasn't aware of this wildlife management
work session. In fact, I don't even know what it
involves. I don't know how much time it's going to
take, you know, but I think we're on a time thing here.

19 MR. TITUS: How long is this discussion
20 going to take?

21 MR. MATHEWS: This is going to go for a half
22 hour. It was just set up as a way of making the fall
23 meeting where we would get more into wildlife or
24 better, yet, subsistence planning, make this more of a
25 planning meeting involved to flesh out issues prior to
having proposals. This was just the first step towards
it, and --

MR. TITUS: Is there going to be a problem
with it being included in the minutes?

1 MR. MATHEWS: No, it won't be a problem with
2 that. The reason why we tried to keep it away from the
3 agenda is that's a request from the presenters, to make
4 it less formal. That was the only thing, the request
5 of it. And also that the example that is going to be
6 used during this session of wildlife management is a
7 decision item that you have later on on the agenda.

8 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff.

9 MR. ROACH: I would like to say when I saw
10 this, I thought it was a good idea because these fall
11 meetings are discussing the proposals that are before
12 us. We usually spend a lot of time within those
13 proposals going over some of this basic wildlife
14 management information. It might be better to get it
15 out of the way here, take a half hour and do it, and
16 then it will be easier to go through some of the other
17 portions of our meeting.

18 MR. TITUS: Any more comments?

19 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I would just like
20 to say in terms of proposals, you know, those are
21 issues we deal with on the agenda, you know, and we
22 deal with them as they come along. And as far as I'm
23 concerned, I'd prefer to talk about proposals in a
24 regular meeting so that I have the opportunity to ask
25 the questions that I want to ask regarding various
proposals.

To deal with things in a work session
doesn't give us -- I don't know what you want to call
it -- the leverage to put anything into a motion and,
you know, I have a short memory, you know, myself. So,
sometimes when things are presented to me, I tend to
forget them. So, because of that, I would prefer to
deal with issues as they come up, but you are the
chair, and it's up to you how you want to conduct the
meeting.

I'm just expressing how I feel.

MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chair, may I make a
comment?

MR. TITUS: (Nodding head affirmatively.)

MR. GUENTHER: Our thoughts originally when

1 we addressed this is there were a number of different
2 terms that were used in the analysis of proposals that
3 are always used in the analysis proposals. Some of
4 these terms are not necessarily familiar to everybody.

5 The sheet that was passed around, that blue
6 sheet, is a list of some of the most commonly used
7 terms that we had. Initially when we set this up, we
8 hoped to have an open discussion between the council
9 and biologists and other people involved with
10 establishing these terms so that we have a mutual
11 understanding of the terms. We looked at this as a
12 short training session.

13 Now, with this particular one, even though
14 we had set it up to do this originally, because the
15 40-mile planning process for the 40-mile caribou herd
16 and the 40-mile area was such a complex thing -- and
17 it's a strategy that we hope to use in the future -- we
18 had made a decision to spend about a half hour, 30
19 minutes, going into this process talking a little bit
20 about caribou biology and also caribou-wolf
21 interactions and wolf biology so that we would lay some
22 groundwork, not in presenting the plan as this is the
23 way it should go or anything else, but here are some
24 management tools that we use now and we are going to be
25 using in the future to help dual management work. And
here's a little bit of biological background on things
to make it into.

16 Hopefully in the future, we'll set up half
17 hour sessions as a regular part of meetings where we
18 can talk about biology and management strategies and
19 techniques so that all of the council members have a
20 better understanding of where we're coming from as
21 biologists and anthropologists and social scientists
22 when we do analysis and do the proposals.

23 Hopefully, the council will be able to
24 understand the terminology and some of the perspectives
25 that we use so they can make better decisions relating
to that. That was the purpose of this.

26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the only other
27 thing that could be added to that would be that this
28 has been published this way -- this agenda has been
29 published in this way that this segment would be here.
30 There are people, I think, in attendance here that were
31 hoping to participate in this session.

1 MR. TITUS: In the work session?

2 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

3 MR. TITUS: I already called the meeting to
4 order --

5 MR. MATHEWS: Well, we can --

6 MR. TITUS: We can go through today's agenda
7 And then after we recess, we can go back to the work
8 session, if that's all right, because I don't think
9 anything that we have to discuss tonight pertaining to
10 the work session is on the agenda tonight, right?

11 MR. MATHEWS: No, unless you are ready to
12 move ahead to addressing the status reports on
13 cooperative management plans which I don't know if
14 you'll get that far into the agenda or not.

15 MR. TITUS: No, I think we'll just do
16 Wednesday's.

17 MR. TITUS: I don't know. The meeting is
18 already called to order. I guess we got to either
19 backtrack ourselves somehow or keep going with the
20 agenda.

21 MR. MATHEWS: The agenda is a final draft.
22 So, it's up to approval by the council. So, we can go
23 down the list. That is number six on the list to
24 approve the agenda so that we can go ahead, if you'd
25 like.

26 MR. TITUS: And then recess and go into the
27 work session?

28 MR. MATHEWS: That's an option, yes.

29 MR. TITUS: Is that all right?

30 MR. ROACH: All right with me.

31 MR. MATHEWS: Then I'll go ahead with the
32 roll call.

33 Lee Titus.

34 MR. TITUS: Here.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Jeffrey Roach.

2 MR. ROACH: Here.

3 MR. MATHEWS: Timothy Sam. He's absent with
4 a death in the family, I believe, yesterday. He is the
5 new member that was appointed for the vacancy of seat
6 number six. He's from Arctic Village. Charles Miller
is absent. Charlie Titus, Jr., is absent, but
hopefully will attend tomorrow. John Starr is absent.
Randy Mayo.

7 MR. MAYO: Here.

8 MR. MATHEWS: Selina Petrushka.

9 MS. PETRUSKA: Here.

10 MR. MATHEWS: Steven Ginnis.

11 MR. GINNIS: Here.

12 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have five
13 members out of nine. So, you do have a quorum.

14 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Is there any
15 additions or corrections to the agenda?

16 MR. MATHEWS: I had a couple, but I think
17 we'll just mention them and then see if you want to
18 have them on there. And then if we get to them, we get
19 to them.

20 There are three things that have come up
21 since this agenda was published on the 26th. One is if
22 you'd like an update on the migratory bird treaty, you
23 can add that. It's up to you. There's not a lot to
24 it, but it does give you an update. We can give you
25 an update on the Tribal Self-governance Act on
compacting.

26 And then the third one is a very brief one.
27 Actually, I can just do it now. The board of Game,
28 Board of Fisheries for the State of Alaska is going to
29 a regional approach. And this region is up for the
30 spring of '96. Just to make you aware of that so we
31 can minimize confusion and all that.

32 So, those were the three items that I

thought maybe you would like to consider adding to the

1 agenda.

2 MR. TITUS: What was the last one?

3 MR. MATHEWS: I did it. It was the Board of
4 Fisheries and Board of Game's change in dealing with
5 dealing with State regs. They are going to a regional
6 approach and not a species approach. I just needed you
7 to know because a lot of you serve on committees and
8 are involved with this both on a State and Federal
9 level. This is just a tip to let you know and since
10 your region is off this round.

11 MR. GINNIS: Could you repeat those
12 additions. There is compacting?

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, the first one is
14 migratory bird treaty, the amendment to it. The second
15 one was -- we'll just call it compacting, tribal
16 compacting. And the third one, which I already did, is
17 it the State change in approach. Migratory bird treaty
18 would be an old business item because we talked about
19 it at the last meeting, and the compacting will be a
20 new business item because it's new.

21 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like
22 to -- since I'm going to be here only half a day
23 tomorrow until about 3:00, I'd like to request that the
24 Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers moose discussion be moved up
25 from after old business. Or the first item to move it
up under new business, I guess.

MR. TITUS: So, you want to put it under H,
number one?

MR. GINNIS: No, there's an agenda item here
under new business, G, Sheenjek and Coleen Rivers,
Units 25A and 25E, moose discussion. I've brought some
issues up regarding that area, and I would like to be
involved in the discussion on that. And all I'm
asking, Mr. Chairman, is to move that up right under
new business, I guess.

