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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA
February 23, 2021
9:04 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
William Hopson
Wanda Kippi
Steve Oomittuk
Edward Rexford
Peter Williams

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

3 (Teleconference - 2/23/2021)

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5 (On record)

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7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to call
8 the meeting back to order at 9:04 a.m., and continue on
9 with our new business. I think we left off with
10 majority Items 11, we took care of a lot of that so we
11 probably could backtrack a little bit to the proposals
12 area now that we've got Carmen online, and I did hear
13 Carmen.

14
15 So with that maybe, Eva, could you help
16 us out a little bit on where to begin because we kind
17 of dotted Item 11 call for wildlife proposals and with
18 a proposal from Western Arctic RAC and then there was
19 the Board of Game proposals, and then parts of our talk
20 evolved around wanting to hear more about the concern
21 and thought maybe ADF&G, Carmen, in particular, might
22 be able to shed some light on the caribou issues and
23 things like that.

24
25 Is that where we left off yesterday?

26
27 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 The Council had wanted to hear from Carmen on the ADF&G
29 updates for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and
30 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, in particular. And then resume
31 discussion on both the wildlife special action request
32 and development of proposals.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

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36 MS. PATTON:from the Council as
37 you wish. We also do have online Kyle Joly, who is
38 online again, caribou biologist with the National Park
39 Service so he's available to answer questions as well
40 and engage with the Council. And some of our ISC
41 members who had worked on the previous targeted closure
42 in Unit 23 are also online for discussion if that's
43 helpful for the Council.

44
45 So I think we'll hear from Carmen this
46 morning and then get back into the Council's discussion
47 on that wildlife special action request and development
48 of any of your own Federal subsistence proposals you'd
49 like to submit. And then the Council did want to pick

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1 back up with the Board of Game muskox proposal
2 discussion.

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4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Well,
5 Carmen, if you -- did you want to start off with some

6 of your updates, and by the way it sounded like you
7 were out in the field yesterday counting animals or
8 something.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
11 Chair. For the record, this is Carmen Daggett with
12 Alaska Department of Fish and Game. And I was actually
13 flying back yesterday, made it back to town. So I was
14 counting muskox down on the Seward Peninsula if you
15 were curious.

16
17 So I guess what I am curious about is I
18 can start with the updates if you like, and then maybe
19 we can get into some discussion about any questions
20 that you might have regarding proposals.

21
22 Does that sound okay?

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that sounds
25 pretty good. It's probably going to help us with some
26 of the Board of Game stuff and some of the other
27 proposals that are out there that are in our unit to,
28 you know, talk more about that.

29
30 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Okay. So I sent
31 along a flier, a summary of information for you guys
32 and I had given that to Eva a while ago, and I'm not
33 sure where, in the packet, it ended up being. Eva, can
34 you help direct them so they can follow along, please.

35
36 MS. PATTON: Sure. You'll see a one
37 page flier with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
38 logo on the right covering caribou, moose and muskox.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, I got
41 that.

42
43 MS. DAGGETT: So I'm going to give
44 everybody a quick second to find that because I think
45 it will help with just people kind of absorbing things
46 as we go here, hopefully.

47
48 (Pause)

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1 MS. DAGGETT: Does everybody have that
2 in front of them?

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have it.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: Okay, great. Great. So
7 I'm going to start out the discussion talking about
8 caribou and the most recent information that we have

9 about Teshekpuk caribou, specifically. I think when we
10 get in discussion about Western Arctic stuff, I might
11 just let Kyle talk about Western Arctic stuff because
12 my guess is that he has a good summary of that
13 information. So I'm just going to talk about Teshekpuk
14 stuff, I'll go through my summary and then maybe I'll
15 let Kyle talk about the Western Arctic stuff.

16
17 So I did short yearling surveys this
18 last April, or more specifically had to a jerry-rig of
19 survey work because of Covid stuff and so we had some
20 people from Fairbanks help us out. But they viewed
21 4,257 caribou and that's a pretty sizeable portion of
22 the herd to look at for this particular survey. And
23 about 11.7 of those -- 11.7 percent were yearlings so
24 that's a pretty reasonable amount for this herd,
25 nothing unusual there. And then we did our summer
26 calving surveys and found that we actually had 81
27 percent of the females that we looked at pregnant this
28 last year. So that's actually a really good sign, the
29 10 average is about 68 percent, so it was pretty high
30 this last summer. Really good to see that. A great
31 indicator of growth. And so really good to see that
32 high number of percentage of pregnant females in the
33 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd.

34
35 In addition to those two surveys that
36 we worked on last year, we did a summer collaring
37 project. We collared 32 caribou total, 20 of those
38 were female yearlings, three were bulls and 9 were re-
39 collared adult females. So that project kind of went
40 off without hitch. It was really -- we collected a lot
41 of good information from those. And so we're
42 continuing to survey those animals for disease and
43 parasites and those sorts of things, keeping a close
44 eye on that.

45
46 So I think that's good for that
47 summary.

48
49 Adult female mortality was around 12

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1 percent between 2019 and 2020, which, you know, is
2 average. Female yearling weights were about 20 pounds
3 lighter than the long-term average and we had six of
4 the 10 lowest weights recorded since 1996 this last
5 summer. So while most of the adult animals looked like
6 they were in really good condition, the female
7 yearlings, you know, were kind of lighter than what we
8 would normally expect and so we're keeping an eye on
9 that. The reason why it's specifically female
10 yearlings is because those are the animals that we're
11 targeting and collaring, known aged females that we can

12 track through time and get an idea of productivity.
13 They're kind of the engine behind the herd in the long
14 run so that's why we weigh those animals specifically.

15
16 As I said before, we collected fecal
17 samples, looked for parasites, hair to kind of look for
18 a variety of different hormonal type things and then
19 some blood samples and nasal swabs for looking for
20 disease. We're still kind of waiting on some of those
21 results back from the blood samples, but there's some
22 information that I could share in some detail later
23 about those fecal samples and the parasite things.
24 Nothing too alarming there but we're still kind of.....

25
26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28
29 MS. DAGGETT:that's kind of a
30 relatively recent thing that we've been looking at in
31 more detail so.

32
33 Are there any questions about the
34 Teshekpuk caribou information that I've shared here so
35 far before we get into moose?

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
38 Carmen on the caribou. I do have one, it says WACH
39 caribou Western Arctic Caribou Herd on the information
40 you're sharing but you're talking about Teshekpuk Herd,
41 are they one in the same?

42
43 MS. DAGGETT: So the information that I
44 just provided is all Teshekpuk information. So maybe
45 this would be a -- I don't know if you want to talk
46 about Western Arctic Herd stuff right now, we can, but
47 the information that I just shared is information that
48 Fish and Game has gathered on Teshekpuk caribou only.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So maybe the
2 flier that has your emblem on it, WACH, maybe that's an
3 error in the print -- in the information that you're
4 sharing. It's all the right numbers and everything
5 you're saying but right at the top, right above that it
6 says WACH caribou.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, I'm not looking at
9 the specific thing that you got sent but I'm pretty
10 sure that the one that I sent doesn't have that on top
11 of it. But either way, you know, I understand that
12 confusion and.....

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14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

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MS. DAGGETT:I guess I just want to be specific that it's -- the information I just provided is just Teshekpuk animals, it's not Western Arctic animal information.

So if you want Western Arctic information, you know, I said earlier that maybe Kyle would be good to talk about that for right now.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. I mean I wasn't questioning the need to get Western Arctic information, just the follow along that I'm following has all the right information, everything you're saying but it just says right at the top, this is the WACH caribou that you're talking about.

MS. PATTON: Hi, Gordon, this is.....

MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Yeah, I apologize for that.

MS. PATTON: This is Eva. And that might be a file labeling error on my part because I relabeled all the files so that I could organize them in the correct order for the Council. So that might be my file labeling error.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I just wanted to make sure we're talking about the right one here. But, anyway, it was good information.

I do have a question if the Council don't have any additional questions.

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: In terms of some of the concerns that we hear periodically about getting sick animals, in particular near Nuiqsut, I'm wondering how that information gets filtered to you, if at all, or if that's information shared between the local residents, the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and/or ADF&G. Can you elaborate a little bit about this. Because I keep hearing, periodically about, you know, sick animals, you know, caribou sometimes -- you know, we harvest them and we're opportunistic and sometimes the slow ones get left behind and sometimes those are weeded out by wolves and predators and things like that and sometimes we might be the recipient of that kind of a catch. So can you talk a little bit about that, from your experience.

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MS. DAGGETT: Sure, that's a great question, Gordon. Thanks for that. So we -- I haven't specifically been contacted about any sick animals in Nuiqsut recently. That being said, you know, I would really -- it would be beneficial, mutually beneficial to share that information between the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and Fish and Game. It seems that some hunters are more comfortable contacting the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, and that's fine, however, it is helpful for us to also work together to share that information with the public and I think hunters can certainly always, and we encourage them to take pictures, send samples if they're willing, of those animals to Fish and Game so that we can help figure out why those animals are sick and what they're sick with.

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So I would encourage hunters to work with both entities and certainly we need to work together, the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and Fish and Game to help address those issues.

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I was curious if there was anything, in particular, that you are aware of as far as sick animals in Nuiqsut that people are seeing, if there's anything specific that you, you know, you've heard about, Gordon. I would be interested to know anything that people are seeing and help address those issues as long as they're willing to communicate with me about those things.

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(Pause)

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MS. DAGGETT: So anything specific, Gordon, that you heard?

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sorry, I was talking and I was on mute, and I apologize here.

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MS. DAGGETT: Everybody gets caught.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we forgot to press the red button. Anyway, yeah, in particular, I think there's some -- you know, from our representative out of Nuiqsut, Martha Itta, I've heard it from Martha about sick caribous that are being caught. But I think the majority of them are pretty healthy, but there have been some concerns about sick caribous, especially when we're having hearings about development and stuff like that. I keep hearing about sick caribou around infrastructure and I just want to -- since you're here

21 and we're talking about the Teshekpuk Herd, which this
22 will probably be representative of that herd. I'm not
23 in particular knowing what particular sickness that's
24 showing up and I'm not too sure if they shared that
25 information with wildlife or a particular hunter
26 provided samples or anything like that. I'm just
27 wondering, you know, ADF&G being the preeminent caribou
28 monitoring and health-wise and things, that some things
29 like that would get filtered to you, either through the
30 Wildlife Department or from local hunters.

31
32 I did have some caribou last year that
33 I personally was given from my nephews and then later
34 on several hours later, you know, discovered there was
35 living and moving little things inside the meat, you
36 know, like within the muscle strands and I'm not
37 exactly sure what that was and little black dot looking
38 things in the meat. But that was last year, or the
39 year before that.

40
41 But during some of our engagements with
42 Nuiqsut I keep hearing about sickly animals around the
43 industrial area.

44
45 So I don't have any in particular about
46 what it's about or what it was because I haven't seen a
47 sample, only that it was expressed.