MR. ROACH: To make it Item 9A, then -- I'm
sorry. 11A, new business?

MR. GINNIS: Where are we. Yeah, right.

MR. MATHEWS: The only thing on that is that

the staff that's going to discuss that will be in

1 tomorrow morning -- I'll make sure of that -- so we
2 can't discuss it tonight. There's no staff here to.

3 MR. GINNIS: We're not going to get that far
4 in the agenda anyways. I'm asking just to move it up
5 so that we can --

6 MR. TITUS: Is there a problem with staff
7 doing that right after 1:00 tomorrow afternoon?

8 MR. MATHEWS: I think Steven is indicating
9 that he would like it done in the morning.

10 MR. GINNIS: Well, whenever we get to it.
11 I'm just asking to move it up so it's not so late in
12 the agenda.

13 MR. TITUS: He wants to move it up to new
14 business which, according to the agenda, is 1:00
15 tomorrow afternoon. Right?

16 MR. GINNIS: Uh-huh.

17 MR. TITUS: So, we'll trade A and G?

18 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that
19 we --

20 MR. TITUS: Just Move G up to A and then
21 continue on.

22 MR. ROACH: That would be my suggestion.

23 MR. TITUS: Okay. We'll do that.

24 MR. MATHEWS: And, Mr. Chairman, you can
25 delete under 10D the Mentasta caribou herd. That was
my oversight. We've already dealt with that. That
issue is completed. That can be deleted. We already
addressed it at the last meeting and took action on
it. That plan has been adopted. So, we can drop the
Mentasta caribou herd.

MR. TITUS: Which one?

MR. MATHEWS: Under Thursday, October 5th,
8:30 a.m., 10D (1). We already did that.

MR. GINNISS: Are you still going to talk
about the Fortymile caribou?

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2 MR. MATHEWS: Fortymile would still be
there, correct.

3 MR. TITUS: Any more additions or --

4 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I move to approve
5 the agenda with the additions and corrections.

6 MR. ROACH: I second.

7 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded.
8 Discussion. Under discussion, I'd like to put the
9 three issues that Vince brought up earlier on the
10 agenda for discussion purposes. The migratory bird and
the tribal compact and the State of Alaska Fish and
Game approach to how they are going to do their
management of this.

11 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, within my motion,
12 the motion was to approve the agenda with the additions
13 which would include those items. I think we said the
migratory bird issue would go under other old business,
under H, No. 1. And then the compacting issue will go
under other new business, under H.

14 Now, this thing on the change in the
15 state -- I thought you said you just got done
explaining that.

16 MR. MATHEWS: That's the full extent of it
17 unless -- we do have a Board of Game member here that
18 may want to share a statement or two, but that's just
19 to let you know that they've changed their strategy.
There may be some confusion out there, as you are
exposed to proposals in your community, to figure out
which one goes where. So, it's done.

20 MR. TITUS: So, we just have to do it
21 according to their motion, right.

22 MR. GINNIS: The motion.

23 MR. ROACH: I'll confer and second.

24 MR. TITUS: It's conferred with the second.
25 Any more under discussion. Hearing none, all in favor
of approving the amended agenda signify by saying aye.

THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

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(In favor - all Board members.)

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MR. TITUS: Opposed?

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(No opposition.)

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MR. TITUS: We have an agenda. Do we have any new council members? Nobody, I guess.

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MR. TITUS: We have an agenda. Do we have any new council members? Nobody, I guess.

MR. MATHEWS: No, and I already introduced the new member that's not present which is Timothy Sam is the new one. I do need to tell you -- that's later -- about how the nomination process went through, but that's a later agenda item.

MR. TITUS: Reading an approval of the March 1st to the 3rd, 1995, minutes.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, would you like that now or would you like an introduction of the council members to make sure the public understands where people are coming from and then maybe staff. It's up to you.

MR. TITUS: Oh, all the council members. You just said new ones here. Go ahead.

MR. MATHEWS: It's up to you. It may help you to understand what staffs are here.

MR. TITUS: I guess we'll just introduce ourselves informally. We'll start from Randy and go this way.

MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo, Stevens Village, council member.

MR. ROACH: Jeff Roach. I'm from Tok.

MR. TITUS: Lee Titus. Northway. Chairman of the Eastern Interior.

MS. PETRUSKA: Selina Petrushka, Beaver.

MR. GINNIS: Steve Ginnis. I'm from Fort Yukon, Yukon Flats area.

MR. MATHEWS: Did you want an introduction

of staff?

1

MR. TITUS: Any staff, any staff. Might as well just have everybody (laughter).

3

MR. MATHEWS: Just to get it on the record, I'm Vince Mathews, your regional coordinator, and I would urge people to sign in at the back.

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MR. GUENTHER: I'm Conrad Guenther, your regional biologist.

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MS. DETWILER: I'm Sue Detwiler. I work interagency coordination and policy issues for the Fish and Wildlife Services, Subsistence Office down in Anchorage.

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MR. ULVEY: Steve Ulvey with the National Park Services at Gates of the Arctic and Yukon Charley.

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MR. GREENWOOD: Bruce Greenwood out of the National Parks Service out of Anchorage, Subsistence Division.

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MR. FOX: Kevin Fox, wildlife biologist working on the 40-mile plan. I'm based out of Denali right now.

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MR. ENTSMINGER: Frank Entsminger. I'm the Tok or upper Tanana State Advisory Committee chair.

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MS. RICHARDSON: Kathaniye Richardson.

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MS. RUGGLES: Ann Ruggles, Board of Game.

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MR. GARDNER: Craig Gardner, Fish and Game, too.

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MR. SCHWARBER: I'm Jim Schwarber. I live in the Alatna River area.

21

MR. MATHEWS: We have other staff in the back and other people.

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MR. VOSS: Richard Voss. I'm the manager of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

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MR. SCHULZ: Bob Schulz, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

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MS. MARUNDE: Cherie Marunde, Tetlin

1 National Wildlife Refuge.

2 MS. SHOCKLEY: Dorothy Shockley. I'm a UAF
3 liaison.

4 MS. QUINN: Sativa Quinn. I work for TCC
5 Wildlife and Parks Department.

6 MR. NICHOLIA: Fred Nicholia. I'm with the
7 Parks Department in Tanana.

8 MR. BOYD: I'm Tom Boyd, subsistence
9 coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management,
10 Anchorage.

11 MR. TITUS: I'd like to thank you all for
12 coming.

13 Moving on with the agenda. I don't know if
14 anybody read the minutes of the last meeting, but they
15 are pretty long. If you guys want to make a motion to
16 approve --

17 MR. GINNIS: We'll move to approve the
18 minutes of March 1st and 3rd of 1995.

19 MS. PETRUSKA: Second.

20 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded.
21 Are there any corrections or anything under discussion
22 of our last meeting? Hearing none, all in favor of
23 approving the minutes of our last meeting say aye.

24 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

25 (In favor - all Board members.)

MR. TITUS: Opposed?

(No opposition.)

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, on that, are
these minutes comfortable in this style or do you want
them smaller or larger or whatever?

MR. TITUS: Shorter.

MR. MATHEWS: All right. I understand.

Mr. Chairman, we're kind of bouncing around on the

1 agenda. We do have an opening comment from the Federal
2 Subsistence Board chair that may be appropriate at this
3 time to have read. The Federal Subsistence Board chair
4 is Mitch Dimentieff, if he would like to have that read
5 at this time.

6 MR. TITUS: Okay. We can do that.

7 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chair, we have a motion on
8 the floor right now.

9 MR. TITUS: We approved it.

10 MR. GINNIS: I'm sorry. I'm lost here. Go
11 ahead.

12 MR. TITUS: Okay. You have a written
13 comment from the chair?

14 MR. MATHEWS: Sue will be reading that.

15 MS. DETWILER: These are comments made on
16 behalf of Mitch Demientieff as follows. "I'd like to
17 welcome you to the fall 1995 Federal Subsistence
18 Regional Advisory Council meetings. These fall
19 meetings mark the beginning of a new cycle of
20 decisionmaking for the next set of annual subsistence
21 regulations.