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49 MS. DAGGETT: That's really helpful

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0153
1 information, thank you, Gordon. And I had not heard
2 that before so I'm really glad that you shared that.
3 And I can follow-up with Martha Itta on that and see if
4 any samples were collected. I actually have an
5 appointment to talk with Rafiella, the vet over at the
6 Borough anyways about just caribou related issues so I
7 can bring that up with her too and see if she has heard
8 anything but I'll try to follow-up with that and get
9 some more information.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's all I wanted
12 to provide.

13
14 Any other questions for Carmen on the
15 caribou.

16
17 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve in
18 Point Hope.

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20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

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22 MR. OOMITTUK: I had stepped away for a
23 few minutes and yeah. I don't know if I heard you

24 mention -- maybe at the beginning, that you didn't have
25 much on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd information, is
26 there knowledge of it?

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28 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair.

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30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen.

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32 MS. DAGGETT: So I think, you know,
33 Kyle Joly is on the line and he works with the Western
34 Arctic Caribou Herd quite a bit, I think even more than
35 I do and so I was going to let him provide a little bit
36 of summary perhaps of where we're at with the Western
37 Arctic Herd right now and if he's willing to do that.
38 I just, you know, normally Alex Hanson would be the one
39 that would do that, he's our Western Arctic Caribou
40 Herd biologist out of Kotzebue and I don't know if he's
41 on the line today or not but either or those two people
42 are far more knowledgeable about the specifics of where
43 that herd is right now. So it would be more
44 appropriate probably for them to talk about it.

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: You know the communities
47 that depend -- you know, out of curiosity I was just
48 wondering, you know, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
49 covers a lot of ground, you know, from North Slope,

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0154

1 Northwest Arctic Borough and further down, do you know
2 how many communities the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
3 supplies, Fish and Game or anybody, Wildlife, can, you
4 know, answer the Western Arctic -- you know, it's the
5 largest caribou herd within the state and it covers a
6 lot of ground. And the concern in a lot of the
7 communities, even further south, when they had the
8 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group workshop in
9 December, you know, there was a lot of concerns of the
10 population and, you know, and it's still at a low
11 number, you know, it's below half of what it used to be
12 at one time and there's still a lot of concerns, you
13 know, and this Western Arctic Caribou Herd is vital to
14 a lot of our communities, not just for the North Slope,
15 but in the Northwest Arctic Borough and further down.
16 You know I was just wondering how many communities does
17 this Western Arctic Caribou Herd actually provide food
18 on the table for. Because a majority of the
19 subsistence hunters rely on this herd, you know, Point
20 Hope, we're very fortunate that we live right on the
21 ocean and we have other food sources but, you know, we
22 still rely on caribou, you know, as a source of meat to
23 put on the table. A majority of our food is out in the
24 ocean but, you know, and I -- I think they had said
25 that the population estimate is about 240,000 and
26 that's still under half of what it used to be at one

27 time and there's still a lot of concerns of, you know,
28 the migration route being changed by non-residents or
29 sporthunters that get dropped off in front of the herd
30 before they come down to -- you know, when they're
31 migrating south to the other outlying villages,
32 especially in the Northwest Arctic Borough and Point
33 Hope area, Unit 23.

34

35 Do you know the migration route or what
36 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd covers and how many
37 villages that it actually supplies for and for a
38 population of 230,000 or 240,000 an estimated number,
39 at one time it was 250,000, I mean 500,000. Can you
40 give us a little more information because this -- we're
41 still concerned.

42

43 This is the first time in years that
44 the Point Hope people are actually catching caribou
45 just a few miles out of town. There's actually one
46 just in town last week, a few days ago, and some just
47 three, four miles out, some over at the point by the
48 airport. And -- and, you know, they're not going 50,
49 60 miles to catch caribou like they had to a few years

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0155

1 back. We're finally actually seeing them, even though
2 the numbers are still low but it seems like they're
3 finally migrating back into their natural migration
4 area and spending some of their winters there. But we
5 still have concerns of the population. And what
6 exactly does the Western Arctic Caribou Herd supply to
7 communities and then covers a wide range, you know, not
8 just within the North Slope area, but it goes quite a
9 ways south.

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11 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
12 Joly.

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14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kyle.

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16 MR. JOLY: Yeah. If I may. The Western
17 Arctic Herd, when it goes to its full distribution is
18 accessed by villages, 40 different villages throughout
19 northern and western Alaska ranging as far south as
20 Unalakleet out on to the Seward Peninsula, but also as
21 far east as Bettles and Evansville as well as all the
22 North Slope villages.

23

24 The population reached a high in 2003
25 of 490,000 caribou and it's been on a fairly steady
26 decline since 2003. It was 259,000 back in 2017. The
27 most recent estimate that Fish and Game conducted was
28 in 2019 and that was 244,000 animals.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: And just out of
31 curiosity, what was the estimate lowest population in
32 the recent years? What exactly is the lowest
33 population at one time? It's my understanding it was
34 under 200,000.

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36 MR. JOLY: Through the Chair. This is
37 Kyle Joly with the Park Service again.

38
39 So there was an estimate back in 2016
40 that was 201,000 animals and so that's the lowest that
41 has been reported since 1986. So the only time it's
42 been below that was 1982 would be the previous time
43 that it reached lower than 200,000.

44
45 Between 2016 and 2017 there was a
46 population increase in the estimate from 201,000 to
47 259,000 but part of that was probably attributable to a
48 change in methodology. So back in 2016 and all the
49 previous surveys, the work was done with print

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0156
1 photography, so old school, you'd get film, you get it
2 developed, you'd print out a hard copy and then you'd
3 count the caribou on the actual photos. And then in
4 2017 Department of Fish and Game switched over to
5 digital photography and the resolution of that camera
6 was better and so it's hard to directly compare the
7 2016 and 2017 estimates because the technology's a
8 little bit different. So some of that increase may
9 have been just due to better photography and easier to
10 count calves in particular.

11
12 Does that help?

13
14 MR. OOMITTUK: Now, when you say the
15 population, an estimate population, you're talking
16 10,000 less or 10,000 more so at the lowest 201,000 so
17 it could have been 191,000 or 221,000?

18
19 MR. JOLY: Yeah, through the Chair.
20 This is Kyle Joly again. Yeah, every census has a
21 little bit of estimation in it so a little bit of
22 variability so, yeah, it's probably not exactly
23 201,000, it could be a little bit less, a little bit
24 more, and that variability changes from census to
25 census. So it depends on how well the animals are
26 clumped together and if there was full resolution in
27 the photography and things like that.

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: And the other question,
30 you know, I know you guys monitor maybe the harvest or
31 what you're allowed to harvest daily or, you know, the
32 Western Arctic Caribou Herd, out of those 40 villages,

33 what's the estimate harvest of all these communities on
34 a yearly basis.

35

36 MR. JOLY: Through the Chair again.
37 This is Kyle Joly. So we don't have a solid estimate
38 what the harvest is but we have an approximation. We
39 think it's about 12,000 animals a year that are
40 harvested. And, again, that's -- it will change from
41 year to year depending on how close the herd gets to
42 different villages. But we think that the harvest is
43 fairly steady. People have a set amount of caribou that
44 they're looking to get and they try to get them. But
45 some years when the herd doesn't go to some villages,
46 those villages will have lower harvest and that can
47 impact the total annual harvest rate.

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49 MR. OOMITTUK: And I saw in one of the

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0157

1 reports on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the number
2 of calves being born and the rise of the population, at
3 what percent is actually -- what -- I mean what's the
4 count on the last 10 years, how high is the yearly, you
5 know, the population has gone up on the Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd, is it -- is it right on the -- over
7 12,000 what is harvested, what is it -- is it 20,000
8 and climbing or.....

9

10 MR. JOLY: This is Kyle Joly again. We
11 don't have real precise estimates on harvest and so,
12 you know, Fish and Game does estimates on the harvest
13 and that's about 12,000 a year and it doesn't really
14 vary all that much because people are looking to get a
15 set number of caribou so there isn't a -- just recently
16 there was a permit (indiscernible) setup for this
17 harvest and so we're looking to improve the estimation
18 of the harvest but right now it's a fairly course
19 estimate and we don't think it varies all that much.

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. And, you know,
22 there's the -- the Northwest Arctic Borough is our
23 neighbors here and they rely on the Western Arctic
24 Caribou Herd also which is Unit 23, and especially the
25 migration of the herd and it has changed quite a bit in
26 the last 20 years. Sometimes it doesn't get to some of
27 the villages. In Kotzebue area and further south from
28 Noatak or Kiana, you know, it depends on, you know --
29 you know, especially hunters or sporthunters that get
30 dropped off by the Kelly, above the Noatak River, up
31 into Federal lands within the North Slope Borough and
32 in the last 20 year a big change of the migration of
33 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, especially with the
34 declining numbers of the herd to more than half of what
35 it used to be at one time. And, you know, for those

36 communities to harvest and depend on the caribou, you
37 know, yearly, and there was a lot of concerns of the
38 population that had dropped so suddenly and the
39 temperatures and, you know, the environment that -- you
40 know, especially when it rains in January and February
41 and freezes the ground and the caribou have a hard time
42 harvesting their food -- their food source that's under
43 the snow because it's solid ice and at one time there
44 was a big -- there's a lot of caribou died of
45 starvation in the cold -- you know, January and
46 February is the coldest time of the year. And we see
47 an abundance of predators, the high number of wolves,
48 wolverines, we're seeing more lynx within our areas,
49 you know, and we're very concerned of, you know,
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0158

1 providing -- a lot of them are concerned, you know, are
2 they going to be able to provide food on the table
3 because of the high cost of living and, you know, the
4 high cost of fuel to go hunting and going further east
5 or further north just to harvest caribou to put food on
6 the table. And when you live in a high cost area
7 that's -- everything is so expensive, you know,
8 especially freight, if you're trying to, you know, a
9 lot of our communities still rely on our subsistence
10 food sources and are very concerned that, you know,
11 they need to put food on their table for their family.
12 Our population of our communities are growing.

13

14 So, you know, and that's why they want
15 to submit certain proposals to ensure the herd
16 population is climbing and that we are able to put food
17 on the table in the future.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

20

21 So Carmen, were you done with the
22 Teshekpuk Herd numbers?

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: Yes, Mr. Chair. Unless
25 there's any further questions regarding Teshekpuk
26 animals. And thank you for your comments, Steve. It's
27 interesting to hear that you guys have been able to get
28 some caribou over by Point Hope and hear your concerns
29 regarding distribution and population size. It's
30 really important to keep hearing from you guys in the
31 communities and hear how you're doing.

32

33 I don't know, this year, in particular,
34 is difficult -- or this last year, because our travel
35 was restricted because of Covid along with everybody
36 else's and so getting out to villages to hear from
37 people directly was pretty inhibited. And so these
38 meetings are really helpful to hear what's happening on

39 the ground, even more so, and so I'm really grateful
40 that you're willing to share all that information.

41
42 Thank you.

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44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And, you
47 know, I -- you know, when we were talking yesterday in
48 our meeting and you were not here and there was some
49 proposals that I was asked to submit in a form of a

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0159

1 motion but we wanted to hear information from you and
2 those informations that we wanted to know you couldn't
3 answer today for us. I didn't see no report. A very
4 small report on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and
5 especially population numbers. But, you know, these --
6 this food source is very vital to us and it's still a
7 big concern. And we're very fortunate that, you know,
8 the caribou migration routes are finally coming back
9 into our area again after so many years. I don't know
10 how often, you know, you, Carmen, you cover the North
11 Slope area, and is that a -- you're talking 90,000
12 square miles for one person and, you know, the Board of
13 Game or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, you
14 know, and a wide variety of animals, you know, and to
15 have one representative that covers 90,000 square miles
16 is overwhelming.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, Steve, I appreciate
19 those sentiments and, you know, I want you to know that
20 just because I had Kyle talk about Western Arctic
21 Caribou Herd stuff I was -- you know, I want to make
22 sure that the numbers that are given are as specific
23 and correct as possible and -- and I wanted to pull
24 that information up, and so I pulled the information up
25 but I -- I knew Kyle would have it at his fingertips.
26 And so I wanted to give him a chance to share that
27 information because I knew that he would have it there
28 at his fingertips and then I had it -- you know, I was
29 following along with information that I had too with
30 him.

31
32 So I don't want you to think that I
33 don't think the Western Arctic Herd is important, I
34 know it's vastly important. And I just listened to the
35 Northwest Arctic RAC meeting last week and they were
36 talking about, you know, that they are not seeing
37 caribou as much down there right now and they've seen
38 more Western Arctic Herd on the North Slope this year,
39 and so it's -- this year it's a little bit different
40 and that -- you know, the Western Arctic Herd does
41 different things kind of every year. They kind of --

42 you know, I think there's a quote from Jim Dau
43 somewhere that says that we're experiencing the 25th
44 year of unusual caribou movement and, you know, he was
45 the long-term Western Arctic Caribou Herd biologist for
46 a long time. And so, you know, I think that just
47 demonstrates that caribou do a lot of different things
48 for lots of different reasons and it can be difficult
49 to predict what they're going to do. And that being
50

0160

1 said, you know, villages kind of just have to deal with
2 what the caribou do that year and try to do the best
3 they can in putting food in their freezers.

4

5 So, you know, I know it's challenging
6 and I think -- you know, appreciate hearing from you,
7 Steve, so thanks so much for your comments.

8

9 If there's any other questions
10 regarding caribou stuff we can do that or we can move
11 on to moose stuff, it's up to you guys.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
14 Any other questions for Carmen from the Council on
15 Teshekpuk Herd -- well, what's the estimated population
16 right now and that's one thing I think we were wanting
17 to learn more about, the population size. I see a
18 flier for the Central Arctic Herd update for 2019, a
19 population of 30,000.

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then some other
24 mortality stuff.

25

26 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So that's a good
27 point, Gordon. I didn't include that on here and I
28 should have. So the most recent count was done in 2017
29 for Teshekpuk Herd and it was 56,000 animals is the
30 estimate. And we tried to do one last year and the
31 year before, unfortunately the weather has not really
32 given us the conditions we need to do a photo census in
33 recent years.

34

35 As you all know, the summer -- last
36 summer was quite cool, you know, being in the 30s and
37 40s and so those temperatures don't really generate the
38 amount of bugs and I'm sure a lot of you noticed that
39 the insects last summer weren't really around too much
40 and that just means that they're not driving caribou
41 together and creating those conditions that we really
42 use to do that photo census. So, you know, we'll try
43 again this year to get that photo census -- we kind of
44 try every year that we can to do that and we'll see if

45 we can get you an estimate. But it just -- yeah, we
46 just need those ideal conditions to do that photo
47 census and try to get the best accurate count that we
48 can.
49
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1 So does that answer your question,
2 Gordon.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I mean,
5 you know, 2017's already, what, four years ago now.

6

7 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. Yep. I know, it's
8 tricky. We probably have some of the coolest
9 conditions up here, which is why the caribou like being
10 up here during the summer and they don't get harassed
11 by bugs as much but it means that it's a little bit
12 more challenging to get a good photo census sometimes
13 so we do the best that we can given the conditions that
14 the weather provides us so.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just one other
17 question is, some time ago you were -- some
18 presentations about switching from regular photos to
19 digital photos.....

20

21 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER:is there a
24 difference in conditions that favor the use of the new
25 way or.....

26

27 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, so that's a great
28 question. I think the new digital photography allows
29 us to be able to take photos in a wider array of light
30 conditions and so that really gives us more
31 flexibility, you know, as far as time of day that we
32 take photos and dealing with shadows and that sort of
33 stuff. You know I had the fortunate experience of
34 counting caribou pictures that were, you know, printed
35 pictures like Kyle was talking about and then also
36 doing it, you know, on the digital format and you can
37 certainly see things far better in the digital
38 photographs and you can zoom in and it certainly
39 provides a higher quality to work off of and as a
40 result I think that there -- you know, it's possible
41 that there could be some -- increase in numbers just
42 because the quality of the images are better. So I
43 think, you know, that there's certainly some advantages
44 from digital photography, you know, in the environment
45 and then also in the images themselves and getting good
46 information from them.

47

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So does that answer your question?

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean, you
2 know, that new way was going to be -- sounded like it
3 was going to be promising and more accurate and if
4 there are other means of interpreting that like through
5 GIS, you know, I worked in GIS back in the '90s and how
6 you could identify certain areas by GIS means, it would
7 be good to try to experiment on how digital data like
8 that could be inserted into a GIS format and then
9 calculate it from there to count the number of little
10 digital ticks and it might be important to try to
11 experiment how our tekkies can use that information to
12 expedite how -- what you have on the ground.

13
14 I mean, you know, the North Slope
15 Borough GIS is very advanced nowadays and we try to use
16 the latest tools including lidar and other things with
17 USGS to look at topography and other things like that.

18
19 So I'm not sure if you've looked at how
20 to connect GIS with the digital photographing.

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Gordon. Yeah,
23 so we're certainly -- the images that we are using are
24 connected with GIS. They're generated and created
25 through using the GIS programs. So, you know, it's
26 certainly something that's already incorporated. And I
27 think you're alluding to using like an automated count
28 system and we're certainly experimenting with those
29 options, too, you know, Nathan Pamprin (ph), is kind of
30 our photo census guru out of Fairbanks and he has been
31 working really hard to improve those systems and super
32 talented with things and has made vast improvements in
33 the last several years as he's been working on this
34 project.

35
36 So it's certainly something that we're
37 looking in to and continuing to work on but it takes a
38 while to sort through and test and -- and verify and --
39 and make sure that automated counting stuff is accurate
40 and -- and until we can do that we'll continue to use
41 the method of counting digitally and -- and doing it,
42 you know, by having -- just look at the images -- the
43 digital images on a computer and -- and counting them
44 manually until we can really have a lot of confidence
45 in that automated counting system. But it's something
46 we're certainly looking at.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think it's
49 important because you're counting, it seems to get
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0163

1 dated pretty quick, and then we use dated material to
2 do a lot of different things. And I think it would be
3 prudent to have a mirror -- I would love to take on the
4 challenge of collecting your dated digital information,
5 have a meeting with our GIS at the North Slope Borough
6 and then, you know, discuss how that information can be
7 automated calculated. Because I remember -- one of my
8 professions in my past lives was a topographer, I
9 worked with products and worked with the programming
10 language to develop how maps can be manipulated and
11 what's on top of the topography and to be able to
12 detect archeological sites and things like that back in
13 the '90s. And I think this is an area where we should
14 work together on the Slope where there's -- where
15 there's a willingness, including using the schools --
16 and I think it would strike an interest to work with
17 the schools about monitoring. I could remember a few
18 years ago where students in Nuiqsut were following
19 caribou and their movements and tracking the migration
20 and movements of caribou as their school project. I
21 think these kind of things are important.

22

23 And I'd like to make specific time with
24 you and one of my divisions that I'm responsible for is
25 our GIS and, you know, when you've got another set of
26 folks working on it in Fairbanks and another set
27 working on it in the Arctic up here, and then compare
28 and see what we come up with, then your confidence
29 interval is going to start to increase because you've
30 got another set of eyes on it and I think that's
31 important.

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, thank you for that,
34 Gordon. I'll certainly mention that to our Staff that
35 work on these photo census and explain your offer and
36 we can see how we can join forces there. So we'll have
37 to see about having a meeting about that at some point
38 in the future. How does that sound?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think that's
41 going to be fantastic. And I think our GIS group, they
42 would be able to tell us, you know, what their
43 capabilities are and probably make a special project
44 our of it.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
49 for Carmen on the Teshekpuk Herd?

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is
2 Steve. So we're going to go down each proposal and if

3 there's something that Carmen can answer that we tabled
4 from yesterday so right now we're on the Teshekpuk
5 Herd, so -- because I have other questions on certain
6 proposals.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. We're going to
9 just finish our update and then go to the proposals
10 from there if that's -- it seems like that's what we
11 were trending to last night, to hear a little bit about
12 what the caribous doing, what the moose is doing, and
13 there's some proposals on muskox and things like that.
14 And I thought that was what we were agreeing to
15 yesterday and then we'll go directly to the proposals
16 at that point.

17
18 MR. OOMITTUK: I have, you know, on a
19 lot of these caribou surveys or what -- do they do
20 local hire from within the communities to help out in a
21 certain area? You know we do have a Wildlife
22 Department in the Native Village of Point Hope and
23 also, you know, we have -- also the North Slope Borough
24 that represents, a young guy, I think Michael Tagarook,
25 Jr., who works for the Wildlife for the North Slope
26 Borough here in Point Hope, when they do the surveys --
27 when they do the surveys, do they utilize local people
28 to help out on some of these surveys, especially within
29 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd?

30
31 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. Or through
32 the Chair to Steve Oomittuk.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

35
36 MS. DAGGETT: So Steve that's a great
37 question. So I guess for the photo census, in
38 particular, usually we have a small crew of people that
39 go spend some time out at Eagle Creek and, you know, my
40 -- my time with the Department, we have not had people
41 from Point Hope out there. But that's not saying that
42 that couldn't be done or that it hasn't been done in
43 the past. I guess I feel like I need to, you know, say
44 that, you know, I've been working with the Department
45 for awhile but not -- not, you know, as long as some
46 people have and so I'm not sure if they've done that in
47 the past or not. But I've only helped with one Western
48 Arctic photo census, so I feel like my breadth of
49 knowledge in that particular department is somewhat

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1 limited.

2
3 That being said, if, you know,
4 searching for connections and community involvement in
5 a system of projects and those types of things, it's

6 certainly something the Department continues to kind of
7 work towards. I think it's really -- using Gordon's
8 word, prudent, to do that. And I feel like, you know,
9 one thing that we do encourage is local people to help
10 with being vendors and trying to get information out to
11 the communities and, you know, I think that that's one
12 way that we can really work together that already
13 exists.