22 These meetings are symbolic of the role of
23 the councils in Federal subsistence management. They
24 are the starting point from which the next year's
25 subsistence regulations are produced, and they are
intended to insure that subsistence users needs are
being accommodated in the recollections.

Just as the fall set of regional council
meetings is meant to serve as the kick-off of the
annual regulatory process, the regional councils
themselves are meant to serve as the foundation for
subsistence users' involvement in subsistence
management.

The regional councils are the crucial link
between subsistence users and the Federal subsistence
boards. The members of the councils all have direct
firsthand experience with subsistence, and they are
leaders in their community. Collectively, they provide
the Board with unparalleled insight into the needs of

subsistence users statewide and, by law, their

1 recommendations carry a great deal of weight in
2 subsistence decisionmaking.

3 This begins the third full year that
4 regional councils have been in operation. During the
5 evolution of subsistence management during these three
6 years, we've made great strides in structuring
7 subsistence management to accommodate subsistence
8 users' customary and traditional practices in a manner
9 that is consistent with maintaining healthy wildlife
10 and fish populations.

11 We could not have made such progress without
12 the involvement of regional councils. Without a doubt,
13 such progress has not been without its share of
14 frustration in both of Federal and regional council
15 arenas. However, change is sometimes difficult,
16 particularly when it involves such complex issues with
17 so many players. And I believe it is to the credit of
18 all involved that the program we now have has so many
19 new and substantial innovations to accommodate
20 subsistence users.

21 For example, largely as a result of regional
22 council initiative and willingness to work
23 cooperatively with Federal staff, subsistence users now
24 have available to them designated hunter harvest
25 permitting, community harvest limits and seasonal
26 harvest limits methods and means that better
27 accommodate customary traditional practices, to name a
28 few.

29 That is not to say that we are content to
30 rest on our laurels. We are still faced with issues to
31 be reinvented and more issues will undoubtedly arise in
32 the future. In fact, some of these issues are on your
33 agenda for this meeting.

34 The Federal subsistence management program is
35 on the leading edge of resource management that is
36 cooperative and responsive and with the continued high
37 quality of involvement of the councils will continue to
38 be so.

39 I wish you the best of luck at this meeting,
40 and I and the other Board members look forward to
41 seeing your proposals and recommendations.

42 That's the end of Michigan Demientieff's

comments.

1 MR. TITUS: Moving on in the agenda, we have
2 election of officers. I'd like to -- as far as
3 this -- I'd like to table this portion until we get a
4 full representation from the council members to our
5 next meeting.

6 MR. GINNIS: Can you give me some idea when
7 these other folks might arrive? I know Timothy Sam's
8 mom just passed away. He's probably not going to be
9 here, but the other folks -- are they going to show up
10 here sometime?

11 MR. MATHEWS: No, the other ones will not be
12 making it other than Charlie Titus will try to make it
13 tomorrow. Other councils have deferred elections until
14 the next meeting because they wanted more members
15 present to have it.

16 And for those that are -- I think all of you
17 know it, but just to make it clear, the officer seats
18 are for a year. There's three of them, chair, vice
19 chair and secretary. The vice chair was Bill Flures.
20 He didn't reapply, was not reappointed. So, you don't
21 have a vice chair. You have a chair which is Lee, and
22 you have a secretary which is Jeff.

23 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move
24 that we table election of officers until the next
25 meeting.

26 MR. TITUS: It's been moved to table
27 election of officers until the next meeting. Do I hear
28 a second?

29 MS. PETRUSKA: Seconded.

30 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded.
31 Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

32 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

33 (In favor - all Board members.)

34 MR. TITUS: Opposed.

35 (No opposition.)

36 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, that moves us on
37 to old business, if you would like to get into that.

It's kind of where I get long-winded, but that's the

1 way it goes.

2 Under old business the section is called
3 report on Federal subsistence board action since last
4 council meeting. If you would turn to tab three in
5 your book, I'm going to go through this very briefly,
6 but if you have questions, please stop me.

7 What I've provided in there is a chart that
8 lists just the proposals that your counsel commented
9 on. Since we're still in the baseball season, you
10 commented on nine proposals. Six of those, your
11 actions align with the Federal Subsistence Board
12 action.

13 You had two of them that it was not real
14 clear on what actions, how the Board went and how you
15 went. And those are basically items later on in your
16 discussions. You had one that the Board took an
17 opposite action.

18 As an example, if you look at the Proposal 56
19 which is Unit 20(E) caribou, that was basically a
20 proposal to revise the wording for the closure
21 threshold. You supported it with modification.

22 The interagency staff committee supported
23 that same modification, and the Board adopted that.
24 That's how you would read this chart.

25 I'll move on to the next item unless there's
26 questions on that. And I don't mean to rush on it, to
27 deter discussion. I try to call each of the council
28 members after the Board meeting on particular proposals
29 in their area to let them know what happened.

30 In your report, the next page is a brief
31 summary of the designated hunter permit process that
32 went on in '95-96. You were involved with that.
33 George Sharret (phonetic) presented the designated
34 hunter task force report. This is what's come out of
35 it since then, but essentially, one of the alternative
36 methods was designated hunter option.

37 Presently -- if I can get this correct --
38 there were three proposals submitted to the Federal
39 Subsistence Board; one for deer, one for moose from the
40 Southeast Regional Council; and one for deer from the
41 Kodiak and Aleutian Islands.

42

All were approved by the Board, and Federal

1 designated hunters permits were made available to all
2 federal land managing officers and through local
3 vendors. There's not -- I'll ask comment, but I don't
4 think we have much data in on that yet, but I wanted to
5 keep you informed of the progress with the designated
6 hunter -- well, yes, the designated hunter system one
7 and the other options so you are aware of what other
8 regions are doing. Are there any questions on that?
9 Okay.

10 The next one brings you to another chart.
11 Again, this is to inform you, hopefully, down the road
12 if you have questions when you are back in your
13 communities or if you are wondering because of other
14 issues, these are quite helpful.

15 For example, Special Action 95-05 -- you are
16 going to be talking about that later on the agenda.
17 That was from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
18 adjust the lynx seasons to match the harvest tracking
19 strategy. That gives you some of the special actions.
20 Many of them were not for your region, but I like to
21 keep you informed of what's going on.

22 If you turn the page to get requests for
23 reconsiderations, those are -- if the Board takes an
24 action, people that feel that that action should be
25 changed have a certain period to do that.

26 These are the ones that have been submitted,
27 and the one that affects you which we'll be talking
28 maybe more about is on the second page. It's R-95-06
29 which deals with the Arctic Village sheep management
30 area which you took action on and the Board expanded
31 that management area. There was a request for
32 reconsideration to rescind that action, and the Board
33 rejected that at its July meeting.

34 I'm kind of giving you a quick overview, but
35 you can see in the second column your region is Region
36 9. You find Region 9 and see what actions were taken
37 for your area.

38 The last one is -- I don't know -- I stuck
39 it in there to make you aware that in the regulation
40 book which you have here -- let me borrow Randy's, this
41 pink one -- there are corrections. There's actually a
42 sheet in there. I didn't realize that was going to
43 happen. But for the public, these are the corrections

to omissions and errors in this book. Okay.

1 That's pretty much the summary of proposals
2 and special action and RFRs for your area. I can
proceed to correspondence, and again --

3 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman.

4 MR. TITUS: Yes, Steve.

5 MR. GINNIS: I do have a question on this
6 proposal that had to do with the Arctic Village sheep
management area. As I read this thing, it says it was
7 deferred. Although the Board supported, will consider
the issue next year. And then as I go back to 95-06 it
8 says the Board rejected the request.

9 So, I'm a little bit confused about has this
10 been reconsidered? What do you mean when you say it's
supported, but will consider each next year? Are we
11 talking about this year?