14
15 That being said, there's room for
16 improvement there. And -- and so, you know, in the
17 future I think we can work towards some of those
18 things. So thanks for your question, Steve, and it's
19 something that I think we should, yeah, work more
20 towards, for sure.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Because, you
23 know, not just surveying but, you know, when they do
24 collar caribou or stuff like that. I know they do
25 collar caribou, I think they utilize students also
26 during the summer when they collar Western Arctic
27 Caribou Herd, you know, I -- I understand that they do
28 collar some in the winter now in March -- sometime in
29 March. It would be a good experience for either our --
30 for some of our local hunters or -- but I know they do
31 it in they Northwest Arctic Borough area and up in the
32 Noatak -- on -- in the falltime or summertime until the
33 migration in the past -- but utilizing local knowledge,
34 you know, the migration route areas where caribou are
35 usually in abundance if they need to collar something
36 -- certain caribou to keep track of them.

37
38 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, that's -- that's a
39 fair point, Steve. And you kind of alluded to
40 collaring and people being involved with collaring in
41 the past, it's certainly something that we were able to
42 do at Onion Portage and get students involved there.
43 And it was kind of a long-term collaring project that
44 occurred at Onion for several years. But as you
45 alluded to, that has created some challenges because
46 the caribou haven't been moving through that area as
47 much during the time period where it's boatable. And
48 so, you know, we've really had to adapt the collaring
49 program for the Western Arctic Herd moving to a

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1 different platform which is a little bit more limiting.
2 You know -- you know having been doing captures and the
3 way that they're changing over to, there's kind of a
4 limited number of people that can be in a helicopter at
5 a time and it's kind of a little bit more challenging
6 to do that. But -- but there -- there might be some
7 ways to -- but I'll mention that to Alex Hanson that,
8 you know, you'd expressed interest in that and -- and

9 see if there's some way to incorporate local people
10 into that program.

11
12 But that's some discussions that need
13 to kind of be had. So thanks for bringing it up.

14
15 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. You know,
16 when they do -- one more question, especially on the
17 caribou, when they do surveys whether it's on land or
18 aerial photographs, you know, how closely do the
19 numbers match. Do they do surveys on the visual count,
20 actually on the ground or in certain times of the year,
21 do they do counts, you know, at different times,
22 whether it's aerial photo or ground surveys, and
23 actually look at the numbers. They might estimate the
24 numbers that come through the normal migration, do they
25 do that kind of surveys and if they do, how close do
26 these numbers match with the herd, not just the Western
27 Arctic, but the Teshekpuk Herd and the other herd, the
28 Western.

29
30 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
31 Steve Oomittuk. So that's a great question, Steve. We
32 aren't really doing ground surveys with the caribou
33 herds. All of our surveys are done largely from the
34 air, and it's -- because of the amount of area that you
35 really have to cover, the amount of landscape that the
36 Western Arctic Herd, you know, is found and the
37 Teshekpuk Herd, too, you really got to cover a huge
38 amount of area in a short period of time in order to
39 get a good count. And so that really lends itself to
40 aircraft use. So, you know, on the ground counts is
41 not something we really have been doing. And so
42 comparing there is not really, you know, we can't
43 really compare because there's not on the ground stuff.

44
45 And, I guess -- there was another piece
46 of your question there, just, you know, thinking about,
47 you know, just, yeah, aircraft -- using aircraft is
48 kind of where we've been out because of the amount of
49 area that needs to be covered so -- so I feel like

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1 there's another part of that question. Did I miss
2 something, Steve, can you.....

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

5
6 MS. DAGGETT: Was there something else
7 in there that I missed?

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Just one more question.
10 You know, how much money is allocated to do surveys
11 and, you know, you said because of huge area you need

12 to cover, square foot -- you know, we have 90,000
13 square miles, you know, of animals that roam with
14 different herds, and, you know, to do annual surveys to
15 do -- how much money -- is it a very low number and you
16 only have enough to hire a few people to actually do
17 surveys and especially when it's vital to the
18 communities to try to get an accurate number to make
19 sure that these herds are being stable, or actually
20 declining, and getting a more accurate number. Is it a
21 funding source that you're having trouble with in
22 getting the number of people out to do these surveys in
23 certain areas. Because the Borough, it covers 90,000
24 square miles of different herds and -- and we -- we
25 would like to see, you know, I know the Borough is
26 helping out with some of these surveys, is it grants
27 that you apply for on a yearly basis to ensure that
28 these populations are being stable and not actually
29 declining and that are healthy for consumption, and
30 stuff like that.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
35 Steve Oomittuk. You know, Steve, it's not really a
36 money issue. It really has much more to do with having
37 the right conditions. So I mentioned before about air
38 temperature and how that impacts insects, you know, our
39 -- when we do the photo census we are usually doing it
40 the same time every year so, you know, we're looking
41 for the same timeframe where the insects are more
42 abundant and driving those caribou together in large
43 aggregations, in large groups, and that's really when
44 we, you know, try to do the photo census that's --
45 that's the ideal conditions to do that. And so it's
46 not a financially driven issue. We certainly work with
47 the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, and they
48 do help us with funding and supporting us doing work up
49 here. Brian Pearson has come out several times over the
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1 years to help doing capture work for caribou, for
2 example. And, you know, they certainly -- we certainly
3 work together with the North Slope Borough Wildlife
4 Department to accomplish some of the survey work that
5 we do. And so it really is a matter of getting the
6 right conditions to drive the caribou together in
7 tight-knit groups to get good -- good images. And
8 there's kind of very specific things that we look for
9 when those aggregations come together and so if the air
10 temperature isn't warm enough and the bugs aren't out
11 enough, and the caribou don't come together we can't
12 really do the photography and it doesn't really have to
13 do with money.

14

15 So I think that's a fair question,
16 Steve. But it really is just environmental conditions
17 at the time and -- and kind of being aware of those
18 conditions and -- and monitoring those conditions like
19 a hawk and they just -- the last couple of years they
20 just haven't been ideal for doing that survey.

21
22 So we'll watch it again this summer. I
23 think, you know, this summer -- this winter has been a
24 little bit warmer -- although it doesn't seem like it
25 right now, but it's certainly been a warmer year
26 overall and so I'm wondering if that's going to mean
27 this summer is going to be warmer and provide better
28 conditions. So I'm hopeful for this summer and we do
29 the best that we can with the weather conditions that
30 we have.

31
32 And, so, yeah.

33
34 Does that answer your question, Steve?

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And -- yes.
37 And I know that you guys -- I don't know if it's the
38 Western Arctic Caribou Herd or what -- when you do put
39 collars on certain bulls and females and calves, what's
40 the procedure if somebody catches a caribou with a
41 collar on it by accident. Because there was some local
42 hunters that were wondering. Is there a number or a
43 place where we can call to return a collar or are they
44 going to get in trouble for doing that even if it's by
45 accident.

46
47 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
48 Steve Oomittuk. That's a great question, Steve. So
49 one, no, you're not going to get in trouble for taking

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1 caribou with a collar. There's no -- yeah, people
2 don't get in trouble for that. I guess getting collars
3 back, most of those collars that are out there, all of
4 them should have a phone number on them actually. So I
5 know all the collars that I put out, I write the office
6 number here in Barrow on it and, you know, same thing
7 with all the rest of the caribou herds, we really like
8 to get those collars back. We can usually get a little
9 bit more information off of them. And we can also
10 refurbish a lot of them and reuse them. And so if
11 people have them, we really like to get them back and,
12 you know, kind of no questions asked sort of, you know,
13 we're just really grateful to get them back from
14 people.

15
16 So if people have them, you know, it's
17 really nice if people can either contact the Fish and

18 Game office in Barrow or, I know sometimes we get some
19 back through the North Slope Borough Wildlife
20 Department. Either way is fine. We're just happy to
21 get them back so.

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

24
25 MR. LIND: Thank you, Carmen.

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: And.....

28
29 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, this is Orville.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
32 for Carmen before we go on to the moose.

33
34 MR. LIND: Mr. Chair, I have a comment.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, who
37 is it?

38
39 MR. LIND: This is Orville Lind, Native
40 Liaison for the Office of Subsistence Management.
41 Camai, how are you doing, sir.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

44
45 MR. LIND: (In Native) Thank you.
46 Just to share some information. We've had the same
47 questions in two different regions. I think one was
48 about three years ago when an incident happened down in
49 9E, so we encouraged and helped Fish and Game put a

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1 flier out when it was just the beginning of the caribou
2 season. Just putting a flier out reminding folks if
3 they see a collar on a caribou, try not to harvest
4 that, but I mean if that's the only caribou out there
5 and you're going out to subsist, by all means, there's
6 no law that says you can't harvest it. So I think
7 educational fliers would be a big part of solving some
8 of this missing link.

9
10 Qu yana.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Qu yanaqpak, Orville.
13 It's always good to hear from you.

14
15 All right, let's move on to the
16 next.....

17
18 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.....

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20 CHAIRMAN BROWER:part.

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1 always have really good questions.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Gordon, I just got

a.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Did you have something

else.....

MR. OOMITTUK:comment and I --

and I thank -- I thank you for that comment and I do report to the Native Village of Point Hope and then to the Wildlife -- and then that's good to know. Because you know, there's some young people that thought they would get in trouble and sometimes they don't take the collar back home, you know, because they feel bad that they might go to jail for it. But that's good to know and I will let our community know that, that if they do get a caribou with a collar that they are not going to get in trouble. It's best that they get them back and bring them back.

So, thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Very good

information.

Okay, Carmen, go ahead.

MS. DAGGETT: All right, thank you, Mr.

Chair. And thanks, Steve, for your questions. You

always have really good questions.

Okay, so moving on to the moose section

of my little summary that I put out here for you guys. So this is for the Colville moose population. So last spring we did a trend survey so there's -- there's two different surveys we do on the Colville, we do a trend count survey which is kind of a smaller area that kind of just helps us keep a pulse on what's happening and then we do a minimum count, which is the whole -- all the drainages of the Colville and then we try to catch some of the other places, like portions of the Chip River and Ikpikpuk and -- and try to get a good sense of the whole population and what that's doing.

So this last spring because of Covid restrictions, and -- and really restricting really my ability to fly and other people, too, we just were able to do the trend count survey and -- and will shoot again in April to try to get that minimum count for moose.

So this spring we counted 169 adults in

24 the trend count area and 43 short yearlings, which was
25 about 20 percent yearlings, which is really good to
26 see, although, you know, the population is definitely
27 low in this area right now. In the past it's been, you
28 know, up into the 1,300 moose sort of level. And I
29 should really be comparing the minimum count numbers
30 there when I say that. So the total count of moose in
31 2020, last spring, in the trend count area was 212.
32 The last time we did the minimum count was in 2017 and
33 we counted 339 moose in that minimum count. So that's
34 the number that should be compared against the, you
35 know, 1,200 to 1,300 max populations that we've counted
36 in the past. So this population's pretty low overall,
37 you know, and we're certainly -- the harvest has also
38 been relatively low, you know, I think we're harvesting
39 -- reported harvest -- about six moose a year out of
40 this population over the last five years. So the
41 harvest is really low coming out of this population,
42 too, which is a good thing because if it got really
43 high it would probably be problematic.