12 MR. MATHEWS: What happened with that is it
13 was a proposal to expand the area. You, as a council,
took no action on that. The staff committee took that
14 information, and they recommended to the Board to defer
it. When the Board took it up, it got additional
15 testimony and input from your chair on that and other
individuals.

16 They acted to expand the Arctic Village
sheep management area. Alaska Department of Fish and
17 Game didn't agree with that expansion, asked for a
request for reconsideration to not have it expanded.
That request was denied. So, the area has been --
18 stays as an expanded area.

19 It is an interim decision, and it will be
back before the Board in April. It is kind of
20 confusing, but essentially the State wanted it changed
back, and that was denied.

21 MR. TITUS: And when you're talking about
expand, you are talking about --

22 MR. MATHEWS: Adding the Sheep Creek and the
23 King Creek drainages to the management area. It's on
the map up there, but the lighting is so poor in here,
24 you'd have to follow it down further, but it was to
include those areas in here. The Board adopted it.
25 The state asked to have that rescinded, and the Board

said no way.

1 So, they are going to revisit the issue in
2 the April meeting. And the staff will be here tomorrow
3 also to discuss it.

4 MR. GINNIS: I don't want to spend too much
5 time on this, but who did the proposal originate from,
6 the idea of enlarging this area?

7 MR. ROACH: I believe it was Arctic Village.

8 MR. GINNIS: All right. That's all.

9 MR. MATHEWS: I can go on to
10 correspondence, if you'd like real quick.

11 Again, doing this briefly -- and correct me
12 if you don't like it this way so I can change my
13 pattern, but this book is -- instead of me sending you
14 out copies, you get all the copies at the meeting so
15 you can keep records of what was received. If you like
16 that differently, please let me know.

17 Indirectly, you received two letters from
18 the Denali National Park Preserve and Subsistence
19 Resource Commission. They were dealing with the
20 restriction on the use of firearms and other weapons by
21 trappers and that commission, which you do appoint, I
22 believe, one member to, unanimously opposed that
23 restriction of the use of firearms in the taking of
24 furbearers under a trapping license. That's the first
25 letter.

26 The second letter is an issue you may be
27 dealing with tomorrow. I can summarize it quick
28 enough. They wanted the customary and traditional use
29 determination which excludes the use of moose and
30 caribou for the residents of the area along the Parks
31 Highway area between Mileposts 216 and 239. I believe
32 they want that to be a top priority. Yes, requesting
33 that it be a high priority and prompt consideration.

34 Okay. The other letter that came from your
35 action -- now, I'm getting into actions that you did,
36 and these are copies provided to you -- were to Richard
37 Pospahala. This was concerning the NARC petition which
38 is Northwest Arctic Regional Council petition.

39 At that meeting, your March meeting of '95,
40 you reaffirmed your position supporting the NARC

petition. If anyone has questions on the NARC

1 petition, I can -- okay.

2 The next letter you directed me to deal with
3 was also to Mr. Pospahala. This was to revisit the
4 issue of adequacy of area representation. Did you like
5 the makeup of the number of members on the council. By
6 consensus, you supported having alternate members. I
7 don't think we discussed it in any detail what an
8 alternate member would be, but that was your
9 recommendation on that request from the staff
10 committee.

11 The next letter was a thank you letter from
12 the Northway Traditional Council for their hospital and
13 their helping in making that a very successful
14 meeting.

15 The following letter is to Margo Matthews.
16 Oh, yes, that was the action to approve the interim
17 Fortymile caribou herd harvest plan and formula. The
18 reason I'm reading this is so it gets on record. I
19 know that you have copies of this.

20 Your next letter is to -- I don't know how
21 to pronounce his name -- Russell Galipeau, the Chief of
22 Resources and Cultural Resources Management for
23 Wrangell/St. Elias. This was your action endorsing the
24 Mentasta caribou herd management plan.

25 Your next one is to Larry Bright saying
26 thank you for -- Larry Bright of the Fish and Wildlife
27 Service thanking him for attending the meeting and
28 assisting with your review of the Air Force's military
29 operation areas expansion. The same with the letter to
30 Colonel Hassan.

31 And then we'll dealing now with Parks
32 Service. This is to Robert Barbee. You passed a
33 motion saying that National Parks Service regulations
34 should align with Federal subsistence program
35 regulations to have uniformity. And you can read the
36 rest on that, but it was concerning that issue that the
37 Denali SEC was talking about; the use of firearms by
38 trappers on Parks Service land.

39 And that's all the correspondence that I
40 could remember, and I do provide, to make it clear to
41 you, letters that the chair either has myself sign or
42 he signs. He also gets a copy of that. And that

completes the response to correspondence from the March

1 '95 Northway meeting.

2 MR. TITUS: Any questions? Hearing none,
3 we're all through with our agenda for this evening. If
4 you guys want to move up anything else on the agenda or
5 you want to recess and then go into the work session,
6 we need a motion to do so.

7 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I'd make a motion
8 that we have a short recess and move into the work
9 session on wildlife management.

10 MR. GINNIS: I'll second the motion.

11 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded to
12 recess and come back in a work session. All in favor
13 say aye.

14 THE BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 (In favor - all Board members.)

16 MR. TITUS: Opposed.

17 (No opposition.)

18 MR. TITUS: We will recess for five
19 minutes.

20 (Brief recess.)

21 MR. MATHEWS: All right. What we're trying
22 to do with this, with your agreement, is to make the
23 fall meeting more of a planning meeting where we can
24 get in like we have various agencies here.

25 We have Tanana Chiefs and their management.
26 We have a person from Tanana, their office there. In
27 the fall, that we would get all these different people
28 together; that we would go through the information as
29 we know it. Then the Council would be aware of the
30 wildlife component, the subsistence component. And
31 from there, decide if they want to take action and what
32 type of action.

33 These are long-range goals, but we're going
34 to hopefully try to make the fall meeting a planning
35 meeting in addition to a proposal generation. So, this
36 is first step in this process. I need to caution

everyone that the example that is being used is just as

1 a training tool.

2 I will remind you if the council or that
3 decides to say, well, we need to take action on this
4 that I will -- it's not to be happening at this moment.
5 When we go back on the agenda, then we will. Okay.
6 With that, I'll turn it over, but this is a long
7 process.

8 We'll trying to go through -- the goal that
9 I hope the Council would agree to is that we reduce the
10 number of proposals so that the proposals that are
11 before the Council are those that require very
12 concentrated focus by the Council and agencies. And
13 other issues could be addressed and resolved through
14 cooperative management, through cooperative agreements,
15 through other avenues short of proposals. Thank you.

16 MR. GUENTHER: Mr. Chairman, to start this
17 part, the blue sheet that I passed out, basically, is a
18 list of some terms and basic definition of the terms.
19 Just a couple of things with that.

20 On the first page, there's two spelling
21 errors. Item one, two, three, four, five, six. It's
22 not -- well, it is fun, but that's an inappropriate
23 spelling. It should be spelled "f-e-c." It was
24 probably a Freudian slip on my part actually when I put
25 it together. You'll probably never forget it now.

The second time it's spelled also wrong. It
should be an "e" instead of a "u."

On the third page, the term "rut" applies to
ungulates, hoofed animals. So, hoofed animals.
Ungulate should be added there. It's not just all
animals, but basically applies to hoofed animals.

And then on the last page with trend surveys,
if you would add at the end of that sentence "due to
limitations on funding or technology," that's "funding
time or technology." That has the limiting factors.

Unless you have particular questions on
these terms, I'll just leave those for you to look at
and review. And then I'd like to jump into using the
Fortymile planning process that we just went through as
an example.

I think it's really important for everyone

that may participate in this to understand that at this

1 time, we're not -- this is not a forum for support of
2 or opposition to the Fortymile caribou herd management
3 plan that we developed, but it's looking at this whole
4 planning process and how we went about this as to
5 understanding a planning tool that we will be using,
6 hopefully, in the future a lot more, incorporating a
7 number of individuals and different groups.

8
9 Also we'll talk a little bit about some
10 caribou biology and some wolf biology and wolf-caribou
11 interactions. Hopefully, we'll get all of that done in
12 about a half hour. You have to realize that each one
13 of these topics, we could spend several months on.
14 They are all very complex.

15
16 Since this is an open forum, too, I'd like
17 to invite questions from the Council. At any time
18 during this discussion, feel free to jump in and the
19 same -- I'll introduce the members who are on the
20 Fortymile planning team that are here.

21
22 I also invite those members to make comments
23 throughout the process. And also there are a number of
24 individuals here who have sat in on those meetings who
25 are not currently members of the team. And I'd also
ask for them to give them comments if they have
comments.

1
2 I'd also like to say Ruth Colquist
3 (phonetic) from BLM, who is a member on this team,
4 isn't here tonight because of illness. And maybe
5 she'll be in tomorrow when we do get into the Fortymile
6 as a discussion item. She'll have some comments and
7 positions from the BLM on that.

8
9 Kevin Fox is from National Parks Service on
10 our planning team. Craig Gardner with Alaska
11 Department of Fish and Game in Tok is also on that
12 team.

13
14 The Council member, Jeff Roach, is a member
15 of that team. Frank Entsminger is also a member and
16 myself. I'm a member on the team.

17
18 Probably one of the important aspects of
19 this planning team was that it incorporated a large
20 number of different audiences, from local subsistence
21 users, sport hunters, people that only had an interest
22 in primarily viewing the herd, environmental groups. A

number of different types of groups with different

1 agendas participate in this meeting during this
2 planning effort.

3 Primarily it was set up as a planning effort
4 to reach a concurrence with people trying to work
5 together to come up with a strategy on how to do the
6 best job in managing a particular population; in this
7 case, the Fortymile population.

8 The make-up is really important. I think
9 down the road in the future, we need to look at this
10 sort of planning effort for not only the caribou herd
11 but for moose and a lot of other different species that
12 we're all concerned with as subsistence species.

13 I kind of at this point would like for Kevin
14 and Craig to take over and maybe Kevin to expand a
15 little bit on some of the direction where we went and
16 some of the things we talked about earlier. So, it's
17 yours.

18 MR. FOX: You want to go some of the members
19 affiliations or --

20 MR. GUENTHER: Sure, you can mention that.
21 Sure.

22 MR. FOX: As Conrad mentioned, we had quite
23 a diverse group of people working on this planning
24 team. I guess the two extremes would be the Alaska
25 Wildlife Alliance and possibly the Alaska Outdoor
26 Council. So, basically we had environmental groups and
27 hunter, consumptive and nonconsumptive users. So, we
28 had a number of agencies involved in this, including
29 the Yukon Department of Renewable Natural Resources.

30 We were in consultation with them at times
31 because there is a possibility that the herd could
32 expand its range and go into Canada and occupy some of
33 area that it had occupied in the past. Several other
34 members on the team were the Tanana Chiefs Conference,
35 Dawson First Nation, Eagle Fish and Game Advisory
36 Committee, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
37 and a number of other people.

38 MR. GUENTHER: Another thing that I think
39 was really important and valuable and something that
40 you should be considering as leaders in your various
41 areas is that there was a lot of local initiative

behind starting this process.

1 So, the process just didn't come from the
2 government reaching out to the people, but it came to
3 the people reaching to the government as well as the
4 government agencies reaching towards the people and
5 saying we need to do something to help this caribou
6 herd. And so, everybody has a major ownership in this
7 plan right from day one.

8 MR. FOX: I think that's a --

9 MR. TITUS: I just have a question. You
10 mentioned other people involved in this working group.
11 I have Alaska Wildlife Allowance, Yukon Department of
12 Renewable Resources, TCC, Dawson First Nation. You
13 mentioned someone else between Wildlife Alliance and
14 Yukon Department --

15 MR. FOX: It may be quite a lengthy list. I
16 do have a copy of the list of all the people involved,
17 and it may be easier if I submit a copy to you after
18 we're done talking, for the sake of time.

19 But another important point that we really
20 want to stress is this was a grass roots effort. Some
21 of the history behind the Fortymile area -- it consists
22 of quite a different diversity of ownerships; BLM,
23 National Parks Service, State land, and a number of
24 private landholders.

25 And a lot of the user groups in that area
26 have noticed that it's been difficult in the past for
27 the managing agencies to come to a consensus on how
28 management should be conducted in an area that contains
29 a migratory species such as the caribou.

30 So, it basically was started by the people
31 that live in the area. They got a meeting together in
32 Tok and tried to get all these agencies talking. When
33 was it the date on that, Craig?

34 MR. GARDNER: February 10, 1994.

35 MR. FOX: In February of '94 this all
36 started, basically. We sat all the agencies down
37 in Tok, at least representatives. The people in Tok
38 and a number of other communities expressed their
39 concerns to the agencies and wanted to know why we
40 couldn't work together for the combined good of the
41 Fortymile herd.

1 MR. TITUS: Yeah, that list that you have
2 there -- were those the people that attended that
meeting?

3 MR. FOX: All the people here did not attend
4 that first meeting. Most of the agency representatives
5 did. We did recruit a number of these individuals from
groups that we thought may be interested in the
management of the Fortymile herd.

6 MR. TITUS: So, all the names that you have
7 on that list were not present at the meeting, but
was -- was it -- what you said, a recruitment?

8 MR. FOX: Yes, we did recruit some
9 individuals from other areas like Anchorage and
Fairbanks, some places where people may not have been
able to attend that meeting. We wanted to make sure we
10 had a good representation of all the possible user
groups, consumptive and nonconsumptive. So, we wanted
11 to make sure we had a diverse group of people working
on this plan.

12 MR. GUENTHER: Probably because of the time
13 constraints, you've gotten an idea of the type of
involvements that we have in the plan.

14 Let's move into some of the biological
15 aspects of the plan and some of the considerations that
the planning team talked about regarding caribou and
16 caribou management. That would be talked about
probably in any management plan dealing with caribou
17 and, in a lot of cases, would be similar types of
things would be talked about in a moose management plan
18 or some other type of plan.

19 Craig may be the appropriate person to talk
20 about that since he's the biologist in that area
specifically.

21 So, maybe you would like to talk a little
22 bit about some of the factors that we look at in
caribou management and some of the factors relative to
23 caribou-and-wolf interaction and then finish up with
the approach and the way we're looking at manipulating
the wolf population in a rather surgical fashion.

24 MR. GARDNER: Probably all of you know and
25 from where you live that caribou herds go up and go

down. So, what made us look at the Fortymile herd any

1 differently. You know, one thing, a lot of local
2 people wanted this herd larger. They couldn't
understand why this herd wasn't growing.

3 The Fortymile herd used to be hundreds of
4 thousands, but for some reasons, it was stabilized
5 around 20,000. What was some of the biology of that
6 herd. We looked at some of the factors like in all
caribou herds. The first one is productivity of the
herd. Is it being depressed somehow. It wasn't. They
are having all the calves.

7 Was the range in poor shape. Well, it's
8 not. It's actually a good caribou range. So, then you
9 start looking at harvest limiting. Well, actually
10 harvest, subsistence-wise and others, it's been really
low for 20 years and definitely for the last seven.
So, harvest hasn't been any effect on this herd.

11 So, then you look at the mortality all the
12 way across from adult to calf. Where is this coming in
13 or natural mortality outside of harvest. And what we
14 found in the last six or seven years is that the
mortality was very high in this herd, but it was mainly
on one segment of the population, and that was on
calves. And actually on calves mainly just in the
summertime.

15 So, then we started looking at what was
16 actually the main cause of the calves dying and when
17 were they actually dying. We found out the calves were
18 dying basically in the first few weeks for most of
them, but really over the summers. 60 or 70 percent of
the calves were dying by September.

19 And then we found out that wolves and bears
20 were the primary causes of that death. Wolves were the
leading predator of those two, so that the team
actually has some pretty interesting things.