44
45 So we're certainly, you know, trying to
46 keep good tabs on this population. And -- and try to,
47 you know, encourage people to report their moose
48 harvest. You know, I think it's really important that
49 we kind of keep tabs on how many moose are coming out

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0172

1 of this population and people can do that by getting a
2 free general season permit right now, and so if people
3 are interested in getting moose, you know, getting that
4 reported harvest is really important. So if you know
5 if anybody that's out moose hunting try to encourage
6 them to give me a holler and have them get their moose
7 permit because we've got to keep track of that harvest.

8
9 So short yearling count in 2017 when we
10 did that minimum count was about 17.4 percent short
11 yearlings during that count. So, you know, the portion
12 of short yearlings is a little bit higher in the trend
13 count survey but I think, you know, if we compared that
14 trend count survey through time, the smaller area, you
15 know, we would see that trend count area has declined
16 quite a bit. But the short yearling counts are good.
17 So at least there's some hope for growth there.

18
19 But -- so is there any questions about
20 moose.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any.....

23
24 MS. DAGGETT: I know there's.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:questions.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT:a couple of
29 proposals that have to deal with moose so.

30

31

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

32

33

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve in
34 Point Hope.

35

36

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

37

38

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, Unit 22
39 area, moose season doesn't open to August. You know
40 the younger generation is, you know, the older
41 generation don't normally get moose or anything because
42 we don't see moose. Like I said yesterday that very
43 often we do see moose but -- and it's usually in the
44 first part of July or end of June that the moose come
45 around, especially when there's forest fires and the
46 smoke. They try to get away from the smoke and when
47 it's smokey towards the east and caribou [sic] come
48 into our area but it's, you know, moose season don't
49 open until August and these caribous are -- I mean

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1 moose -- and late June or early July and in the past
2 there's been some people that got moose because they
3 thought they had subsistence rights to harvest any
4 animal that comes within their jurisdiction for
5 subsistence but got in trouble and was fined and had to
6 go to court. But I just wanted to bring that out.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.....

11

12

MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair.....

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14

CHAIRMAN BROWER:Steve.

15

16

MS. DAGGETT:to Steve Oomittuk.

17

18

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

19

20

MS. DAGGETT: So you mentioned timing
21 of that hunt, Steve, and so Unit 23 has a different set
22 of regulations than 26A but if you went north a bit and
23 got into 26A, there actually is a season that opens in
24 July for you for moose and it's that -- it's that hunt
25 that we talk about every year, that antlerless moose
26 reauthorization hunt. That really would give you the
27 opportunity to hunt earlier. So, you know, if you were
28 interested in trying to hunt moose earlier in Unit 23
29 that's maybe something that would be worth talking

30 about in -- in the Northwest Arctic RAC discussions or,
31 you know, even in the Advisory Committee discussions if
32 you wanted to. But in 26A, you know, going a little
33 bit further north, Steve, of you, you have some
34 opportunity there in July -- opening July 1 through
35 September 14 you can get a moose. So just so that
36 you're aware of that opportunity that that season's
37 open a little bit earlier than August 1 for you.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

40
41 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
44 questions on the moose for Carmen.

45
46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have some

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1 questions about moose in Unit 26A. And your count is
2 -- I mean is that within the Colville River, like north
3 of Anaktuvuk and through the Ikpikpuk area and that
4 swath of land going right all the way through to Unit
5 23 through Unit 26, is that the count area, that large
6 area is it a more defined area.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: So the count area for the
9 Colville moose population is largely the Colville River
10 drainage and the affiliated tributaries and then the
11 portions around Ikpikpuk, you know, sort of area, so
12 not the Unit 23 portion. Unit 23 does their own
13 surveys and has kind of different survey that they do
14 and so it does not include, you know, Unit 23 [sic],
15 really, and so I hope that answers your question.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yeah, it does,
18 I'm just trying to get a better understanding of the
19 count. And do you do a subset of those that are in the
20 Ikpikpuk or is that just part of the count?

21
22 MS. DAGGETT: So, yeah, I think we try
23 to capture those animals that are off of the Colville
24 on the Ikpikpuk at the same time that we would do the
25 minimum count survey and I would certainly like to do
26 that this spring and just get a better sense of animals
27 that are either, you know, growing, expanding, changing
28 through time. And so, you know, I think it's important
29 to include those populations even though they might be
30 kind of, you know, a small portion of the overall
31 population. So I think we'll try to include those.

32

33 Thanks, Gordon.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right.
36 You know, I've always tried to wonder why, you know,
37 moose and this area, when there's proposals going on,
38 why West 156 -- west longitude and excluding the
39 Colville River drainage must be reauthorized annually
40 or if there's a -- you know, why, the reasoning to go
41 West 156, what -- do you have any history regarding why
42 that longitude is used?

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So, you know, I
45 certainly have talked with Geoff a lot about it and I
46 know Taqulik kind of brought it up the last time there
47 was an AC meeting too. And, you know, my
48 understanding, first of all, is that there was a
49 proposal that was submitted years ago through a

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1 statute, it's a statutory requirement that we review
2 the antlerless moose, reauthorization of brown bear
3 take, the exemption's so that's why they keep coming up
4 because the Board of Game is required to review those
5 every year.

6

7 But I -- as far as the history of it,
8 my understanding is that they're trying to protect the
9 breeding population of moose in the area so as I
10 alluded to before, the moose population is pretty low,
11 and, you know, the antlerless moose hunt would allow
12 people to be able to take both bulls and cows, and cows
13 are the engine behind the growth of the population of
14 animals. So if you, you know, are able to hunt cow
15 moose out of a population in most situations that is
16 something that would be made available in populations
17 that are really high in numbers because the female
18 would be, you know, providing the young to increase the
19 population, right. So, you know, right now we're in a
20 state where the moose population is low and so, you
21 know, that -- protecting cows is important. So when
22 that regulation was put in place it was meant to
23 provide some opportunity for people to be able to
24 harvest. Now, my understanding, after having extensive
25 conversations with people that helped create that
26 boundary to begin with, is that, it was meant to
27 protect animals that were in the breeding populations
28 in the Ikpikpuk, in the Chipp, and then also in the
29 Colville, and anything west of that, from my
30 understanding, having those conversations, is that,
31 west of 156, which is in line with the Topagoruk River
32 is really -- you kind of get into an area where there's
33 not really the breeding population of moose anymore,
34 that those animals are really migrant, slowly moving
35 through those areas and it's meant to provide some

36 opportunity for those moose that might wander out of,
37 you know, the normal breeding population area. And,
38 you know, we had one that was harvested this last year
39 during the summer. There was a gentleman up in Barrow
40 that was able to harvest a moose and then as I was
41 talking to Steve he mentioned that there was that
42 capacity to be able to hunt a little bit earlier in the
43 year and have the capacity to be able to harvest, you
44 know, an antlerless moose over there. However, during
45 the general season and overall we try to -- it's best
46 when the population is low to protect cows and the
47 breeding population of the Colville because the
48 population -- we want to urge it to grow.

49
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1 So does that answer your question?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, you know, a lot
4 of speculation in my part, I guess, but trying to
5 figure why 156 and, yeah, it's just -- it's starting to
6 pop up again with a muskox proposal about 156,
7 somewhere I was reading that, Unit 26A.

8

9 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And.....

12

13 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER:using open hunt,
16 that portion of Unit 26A west of Topagoruk, following
17 West 156 out to Unit 26A. Anyway, those.....

18

19 MS. DAGGETT: Well.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:were my
22 concerns. I'm going to take a phone call real quick.

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: Sure.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, can you take
27 it a quick second.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: What was that, Gordon, I
30 didn't quite hear what you said.

31

32 MS. DAGGETT: Steve, he asked the Vice
33 Chair to take the reins.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm not Vice Chair
36 anymore, I'm.....

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38 REPORTER: Eva.

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MS. PATTON: I Steve, thank you. And, yes, Carmen, just yesterday Wanda Kippi was elected as Vice Chair. Are you still with us Wanda, I know this was right around the timeframe she was helping her kids get off to school.

MS. KIPPI: Yes I'm still here Carmen -- I mean Eva.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda. So it

sounded like Gordon got his questions answered there for discussing moose and then there was one more update on the report from Carmen, muskox, and then the Council was going to get back to the special action request and discussion of Federal subsistence proposals that had gotten deferred from yesterday to get more information. So that's where we're at on the agenda.

MS. KIPPI: Do we have any more questions for Carmen.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, this is Steve in Point Hope.

MS. KIPPI: Go ahead, Steven.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, and this is on the muskox within the Unit 23. We know that the population of muskox has risen quite a bit and they are within our area pretty much year-round and we have no harvest numbers for muskox. And muskox are edible to the community, you know, and they ate them once before and they still eat them, you know, and the numbers -- the numbers that are increasing kind of keep the caribou here year-round and especially in the falltime also and they -- some are around the area where our berries are in abundance in August and a lot of our elderly and young people pick berries, and the ladies that pick berries in a certain area where the berries are abundant is where the muskox spend a lot of their time and kind of hard for the ladies to be out there by themselves especially with their children and it's kind of dangerous and they wanted to start harvesting muskox because the number of muskox that are growing. And they tend to stay right in that area and there was one -- you know, wanted to know when can we start harvesting muskox because like I said the numbers have climbed quite a bit.

At one time, you know, they were introduced into Point -- back into Point Hope, back in

42 the '70s and ever since then it's been very hard for
43 other subsistence especially caribou, also, they kind
44 of keep the caribou out sometimes for awhile. So are
45 we going to be able to harvest any caribou soon -- I
46 mean muskox?

47

48 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Mr.
49 Oomittuk.

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0178

1 MS. KIPPI: Go ahead, Carmen.

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Wanda. Good
4 morning. So, Steve, there's actually a muskox hunt
5 that is open already. It's a Tier II hunt in your area
6 in Unit 23 and it's called a TX107. The season is
7 August 1st through March 15th and so if people were
8 interested in harvesting muskox there's a form that
9 they would need to fill out and they would need to go
10 through the Tier II hunt process. And the Kotzebue
11 office is responsible for managing that hunt, but if
12 people have specific questions or whatever, I'm sure I
13 could help facilitate that too. But people need to
14 apply for those permits. There is sort of a limited
15 number of muskox that can be taken under that TX107
16 hunt in Unit 23 and so we have to go through that Tier
17 II hunt process and through that application process.
18 So if people are interested they should call the
19 Kotzebue office and talk with them about applying for
20 that.

21

22 In addition, because of the survey
23 results from this last year, you know, in the summary I
24 kind of indicate that the population in 26A has risen
25 to 455, and so as a result this office submitted a
26 proposal to open a muskox hunt in Unit 26A as well.
27 And we kind of talked about it some at the last meeting
28 because I wanted to see, you know, what sort of
29 parameters people wanted to see in that hunt, you know,
30 what sort of seasons, what sort of conditions would fit
31 people's needs and, you know, so I'm -- and I actually
32 submitted that as an agenda change request at the last
33 Board meeting but essentially what they decided was
34 that they accepted that proposal to consider opening a
35 hunt but because of Covid related issues that they
36 would not take that proposal up until 2022.