21 In today's society, lethal control is not
22 well looked upon. It hasn't had a program for a while,
23 but it has been well supported by locals from Eagle
down through Northway, Tok, Dawson on the other side to
have this herd increased.

24 So, we looked at some different methods to
25 try to -- you know, cause. So, we had to bring in some
different biology that hasn't been looked at before,

you know, that could look at -- well, could work on

1 trying to increase calf survival.

2 So, what we started looking at was in wolves
3 and a way to nonlethally lower the numbers or lower
4 their predation rates on calves. So, we're looking at
5 fertility control. A lot of people thought it was kind
6 of a joke, I think, when we first started mentioning
7 that, but what we did is we looked at could we actually
8 keep wolves -- you know, lower the number of wolves
9 through infertility.

10 So, what we recommended was to actually go
11 in and sterilize the males and possibly the females and
12 then move the subadult wolves that were commonly
13 dispersed anyway. And then let those wolves, you know,
14 the wolves that have, you know, been sterilized
15 actually stay in their range.

16 Very little bit of data. There hasn't been
17 very much done on wolves over on the Ajak side which is
18 on the Yukon side, but just right on the Alaska-Yukon
19 border. They did one there and actually held their
20 territory, which is a pretty important aspect of these
21 whole idea.

22 These wolves have to hold their territory so
23 other wolves don't come in and have puppies and keep a
24 large number of wolves. The other thing is if you
25 don't led wolves den, their food requirements go way
up, like 60 or 70 percent. Their diet -- they need to
have that kind of nutritional increase to feed the
puppies. If they don't have puppies, hopefully, they
don't need to kill as much. And then with the lower
number of wolves since they don't have puppies and the
subadults have been moved, they don't kill as many.

19 It may not work. Like I said, it's really
20 experimental. If the wolves don't hold their
21 territories and new wolves come in, set up shop and
22 have puppies, you know, it could negate the whole thing
23 we're trying to do. And if the few wolves that are
24 still there, the adults that are still there, actually
25 increase their kill rates, which they can do -- wolves
can surplus kill. If they actually -- since they don't
have a den and are out and stay on the calving grounds
more often, they kill more. Or if bears actually kick
up their kill rate. We don't think that will happen.

25 MR. ROACH: Just a comment I might throw in

there, Craig. The broad range of the team members and

1 their different backgrounds really helped us, I think,
2 as a team, especially when we were talking about
3 biology because if the team had been made up of just
4 local individuals, I think the ideas would have been a
5 little more stifled.

6 We had a lot of different ideas, and we
7 threw around a lot of different ideas. I think the
8 broad range of team members is a very important part of
9 any of these management teams.

10 MR. GINNIS: Have you initiated any type of
11 a local wolf trapping program? I mean, I'm not very
12 familiar with this. I don't want to sound like I'm
13 ignorant here. I'm not very familiar with the issue.

14 MR. GARDNER: That's a good question.
15 Actually, the team talked about it a long time. The
16 actual where they calve, the calves in the summer range
17 for the Fortymile isn't very accessible. It's very
18 remote, and it's actually trapped very lightly. In
19 fact, maybe five or ten wolves are harvested over that
20 entire area a year.

21 We actually want to bring trappers more into
22 that. It's actually going to be up to them. They are
23 going to have to actually shift their trapping effort
24 to get over there. Actually, that would help the
25 program quite a bit.

MR. GINNIS: Is there a way to assist these
trappers, if there were such a program, in terms of
traps and that type of thing?

MR. GUENTHER: There was a lot of discussion
regarding that, too. And rather than getting into
specifics of what happened, dealing with the particular
issue we have here, the broader picture of the
discussions that went on were things like we talked
about the trapping thing, and there were feelings about
in some way subsidizing trappers, what you are saying,
to encourage trapping in the area.

Some people in the group -- and if I'm not
saying this correct, the people that are on this team
make sure that you interrupt and say that. There was
some feeling that that may cause some political
unease. You have to realize that in a planning effort
like this in this day and age that planning isn't --

for management of a species or any group of animals or

1 any area is no longer just a biological issue. It's
2 also a political issue.

3 So, this team tried extremely hard to weigh
4 what things are politically acceptable, are morally
5 acceptable within our current society, what things may
6 be economically able to fit in because there are
7 probably some things that can be done, but they would
8 be so expensive that nobody could do them.

9 We tried to weigh all of those things in and
10 then meld it in with the biology so we could come up
11 with a quick process. We talked about State trapping,
12 but as soon as the State is trapping, it's lethal wolf
13 control. Politically, that's not just -- we felt, as a
14 group, was not acceptable at this point as a control
15 mechanism. It would kill the plan.

16 We weighed a whole bunch of these things.
17 The way the team decided was the best way to do this
18 would be to encourage trappers and hope that we would
19 get a shift. If that didn't happen in this particular
20 case, that means we have to be more concerned about
21 taking some of those young animals and moving them
22 because part of the strategy for this controlling
23 fertility is to reduce these packs down a little bit so
24 they are not large packs.

25 Since the young animals would normally
26 disperse anyway, we would just promote that dispersion
27 at an earlier date. And then the packs themselves --
28 the pack would still exist, but it would be much
29 smaller. It wouldn't produce young. So, it would be a
30 small sized pack with less need to kill as many
31 caribou. So, it would help the caribou in that way.

32 MR. GINNIS: You know, sometimes it takes
33 some initiative to start a program such as a local
34 trapping program, you know. I know out in the Yukon
35 Flats we tried that on the south side of the refuge
36 years ago. That was done through the State.

37 I don't know what the results of it was, but
38 we sure -- I mean, we really had to get some initiative
39 into it in order for it to work. This other thing is
40 this is not a State program we're talking about, I
41 don't think. We're talking about a Federal refuge
42 area, aren't we?

43

MR. GUENTHER: No, we're talking about

1 mostly State land. Effectively all of State land in
2 this program would be involved with minor BLM areas
3 because the BLM has scattered strips of land. The
4 Parks Service area would be outside of where any
5 actions would take place regarding the wolf control.

6 MR. ROACH: One of the other things we had
7 to take into consideration was the international aspect
8 of this herd, and that was important. Another
9 important factor with the make-up of the team was to
10 include the Canadian organizations and individuals that
11 were going to be impacted by this as well.

12 MR. GUENTHER: To keep this short, if we
13 have more questions, we can go on, but I'd kind of like
14 to make a few closing comments. And then if anybody
15 else would like to say some things relative or if you
16 have questions, I'd be glad to answer those.

17 I think the things we're trying to point out
18 with this presentation here is that dual management,
19 management would fade into State and Federal agency
20 both managing the same wildlife. It's very difficult
21 at times.

22 And if we're going to do the very best for
23 the resource and the very best for the resource users,
24 we have to develop management plans that incorporate
25 all of the people that are interested in those
26 particular areas. And in many cases, as in this case,
27 there has to be a lot of compromise and a lot of
28 discussion, I mean, a lot of in-depth thought and
29 looking at a lot of very complex issues, both
30 biological and political issues.

31 I would like to see in the future, from my
32 own personal standpoint, with the Federal Government,
33 the State government, and also the local users and all
34 the local -- all the interested parties in any
35 particular area with moose or caribou, sitting down and
36 developing similar management plans so that when we do
37 make decisions regarding the seasons, bags, or anything
38 else, from both the State position and also from a
39 Federal position that we have the backing, the
40 political and also all of the local backing that we
41 need for the very best of the resource.

42 After all, we're all interested, number one,
43 in the resource because without the resource, we're all

wasting our time. So, that's what this management

1 strategy and effort is all about.

2 It's a relatively new type of approach to
3 trying to make something -- to make the best of a
4 situation and come up with a good management plan. So,
5 that's where we're coming from. That's the reason we
6 wanted to present this to you here today. Hopefully,
7 this will be sort of a trend for the future in
8 management.

9 I will certainly be glad to entertain any
10 questions you have and I'd really like to invite any
11 other, particularly the people that were on the
12 planning team -- if you have to comments to make, to
13 make those comments.

14 MR. FOX: I'd like to point out that since
15 we were dealing with migratory species that does not
16 recognize political boundaries that we had to work
17 within the mandates and policies of several different
18 agencies. That was very difficult to do, and I think
19 we really came out with a -- I can't say that.

20 MR. TITUS: The reason I ask about that list
21 was when you are talking about managing a resource in
22 the State of Alaska, resources that we consider food
23 and going down that list, you get a bunch of people
24 that really, really, want to do what's best in keeping
25 up the -- making the resource sustainable for years to
26 come, but also on that list, there's a lot of -- I
27 notice political entities.

28 When you are talking about subsistence and
29 subsistence resources and then you get political
30 entities involved, it will never work. It never has.
31 That's just one caution that I always have in the back
32 of my mind is letting politics be involved with what
33 we've been living on.

34 MR. MATHEWS: I would just like to mention
35 how this could be applied because the Fortymile was
36 kind of a particular unique situation, but how the
37 Council could apply this is if two regions disagree on
38 a particular issue -- your region does not have that,
39 the other one does have that. You could go through
40 this process of bringing in on that issue the interest
41 groups that need to be brought in, but it would be done
42 with the Council as the lead on that.

43

Also, this Council could use this process

1 which has been laid out here. It's something that you
2 may want to look at at your next meeting. I know it's
3 more work for you, but you may want to look at
4 subcommittees that deal with particular issues so that
5 if an issue comes up on -- I'll take a species that
6 won't bring up a lot of issues, marmots -- that you may
7 want to have a subcommittee to deal with furbearers.
8 And then that way that subcommittee could be the one
9 that would go out and use this process to deal with
10 that particular interest area and then feed that back
11 into the Council.

12 I've heard you talked over time that
13 sometimes you feel like you are making decisions in a
14 vacuum or not enough data, and the data that you want
15 is from the users. I'm using that term. I apologize,
16 using data. You wanted input from the users. This
17 process could be utilized that way.

18 We have not explored that yet. We've had
19 these kind of formal meetings. Some people come; some
20 don't, et cetera. Through the Council system and that,
21 we could reach out to get those users involved.

22 Now, I also realize there's funding and all
23 those other questions, but the first thing we need to
24 look at is do you want to follow this process when an
25 issue comes up. And then we'll work out what the
26 funding is available, but obviously with the Fortymile
27 one as an example, the issue became hot enough that
28 there had to be money to put in to do this.

29 I think the agency and the ones I'm working
30 for are looking down the road saying how can we get
31 issues like this resolved before they reach a level
32 where we have to have all this.

33 I think personally the council system with
34 your leadership of each member could be a step in
35 really reducing a lot of disagreement and conflict and
36 waste of everyone's time through a whole bunch of
37 meetings to finally get to the point of what is the
38 conflict or what is the disagreement. And
39 co-management is another aspect, and others may want to
40 talk about that.

41 But anyways, that's why I think we need to
42 seriously look at that and make the fall meeting a step
43 in that direction and then look at subcommittees.

1 MR. GUENTHER: The reason that -- this first
2 was getting started as we brought in all of these
3 different groups. There was a lot of discussion, and
4 we realized that there were a great many people that
5 have extremely strong influence on any actions that
6 were taken as far as management of this particular
7 group of animals, which is true with animals almost
8 anywhere.

9 We said how can we be sure that we have as
10 much support as possible because, unfortunately or
11 fortunately, whichever side of the fence you are on,
12 politics really does control an awful lot of what we do
13 concerning all wildlife issues.

14 So, I wanted to be sure that we had all of
15 the interested parties. We went out and reached out to
16 everyone and tried to find anybody who had a particular
17 interest in this particular group of animals so that
18 their opinions would all be melded into this, and they
19 would understand where the final thing came from.

20 Hopefully from the standpoint that when a
21 final decision was made and a plan was put together,
22 that everybody would feel that they had had input into
23 it and would support it rather than sabotaging it and
24 destroying it at the last minute.

25 So, we felt that for the benefit of the
26 resource, we needed everybody involved, even people
27 that were opposed to hunting, possibly, that were
28 showing interest in the Fortymile herd because they
29 wanted to see them.

30 All of those people have an important part
31 of this, and they can all hurt what we're doing. They
32 can hurt subsistence and they can hurt sport hunting,
33 and they can hurt a variety of aspects of any
34 management plan, users of management plan.

35 And the other way -- people on the other side
36 of the fence who would be nonconsumptive users feel
37 that if they did a plan without including subsistence
38 hunters and sport hunters, that, of course, sport
39 hunters and subsistence hunters would come down and try
40 to destroy what they had put together.

41 So, this way, you have everybody working
42 together for the best benefit of the resource. And,

hopefully, everybody becomes a winner in these things

1 and nobody really loses. That's really what the goal
2 is here. There's a lot of things that needs to be
3 fixed. This is an infant. And hopefully, we can make
4 this sort of process grow so it benefits everybody
5 involved. That's kind of where we're headed.

6 MR. SCHWARBER: I think it would be useful
7 also to explain the overall process of how this
8 planning product is expected to go to the Board of Game
9 and also have a subsequent public review session in the
10 sense that the decisions you are talking about being
11 made by this group are not final decisions in the sense
12 that they don't have the authority to implement the
13 plan, but you can still show how it fits in, at least,
14 with the existing structure of the decisionmaking.

15 MR. TITUS: Question in the back or a
16 comment in the back.

17 MS. SHOCKLEY: Dorothy Shockley. In your
18 planning process, what was the -- I guess -- did you
19 involve the Elders and, if so, in using it and doing
20 your plan, was their technology methods, cultural and
21 traditional ways of managing the resources -- was that
22 used in your plan and how. And as far as the usage of
23 the resource, what was the majority of the people who
24 used the resources and what was their involvement, the
25 majority of those people?

MR. GARDNER: A lot of questions there. Let
me start with the first and bring in actually the
Elders. Actually, they were consulted quite often and
from the villages that most used the Fortymile group.
The team actually went to them and asked what they
thought and first had to do and also to find out how
they saw the herd from their use and where it used to
range and the kind of numbers.

Actually, a lot of that data was used a lot
in helping us kind of define the traditional range of
the Fortymile herd and kind of the impact of basically
losing that herd, certain parts. And actually, some of
the Elders from Dawson or from the Yukon area actually
helped us out. And, in fact, our plan actually starts
with kind of a quote from one of the Elders from that.

None of the Elders actually were on the
team, but they were -- actually, Keith Jonathan and
some of the others would go to them and show them the

plan and see how they felt about it. So, their input

1 was coming through comments through the team members.

2 MR. SCHULZ: You might mention that Keith
3 was from Tanacross. Historically from catching stock
4 and (inaudible) area, and they were some of the primary
5 users --

6 MR. GARDNER: Definitely tried to keep them
7 in the process as much as --

8 MS. SHOCKLEY: Just looking at the list and
9 hearing about it, it's like you have all of these
10 entities and who actually -- these people that actually
11 used the resource and other people were actually using
12 the resource, were they part of this?

13 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, they actually are. It's
14 unfortunate that in some of the places that a large
15 number of people have quit using the resources because
16 the herd has shrunk in size and where it ranges. So,
17 actually the groups on the Yukon side don't use it at
18 all because it never goes there anymore. And actually,
19 the Elders are the only ones that remember the herd.

20 From the Alaska side, it's taking a lot of
21 heat, actually. How many kind of local users are on
22 it. Some of it is through the advisory committees.
23 There's a member from each of advisory committees that
24 surround the herd range. Jeff Roach from the Council
25 is on it. Two members from the Tanacross area. We
26 tried to get as many users to stay close to the team as
27 we could.

28 MS. SHOCKLEY: Thank you.

29 MR. GUENTHER: To answer the question how
30 the whole planning team fits into the big picture, the
31 planning team, hopefully, are representative of a large
32 segment of the public who are interested. Once the
33 plan -- now that the plan is developed, when a draft
34 was developed, it was made available for public
35 comment. There were a number of meetings held around
36 the State. There was a meeting in Anchorage,
37 Fairbanks, Tok. Where else, Craig?