37

38 So it's on the docket to be dealt with
39 but until then, I have some authority to open a hunt in
40 26A under some different regulations. Ideally what I
41 would like to do is start having the hunt be a little
42 bit longer and start mirroring what that proposed hunt
43 is. That being said, I have to request that that hunt
44 be opened under emergency order and it has to be

45 approved by the Commissioner. So those conditions of
46 being able to hunt muskox in 26A are in a potential
47 state of transition and no decisions have been made
48 other than to consider talking about it in 2022 at the
49 statewide meeting.

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1 So that's kind of where we're at with
2 muskox in your area right now, that there's that hunt
3 that's open already in Unit 23 that people could apply
4 for and then also, you know, there's some potential for
5 options in 26A up and coming.

6

7 So, you know, during the summer it is,
8 you know, certainly that's something that I've heard
9 before about people having concerns about muskox when
10 they're out berry picking. Muskox generally, you know,
11 they kind of have some interesting behaviors that a lot
12 of people really aren't used to, they don't really run
13 away like other animals everybody's used to dealing
14 with so, you know, I think it makes people uneasy
15 sometimes and that's understandable. If people have
16 specific concerns during different times, they can
17 either call the Kotzebue office or my office to talk
18 about their concerns, you know, about safety and about
19 how to kind of live beside muskox. You know they
20 certainly have a lot of issues with muskox in Nome and
21 in Kotzebue and so there's definitely some things you
22 can do to try to help deal with those different
23 scenarios and we try to address those issues in a case
24 by case basis because every scenario's a little bit
25 different.

26

27 So I hope that helps answer your
28 question, Steve, and I hope that opportunity, at least
29 the knowledge of opportunity can mean that some people
30 will fill out those forms and try to apply for those
31 muskox hunts at Unit 23 right now, and then, you know,
32 and then.....

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And, you
35 know, just to followup on that. You know, the
36 population and, you know, for Unit 23 and for Northwest
37 Arctic Borough area, what is the number that is
38 allocated for muskox and what is the population. You
39 know, because if we apply and, you know, are we going
40 to be able to -- you know, is it a low number that you
41 can apply for that is allocated, is it a lottery form,
42 or can anybody within the State of Alaska apply for it,
43 this muskox harvest or is it just communities within
44 the area, or is it a statewide hunters who can come in
45 from anywhere they want and harvest a muskox, are they
46 also -- is it -- with this number, is it allocated for
47 harvest in Unit 23 and Unit 26A.

48

49

MS. DAGGETT: That's a great question,

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Steve. Through the Chair to Steve Oomittuk. So in Unit 23 there are a certain number, a low number of permits that they have for quota right now, I think it's like six. And.....

5

6

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted)

8

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MS. PATTON: Hi, Karen, this is Eva, can you please put yourself on mute. Karen.

10

11

12

REPORTER: Excuse me. Excuse me, this is the reporter.

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MS. PATTON: Karen can you put yourself on mute.

16

17

18

REPORTER: Yeah, Karen, please mute, thank you.

19

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21

MS. PATTON: Thank you. Apologies everyone.

22

23

24

MS. DAGGETT: So in Unit 23, I believe there's six permits. A portion of those are allocated to the National Park Service and are administered through a lottery system. And then there is a portion that are administered through the State of Alaska and that portion goes through the Tier II process. So in the Tier II process anyone can apply but people are selected based on a couple of different criteria. So if you, for example, how much you pay for fuel, what your groceries cost, and also how much you've been hunting in that area and kind of your relationship with -- you know, if you would have hunted or could have been able to hunt, how many years have you been -- would have hunted if you could have sort of questions. And so people are rung based on that weighed criteria. So people who live in rural Alaska, you know, would score higher because of those things. And so pretty much all of those permits that are given in Unit 23 are given to people who live in the area. And someone who applied in Point Hope would, you know, rate much higher than someone who would live anywhere or, you know, most anywhere else in Alaska.

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So even though everyone that's a like State of Alaska resident could apply, the people that are likely to be picked, you know, would have to meet a

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1 lot of those criteria. So that's how the Tier II
2 process works and -- but people have to apply in order
3 to be able to draw for them. So that's kind of the
4 crux for it for people in Point Hope, they have to
5 apply for those permits.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And, you
8 know, the population number, I don't know, you didn't
9 give me that, but for six out of -- you know Unit 23,
10 Unit 26A, and for the population of people, you know,
11 that would like to hunt, especially local people.
12 You're talking, what, 7,000 people in the Northwest
13 Arctic Borough, somewhere in that number, and about 900
14 people in Point Hope to harvest six muskox in a wide
15 area, you know, when the population -- I didn't hear
16 what the population of the muskox was in this area, is
17 it under a thousand, is.....

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, thank.....

20
21 MR. OOMITTUK:it 100,000.....

22
23 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, so -- yeah.....

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK:is it over 500.....

26
27 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, so.....

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK:is it.....

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31 MS. DAGGETT: Sorry, Steve. I'm sorry,
32 I missed those details of that question. So first of
33 all those six permits are just for Unit 23. The
34 overall population is around 950 muskox between Unit 23
35 and 26A, and the -- the quota for the amount that could
36 be taken out of 26A is separate from that of Unit 23.
37 So it would be on a different hunt availability than
38 what was happening in Unit 23 right now. And so there
39 would be, what I was looking at for a quota was around
40 like six to 9 being able to be taken out of 26A per
41 year. But we'll probably start out conservatively with
42 six just because I'm not sure how people are going to
43 take this but it -- you know, as the population grows
44 we can continue to increase that ability to take more.
45 I do think, you know, the reason why the Tier II system
46 exists is to help distinguish among users that are
47 State of Alaska residents and so, you know, these
48 populations are still relatively low and in some cases
49 in some places perhaps people would be apprehensive to

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1 even have a hunt open but the Tier II hunts are meant
2 to provide a small amount of opportunity to people in

3 rural Alaska to get -- to be able to get some muskox
4 that are taken in a sustainable sort of way, in a
5 sustainable sort of rate, and so that's sort of why
6 that whole system exists.

7
8 And so I hope that helps answer your
9 question, and I'm sorry I missed a few of those details
10 earlier.

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Yes, and just one
13 more, you know, when muskox was introduced back into
14 Unit 23 in the '70s, what was the number introduced and
15 then what's the growing rate of the population, like I
16 don't know if you do a survey every year, what is the
17 growth of the herd annually, or yearly, or, you know,
18 you're talking 900-something, I don't know how many was
19 introduced into Unit 23 back in the '70s when we had no
20 muskox, when they were practically extinct, and now the
21 numbers are, you say, about 950. I can remember in the
22 '80s and '90s when there was only about 50 or 60 at the
23 most in certain areas where they -- because I used to
24 have to follow my wife or family members to make sure
25 they're safe picking berries because that's where the
26 muskox hung around, where the berries were in
27 abundance, the salmonberries. And now a days the women
28 carry rifles and pistols for their own safety and a lot
29 of times a lot of their -- the younger kids follow and
30 help pick berries with the women, and now more and more
31 men are following their wives for safety reasons
32 because of the abundance in that area. And then to bag
33 only six within a large area and maybe Point Hope might
34 be able to get one, you know, or none, you know.

35
36 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Steve.

37
38 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Steve. Thank
39 you, Carmen. I have a question for Carmen about the
40 muskox, this is Wanda. What about -- is there any
41 special hunt for emergency safety for around the Point
42 Hope area, too, is that an option.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that
45 question, Wanda. So if there was a specific request --
46 so like when you and others from other villages have
47 requested to open a hunt, someone has contacted me
48 directly and asked for specific timeframes and that
49 sort of stuff, and with specific -- those emergency

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1 order hunts are done by a case by case basis and they
2 have to be asked for. So it could be that, you know,
3 Point Hope could ask for those, but they need to ask
4 for them. So -- but also realize that your situation
5 and Point Hope's situation are a little bit different,

6 because there's already a hunt open that's a regular
7 season. So, you know, it's a little bit different
8 situation but hopefully in the future we can move
9 towards, you know, having a consistent hunt open and
10 like I said I'm certainly in the process of trying to
11 get that established.

12
13 Steve actually had a question in his --
14 in his statements there that I wanted to address, too,
15 if you don't mind.

16
17 MS. KIPPI: Go ahead, Carmen.

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: So he asked, you know,
20 about population, growth through time and how many were
21 initially introduced. I believe that initially when
22 muskox were introduced there was two different groups
23 of 35 that were introduced at different periods of time
24 into this area. And so in 2011 we did a survey in the
25 Cape Thompson muskox population, 576, in that
26 population survey. And then in 2016 we had another
27 estimate and that was 556, and in the 2020 estimate it
28 was like 950. So the population has grown about 400
29 since that time period. I guess it would be like 350.
30 So it's increased from about 350 between 2016 and 2020
31 so over a period of four years. So that'll give you
32 some idea of rate. And I think the other thing that's
33 changing too is just distribution, as the population
34 grows, the distribution is changing some so that's
35 something to keep in mind too.

36
37 So, yeah, that's -- that's what I've
38 got for the both of you. If you have any further
39 questions feel free to ask.

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, just a followup
42 question, you know. I don't know if I quite heard you
43 say what the rate, but two different herds at 35 -- so
44 you're talking 70 and now the population is estimating
45 at about 1,200 and within what timeframe were they --
46 what year were they introduced, was it like in '75 or
47 something like that and the growing rate of numbers in
48 the last 50 years, well, you know, 46 years, I guess,
49 and the high numbers and the low numbers that are

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1 harvested, you know, and the numbers are still
2 climbing, you know, what's an annual yearly rate that
3 the muskox climbs. It seems like the population is
4 going and is stable and only allowed six and -- and,
5 you know, when this herd existed hundreds of years ago
6 and was introduced back into the communities and now
7 they're becoming a nuisance to certain animals that
8 normally migrate and that -- the populations are stable

9 then it should be at a higher number for consumption
10 through the community then especially in Point Hope
11 when you have to deal with how many other villages for
12 six caribou -- six muskox. And -- and so you're
13 stating that if I put in a motion that Point Hope, and
14 Unit 23, was able to harvest more muskox just for the
15 community itself or Noatak or Kivalina, you know, up
16 north, where the muskox are very stable, or, you know,
17 being just a north -- and the North Slope Subsistence
18 Advisory Council and -- and this -- and, you know,
19 because the community wants to harvest muskox and they
20 don't want to get in trouble for it but if they have to
21 apply for it, for six caribou, that covers, what, 13,
22 14 villages, and -- and to harvest six caribou from a
23 herd of about 1,200 and that Unit 26A is a different
24 number and so you're talking 15 caribou I guess -- I
25 mean, muskox, I'm sorry, I got caribous on my mind.

26
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Thank you.

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MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to
Steve Oomittuk.

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MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Steve.

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MS. DAGGETT: To give you an idea of
rate, it's about 100 a year in growth is what would be
estimated from the 2016 to 2020 estimates. I'm not
sure where you got the 1,200 number from but 1,200 was
not an estimate that we had. So 955 was the total
estimate from the 2020 population. And most muskox
hunts in the state are managed at a 2 percent harvest
rate and so, you know, you would shoot to take 2
percent of that total population because of their low
reproductive rates. So, you know, even there might be
100 growing or, you know, being born each year -- 100
estimated, you know, there's going to be other things
that are going to be consuming ox too, and so we kind
of have to take that into account for how many are
actually able to be harvested.