38 MR. GARDNER: Dawson and Eagle.

39 MR. GUENTHER: Dawson, Eagle. And then, of
40 course, this was made available to a number of other

people to make comments on. We've got both written

1 comments and also oral comments on a great variety of
2 aspects of the plan.

3 We took those comments and consolidated
4 together, and then we had a meeting Monday. We sat
5 down and went through them. I was really impressed
6 with how carefully the whole team went through all of
7 the comments to see if we had previously discussed and
8 considered all of those comments and if those comments
9 changed our opinions of the things that we put into the
10 plan.

11 So, now, we've incorporated all these
12 comments in. And now, Craig and Kevin Fox and several
13 other people have been laboring practically probably
14 day and night to try to get this into a final form and
15 be available back to the public again.

16 It won't be time for comment after this next
17 draft goes up because this is really a draft. It's a
18 final as far as the planning team, but it's really only
19 a draft. Now, it has to go to the Game Board. The
20 Game Board will have public hearings on a typical Game
21 Board situation where public can come in and testify on
22 this. And then they will make final decisions on
23 whether to adopt a plan or to adopt portions of the
24 plan, or they will basically do with the plan what they
25 feel is appropriate. This is true with any plan that
goes through a process like this.

16 On the Federal side, it's being brought to
17 you and will be brought up as an agenda item later on.
18 This particular plan and any other plan that affected
19 you for your consideration and discussion on it. You
20 can decide if you want to support or not support the
21 plan or if you don't want to take a position at all on
22 the plan.

20 Then the Federal board, we assume, probably
21 will take some action also on the plan. And then at
22 that point, it will really become no longer a draft
23 plan but a final plan. That's sort of how it fits
24 in.

23 MR. TITUS: Just for the record, at our last
24 meeting in Northway as the Council, we approved the
25 plan. All we said in the minutes was we were going to
need some more input from the planning committee.

MR. ROACH: What we approved at the March

1 meeting was the harvest and allocation portion of the
2 plan as it existed at that time. And then we went in
3 and completed the entire management plan, and that's
4 what's being presented now.

5 So, we tentatively approved the harvest and
6 allocation portion, and now we will be seeing at this
7 meeting the entire plan.

8 MR. GUENTHER: I'd like to suggest at this
9 point, unless somebody has urgent comments, that we've
10 gone about five minutes over the half hour. I think
11 it's probably important that we try to keep these
12 sessions within that because of the important items
13 that have to be discussed. That would be my
14 suggestion. Of course, it's up to you.

15 MR. GINNIS: I'd like to ask one more
16 question. Did you say that this plan started in
17 February of '94?

18 MR. FOX: That's correct.

19 MR. GINNIS: And when did it complete?

20 MR. FOX: This last draft came off about
21 midnight last night.

22 MR. GINNIS: How many times did you meet
23 during that plan with the group? Do you have any
24 idea? Once a month? Twice a month?

25 MR. GARDNER: Actually, to get to the
26 harvest allocation plan, which you guys looked at in
27 March, we met three times to come up with that. Then a
28 lot of phone calls between everybody. And then we
29 began again in June. And actually turned out, we met
30 nine days over the course of the summer, four different
31 meetings, nine days.

32 MR. GUENTHER: And lots of telephone contact
33 in between.

34 MR. GINNIS: I just wanted to say, I guess,
35 you know, that I agree with the Chair that, you know,
36 sometimes when we're looking at a resource, we get
37 everybody and their brothers involved. You know, I
38 guess in this particular case, I guess you have to do
39 what you have to do, but, you know, it kinds of

concerns me sometimes when you get so many people

1 involved in trying to develop a plan.

2 You know, you've got 20 different people, 20
3 different minds, you know. And the resource in the
4 meantime is just going downhill while you are all
5 sitting around trying to figure out what to do about
6 it. Sometimes, I think that when we talk about
7 resources, that the less people involved, the better
8 off it is, I think.

9 At least out where I come from in the Yukon
10 Flats refuge, I wouldn't want to see too many people
11 involved in, you know, looking at issues that come out
12 from that area such as moose. That's an issue that's
13 going to come before us here or at least for discussion
14 purposes.

15 So, anyway, I just wanted to make that
16 comment. I understand why you had to get all that
17 group of people together. It's an international-type
18 of an issue, but, you know, sometimes the less people
19 the better.

20 MR. GUENTHER: I think probably in a number
21 of plans, particularly in areas such as you are talking
22 about, that those plans probably involve a much smaller
23 group of people because you don't have as many people
24 that have a strong interest in that area. And that, in
25 itself, would be limiting, and you're right in some
cases.

 MR. GINNIS: We're on Federal land. It
makes a lot of difference. You are dealing with State
lands, right?

 MR. GUENTHER: No, it's State and Federal.
It's a combination.

 MR. FOX: I think when you bring in the idea
of predator control, too, you set yourself up for a lot
of outside influence, and that was a discussion part of
this plan, too. So --

 MR. GINNIS: One more question. Is there
any other alternative to control of wolves other than
this sterilizing? Are there other alternatives that's
addressing the plan?

 MR. GARDNER: We actually probably started

with six right off at the start of the summer. It

1 ranged from very intensive control from helicopter to
2 trap -- you know, total trapping to bounty to down to
no control, no touching of any of the predators.

3 And then it narrowed down to three, and the
4 three that actually got presented as a drop plan went
5 from no change in current management which would be --
6 normal hunting and trapping seasons would be the only
basic predator. I guess I wouldn't call that control,
7 but that would be the only kind of removal of predators
8 just through public hunting and trapping seasons, and
9 to intensive control. And that was helicopter remote.

10 MR. TITUS: I'm saving all my wolf pelts for
11 bounties. Any more comments?

12 MR. MATHEWS: You are kind of moving in a
13 direction that I need to see where you want to go.
14 I'll just say it for the record. You do have a bare
15 minimum quorum. Once one member leaves, then the
16 meeting is done because we will not have a quorum.

17 We already know that Mr. Ginnis has a very
18 important appointment that will require him leaving
19 tomorrow at three. We have a lot of agenda items. So,
20 I'm twisting your arm to see if you want to work a
21 little bit more. It's up to you, but we do have a lot
22 of items.

23 And unless another member shows up, we will
24 be ending when Mr. Ginnis has made it clear to me and
25 to others that he has to leave. So, I've twisted.

MR. TITUS: Did you say Charlie was going to
be in tomorrow?

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Titus said he would call
me if he was going to make it. I received no message.

MR. TITUS: He'll be here tomorrow
afternoon.

MR. GINNISS: You'll get him here, right?

MR. TITUS: Yeah.

MR. MATHEWS: It sounds like you are getting
ready to call it an evening.

MR. GINNIS: You can stay here, if you want.

1 MR. MATHEWS: The thing I would encourage
2 you to do, seriously, is take the book with you and
3 look at tab number six and look at the C and T
4 determinations for the region and see if you have any
5 concerns about those. That will make tomorrow a lot
6 easier.

7 I know it's not the greatest homework in the
8 world, but it's the foundation of the whole program and
9 it's before you. So, if you could take your book and
10 read it over in that section there, it would really
11 help. Thank you.

12 MR. TITUS: Is this kind of the same ones
13 that you mailed out to us earlier?

14 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, but we're into it
15 already. Don't look at that. Look at the sheets
16 before it, the ones that are here, this one, because
17 the other one I sent you earlier are backlog ones.
18 We'll deal with those if we need to. What you need to
19 look at is if you live in Unit 12, look at those
20 determinations. Are you comfortable with those. If
21 you are not comfortable with those and would like
22 action in the next year, put a little check there and
23 note it tomorrow. We'll answer that, and then we'll
24 move along. Not too much homework.

25 MR. TITUS: We'll recess until 8:30 in the
morning.

(End of session.)

(Proceedings adjourned at 8:30 p.m.)

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