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So that's kind of how we get those
numbers, Steve. And it's based on experience that
we've had in other populations and has been managing
those through time. And muskox also have some
interesting -- we've been researching a lot of their
population dynamics and the bulls have a -- seem to
have a pretty important role in the herd as far as, you
know, protection and things too, so we're trying to
understand things better and use that information to
inform our management decisions.

12 So, yeah, we've learned a lot from
13 what's been happening on the Seward Peninsula, in the
14 Nome area, and trying to maintain those populations so
15 that people can continue to hunt those through time.
16 And so that's how those numbers are generated, those
17 quotas are based on all of those things.

18
19 So I hope that helps you understand
20 that information and while I understand it's kind of a
21 low number that.....

22
23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted)

25
26 MS. DAGGETT:it's based on our
27 understanding of the population dynamics.

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that.
30 And, you know, 100 yearly is a pretty high number and
31 to harvest at the most between 26A and 23 is only about
32 15 that seems like a low number. I would think that
33 number could be raised to accommodate all the villages
34 within that area. There's 12, 13 villages in the NANA
35 area and then Point Hope included is 13, and you're
36 lucky -- and, you know, the population of all the
37 residents in the Northwest Arctic Borough is what,
38 10,000, and Point Hope at about 900 so you're talking
39 six in muskox for about 11,000 people when the
40 population is stable and growing and I don't see why
41 the number can't be increased even though the growing
42 rate is at about 100 a year, and they are taking over
43 certain areas that normal migration routes and like you
44 said the muskox don't tend to move away, they stand
45 their ground. And sometimes, you know, with a herd of
46 now approaching 950 throughout the Brooks Range area
47 and DeLong Mountains and, you know, and it kind of
48 changes the migration route of the Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd and -- which they were so used to coming

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1 through without no disturbance of muskox.

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3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. By
4 the way I'm just letting you guys know I'm back, I had
5 to deal with a phone call real quick.

6
7 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
8 Eddie.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

11
12 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I got a question for
13 Carmen. In the past muskox were reintroduced in our
14 area also and how much -- what's the population needs

15 to be to have a hunt in our area again. I know we used
16 to hunt in the past but since we're so close to the
17 mountains there was evidence that they were really
18 impacted by grizzly bears harvesting them, and pushing
19 them out of our area. I'm kind of curious does the
20 population need to be -- the counting of our 26C to
21 open a hunt again.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MS. DAGGETT: So through the Chair. So
26 I am not sure what the muskox population is over in 26C
27 to be honest. That's not a population that I manage.
28 That's actually managed by Beth Lenart and Jason
29 Sicoski (ph) out of the Fairbanks office. I haven't
30 looked at the numbers over in Kaktovik way, you know,
31 in 26C. So I mean I guess the only information that I
32 would have would be about 26B population that's kind of
33 associated with Nuiqsut and I -- I apologize but I
34 can't shed some light on muskox over in 26C other than,
35 you know, it's just -- yeah. I don't have that.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Yeah, this is Eva. Thank
42 you for that question, Eddie. And unfortunately we
43 don't have Beth Lenart on the call for this meeting,
44 but I can certainly followup to get those numbers for
45 you. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Staff will be
46 on this afternoon to provide the report for their
47 region and they may have some information at that time
48 too. But I definitely will followup to get those
49 numbers for you and any information that we can

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1 provide. We just don't have Beth on for this meeting
2 at this time, though.

3

4 MR. REXFORD: All right, thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
7 to Carmen on the muskox.

8

9 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, you.....

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve.....

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13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So Carmen.....

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15 MR. OOMITTUK:I got cut off for a
16 little bit and then I'm back on. We keep getting cut
17 off.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, welcome back Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: I missed the -- yeah -- I missed the response -- yeah, I don't know if it's GCI, I got cut off several times yesterday but I'm back on and I missed a lot of the -- right after I had been talking the last time I got cutoff and had to call back in, and I just -- I finally made it back on. But I don't know if I missed a number.

So, you know, and the thing was, you know, that when I said that the population was stable and especially when it was introduced back into the area and -- and so if we were to make a proposal that, you know, within the Cape Thompson area for muskox hunting to have a number for itself, would that be looked into or would the North Slope Advisory Council, and then what's the process of it getting approved if we were to submit a proposal to have a number quota at Cape Thompson area for muskox harvest.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. And if you look at the map in Unit 23 in your area, the orange colored area look like about 20 miles to your east, BLM Federal administered lands, and, yeah, I think you could make a proposal in those areas and the white colored lands, which is the largest portion in your area all the way to Point Lay up to the edge of NPR-A, I don't know what they -- it looks like special use area, and I'm not sure who's administering those

ones and maybe Carmen.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, because I'm.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:can talk a little bit more about from Point Hope there's different shades of colors of land parcels and then they control or special use area that are -- that have hash marks or something, or closed -- can you talk about that Carmen.

MR. OOMITTUK: Gordon, I have.....

MS. DAGGETT: Are you.....

MR. OOMITTUK:a question, I.....

MS. DAGGETT:looking -- are you.....

MR. OOMITTUK: I want to -- yes, right

21 before she -- right before you -- I don't know if you
22 were on when she talked about, you know, the numbers
23 that are in Unit 23 that we would -- with the Northwest
24 Arctic Borough area and Point Hope of a number of six
25 and we would have to apply in Kotzebue for a population
26 of -- well, the muskox herd is somewhere within Unit
27 26A and Unit 23 is about 960, or so, and only about 15
28 are harvested between those two, but for Point Hope, we
29 have to go to Kotzebue and apply and it's a number of
30 six that we're competing for, for just -- you know, in
31 Unit 23, and, you know, and that was answered earlier.
32 But I was just wondering, you know, if we put a
33 proposal for harvest within our North Slope area for
34 muskox in Unit 23 in the North Slope boundary lines
35 from Cape Thompson up north, and the population is
36 growing at about 100 per year, when only 70 was
37 introduced back in the '70s and we're at a population
38 of 950 or 50 and it has become somewhat of a nuisance
39 to migration routes for caribou or for berry pickers or
40 for subsistence users, especially when a lot of females
41 go out and pick berries on their own and have had some
42 close calls with muskox, muskox tend to stand their
43 ground and they're right in the area where we normally
44 pick berries and the women go pick berries with their
45 children, and now the men are having to follow them
46 with rifles and, you know, make sure of their safety,
47 but now the ladies are carrying rifles and pistols
48 themselves for safety reasons.

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1 Thank you.

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3 I don't know how long you've been back,
4 Gordon, I know you had to step away for a little bit.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I actually
7 didn't leave my office, I just had to take another call
8 but I was listening to the conversation though.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Hi, this is Eva. And I
15 just wanted to respond to Steve's request as well. So
16 so far the proposals that the Council wanted to take
17 back up this morning was addressing the special action
18 request from Northwest Arctic. Steve had begun to
19 discuss developing a proposal for the North Slope
20 Council as well addressing caribou in Unit 23. Then we
21 were going to come back to discussing the Board of Game
22 proposal for muskox to provide some more information
23 for Carmen that may be helpful in the interim here.

24 And, again, there'll be opportunity since that was
25 deferred for action for the Council to take final
26 action at the fall meeting. But that was the plan
27 yesterday, for the Council to come back to discussion
28 on the muskox proposal and there's opportunity to
29 develop a Federal subsistence proposal if you wish as
30 well, Steve.

31

32 So I did want to touch base but the
33 Council was wanting to resume with the Federal
34 subsistence proposals and special actions this morning
35 yet first, and then get back to the Board of Game
36 proposals after that.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. All
41 right, so any other questions to Carmen on the muskox.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Then
46 we're.....

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48 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Earl.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

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3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, this is Earl from
4 Anaktuvuk. We just had a muskox down here about a
5 couple years ago, maybe two, they don't stick around
6 very long they just come down from north and disappear
7 but when it comes around there's no caribous around, so
8 I asked people about hunting muskox around here, they
9 said they don't bother with it because it stinks or
10 something, I don't know. I haven't caught it, but I
11 wouldn't mind catching a couple, I heard it's pretty
12 sweet, tastes good.

13

14 Thank you. That's all I have to say
15 for muskox here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl.

18

19 MR. WILLIAMS: You're welcome.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Gordon, I missed one
24 question on the muskox, can I just -- I know I talked
25 about it yesterday.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK:but Carmen wasn't
30 here. Not too long over the summer there was a muskox
31 in town that had porcupine quills and I don't know what
32 the procedure is, normally they just scare back out of
33 town but it did have porcupine quills in him and this
34 is not the first time it's happened and the majority of
35 the time -- all the three or four times that muskox
36 have come into the community is because of the quills
37 within its face area and I don't know whether we're
38 allowed to put it at ease and put it to sleep or
39 harvest it or run it back out of town; that's what they
40 normally do because -- so what kind of procedure should
41 we follow when there's a muskox in town. You know for
42 the safety of the community, and, you know, we kind of
43 felt bad for the muskox, not able to take the quills
44 off of it and put it out of its misery and harvest it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
47 Carmen, is that something you can respond to.

48

49 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. Yeah, so through

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1 the Chair to Steve. So, you know, I think those sorts
2 of scenarios need to be dealt with on a case by case
3 sort of basis and the procedure would be to contact
4 either the Kotzebue office or the Barrow office to kind
5 of deal with each issue because, you know, all of them
6 are a little bit different. So, you know, I guess I
7 would recommend that to start with. And then, you
8 know, there's -- if people really feel like, you know,
9 there's a muskox charging at you and you feel like your
10 life is in danger you can shoot it in those
11 circumstances and you need to report it to the Troopers
12 and go through the defense of life and property laws,
13 in that regard, that's an option.

14

15 You know, I know that there's been some
16 success with, you know, scaring them out of town or of
17 other places with fourwheelers before, and people have
18 had success with that. But like I said, I think
19 really, you know, each is a little bit different,
20 Steve, and you should really contact your local Fish
21 and Game office and work with the area biologist there
22 to help address the issue on a case by case basis if
23 something like that happens.

24

25 MR. OOMITTUK: I know -- I know we have
26 some people online but that don't always happen during
27 the day it's always in the evening and how do we
28 contact people, is there an emergency number we can
29 contact 24 hours a day, especially when the daylight is

30 24 hours a day and it can happen at 2:00 in the morning
31 or 8:00 at night, or 8:00 in the morning or at noon,
32 you know, and trying to make phone calls to get
33 permission to protect our community or the kids or --
34 or harvest it and put it to sleep and at ease.

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Through the Chair to Mr.
37 Oomittuk. Steve, you know, if you're in that sort of
38 scenario where you can't get a hold of somebody during
39 normal business hours I guess I would recommend calling
40 the Wildlife Troopers or calling the Trooper office and
41 trying to work with them. You know, they kind of have
42 a wider range of hours that they have people available
43 and, you know, I also -- you know I often will end up
44 giving my cell phone number to people, too, so, you
45 know, and if -- and I think you may have my cell phone
46 number actually, and if you don't I can give it to you,
47 so I guess I think -- you know I try to be pretty
48 available for people and I often will give my cell
49 phone number out to people as long as people don't

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1 abuse it, which I haven't had any problems with because
2 people seem to be very responsible with that so I
3 appreciate that. So, you know, if you ran into that
4 sort of scenario and you, you know, you tried the
5 Troopers, you couldn't get somebody and you tried my
6 cell phone and you couldn't get somebody, you know, I
7 guess I would go with the regular Trooper number and
8 then work from there. But I think Wildlife Troopers is
9 probably your first bet for after hours stuff and then
10 after that, you know, feel free to contact my cell or
11 whatever. And, honestly I don't care if you -- you
12 know, in those sorts of scenarios I don't mind being
13 contacted at odd hours as long as I'm not out somewhere
14 doing field work, I guess, that would be the only
15 thing.

16

17 So, yeah, I hope that answers that
18 question for you. If you need some phone numbers for
19 the Troopers in Kotzebue, they're 442-3222. And so
20 that would probably be easiest for after hours stuff.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

23

24 MS. DAGGETT: You're welcome.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So I
27 think we're pretty much exhausted our information
28 gathering for Teshekpuk herd, moose, and muskox that
29 Carmen had, and I'm proposing that we go and go back to
30 Item 11 where we are looking at a call for Federal
31 wildlife proposals. We have one that we added for Unit
32 23, Unit 26A caribou and moose, special action 21-01

33 and I don't know if that's WP21-01 and go from there.

34

35 Is that where we're at there, Eva?

36

37 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.

38 That's where we left off with yesterday so we did have

39 some discussion yesterday on caribou updates and

40 management in that region and then followup this

41 morning.

42

43 What might be helpful, for the Council

44 is to have Hannah read that proposal and the Council's

45 justification to refresh your memory since we started

46 discussing it yesterday. So if Hannah would be able to

47 read that and the Council's justification, that'll

48 bring that information and their reasoning for

49 submitting that proposal back to the forefront.

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, go ahead,

4 Hannah, if you could read that into the record.

5

6 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 So the basic description of this request is the closure

8 of Federal public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou

9 and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for

10 August and September 2021.

11

12 There's a narrative that answers the

13 questions: Have there been unusual or significant

14 changes in resource abundance or unusual conditions

15 affecting harvest opportunities that could not

16 reasonably have been anticipated and that potentially

17 could have significantly -- or excuse me -- significant

18 adverse affects on the health of fish and wildlife

19 populations or subsistence users. And the Council

20 states that it is very concerned about the late

21 migration of caribou through Unit 23 because local

22 people rely upon caribou to meet their subsistence

23 needs. The Council stated that the entire region

24 except for Noatak could not harvest caribou in the fall

25 because caribou had not migrated through their areas.

26 During their meeting in early November 2020 Council

27 members stated that caribou were just starting to

28 trickle through Kiana and Ambler although none had been

29 seen in Selawik yet. Council members stated winter

30 harvest may be possible but it's uncertain and many

31 local residents are stressed by empty freezers.

32

33 So at their meeting last week,

34 Northwest Arctic Council confirmed that their winter

35 harvest was less than optimal.

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The Council is particularly concerned about the effect that transporters and non-local hunters are having on the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, and believe that transporter activity in Units 23 and 26A may be delaying caribou migration. The Council hopes this request would reduce aircraft traffic creating an easier path for migrating caribou.

The Council also supports closing moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified users because of declining moose populations.

So the justification overall for closure to caribou is to continue subsistence uses, and for moose is to ensure conservation of the moose population.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah. And is there -- what's the proposal number, is that WP21-01?

MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. The Office of Subsistence Management has labeled this Wildlife Special Action 21-01.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wildlife Special Action 21-01. And I'd like to get a little bit insight as to the possible ranges of action by the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. So I'm kind of thinking that we can defer this to Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council but 23 and 26A, a portion of 23 is in our region and all of 26A is in our region, and I'm thinking that we have a requirement to address it because of that, even though we're not the proponents of the special action. So that we could make some modifications to it, we could support it, and on this -- so if I could get some feedback on that from OSM.

MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. It may be as simple as stating the Council's support or any changes that you would suggest on the record because this is a special action request. I think I'll defer to Eva to sketch out some of the wider range of options you can take.

Eva, if you don't mind jumping in.

39 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Hannah. And
40 thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. Because this is
41 coming up before the Council at a formal Council
42 meeting, you do have the opportunity to make a formal
43 recommendation and it can be any range of options. As
44 you suggest, you can defer to the Northwest Arctic RAC
45 region but because the proposal is covering all of 26A
46 for caribou and moose and all of Unit 23 including a
47 portion that Point Hope is in, it does affect the North
48 Slope region. So as the Council wishes you may want to
49 make a recommendation and that recommendation can be to

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1 support or to oppose or to support with modification,
2 as you've noted, so if you see changes to the Northwest
3 Arctic proposal that you feel would be of best benefit
4 for the North Slope region or as you discussed
5 yesterday, strategies that may make it more successful.

6
7 So those are the options the Council
8 can take as it would be with a full proposal. But this
9 is the opportunity, if the Council wishes to make a
10 recommendation on this proposal, because of the special
11 action request, it won't be coming back to the Council
12 at the fall meeting.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So what's
17 the wish of the Council on Special Action Wildlife
18 Proposal 21-01.

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20 MR. OOMITTUK: Would the motion on the
21 floor to adopt then we can discuss and then any
22 modifications then -- I had to step away for -- are we
23 under discussion or is this being proposed right now?

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's no formal
26 motion at this point but in order to discuss it more we
27 would need to make some motion to adopt and go into
28 discussions and then if there's a wish to amend it in
29 some way then we could try to amend it or call for
30 questions and either we can -- we can support it or
31 however we're going to do it.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. Steve, for
34 the record. I kind of missed your recommendations. I
35 had to step away for a few minutes and I thought I
36 heard you say you made some recommendations but can you
37 restate the recommendations on this proposal so that I
38 know we -- I know we have some new members here and it
39 is a different area for them and you -- and you've been
40 here a long time, and then what is your recommendation
41 so we get an understanding how you feel about it, Mr.

42 Chairman.

43

44

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
45 Steve. So let's talk about it a little bit. But I --
46 you know the intent behind this is to -- for actual
47 discussion and to go into it we would need a motion to
48 adopt or support 21-01. But when we're looking at a
49 broad closure of area we should be very cognizant about

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1 that impact but at the same time, looking at Noorvik,
2 looking at Selawik, looking at the villages that depend
3 on the movement of this caribou herd and the very, very
4 late migration route -- migration and movement of these
5 caribous, and trying to harvest during the wintertime,
6 it's a lot more concerning as their freezers go empty
7 when these caribous are expected. I don't know why the
8 caribou took a long time to come. There's a range of
9 different concerns from climate, maybe it was warm and
10 it was good for the caribou to hang out longer, maybe
11 there were other variables like the transporters
12 bringing in other hunters in these areas in front of
13 communities. It's important to think about that
14 because so many villages are alarmed and concerned that
15 says, all right, stop everybody else from going, we
16 don't know what the problem is, shut everybody off
17 except for Federally-qualified users. And then maybe
18 find a way to see if that works for one -- for this
19 special action -- I think special actions are one year,
20 I think they go away after one year, I think, I stand
21 to be corrected if I'm wrong. And it's because there
22 is so many unknowns here why the caribou didn't come,
23 and to try to remove some of the most obvious kinds of
24 things that we've been arguing over for the last 20
25 years between Squirrel River area and these -- and in
26 some cases in a liberal management scheme with guides
27 and other things like that, that that could be the
28 reason for late migration or deflection of migratory
29 routes. So -- and we can also think about maybe what a
30 different kind of modification to it, is a suggestion
31 like from a village 30 miles around it, should be
32 closed to non-Federally-qualified users from August to
33 September to allow for the Federal qualified users to
34 have unobstructed, unimpacted caribou movements to
35 allow to get to areas where villages can harvest.
36 That's kind of like creating a village area of
37 influence. And that -- I don't know how we want to
38 craft it, I don't even know if we want to do that but
39 it's important to recognize that all of our neighbor
40 communities on the other side are struggling with
41 caribou.

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So we can discuss that more once
there's a formal motion to do something with Special

45 Action 21-01.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. With that said I make a motion to adopt Proposal 20-21 for discussion.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's 21-01.

MR. OOMITTUK: 21-01.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Special action.

MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion.....

MR. OOMITTUK: 21-01.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:on the.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I don't have that proposal.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's a motion on the floor by Point Hope to adopt 21-01, special action.

REPORTER: Earl seconded it, Gordon.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second by Earl from Anaktuvuk Pass. Discussion.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, under discussion, Mr. Chair. You mentioned something about the modification in Unit 23 and for Federal, you know, I know that's -- you know, I think in the past or last year, you know, for Unit 23 of halting all hunting for -- or for non-residents and sporthunters within Unit -- Federal lands within Unit 23, I don't know if this proposal is making that only so -- only Federal-qualified users can hunt, is that what you're think -- I kind of heard you said that if there's an amendment -- if they would support amendment from the North Slope Advisory Council on this proposal?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Steve. I think we can do what we want because it's -- I think this will take some time to move but because it's in our area, a large part of this proposal too is in our area, that we can suggest modifications to -- or we can support it outright without modification. And, you know, frankly, I don't know exactly why the caribous didn't come to all of these communities.

48 Maybe they're right, maybe it's the transporter issue
49 and they need to -- we need to think about that but if
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1 we're -- if we're wrong and it's something else, and
2 more broader, so it -- it's kind of like we're.....

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MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER:trying to --
7 trying to see if regulation will fix this, and I don't
8 know if regulation will fix it. So if we wanted to
9 make some suggestion, some modifications, we can
10 support it with modification something like the North
11 Slope Regional Advisory Council supports 21-01 special
12 action with modification if we wanted to, and I'm not
13 saying we should or -- or either way, that that.....

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted)

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REPORTER: Excuse me. If everybody
could take one second and make sure their phone's
muted, someone's speaking over the Chairman right now.
I'd appreciate that.

22

23

24

Thank you.

25

26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounded like
German or a Noris language.

27

28

(Laughter)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Well, in any
event we can suggest, you know, a range of
modifications that could include maybe making our own
area of influence maybe, like 30 miles around a
village, would be closed to non-Federally-qualified
users meaning something like that for caribou and moose
or -- or we can just support it. I mean it's just to
open the dialogue here or we could.....

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MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER:say we don't
support it or we can defer it to them.

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44

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MR. MCKEE: Mr. Chair, this is Chris
McKee with the BLM.

46

47

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

48

49

MR. MCKEE: Yeah, I would just like to

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0199

1 remind the Council that you should only be considering
2 -- you only have authority to make recommendations to
3 close Federal public lands. Any special action brought
4 to the Board only applies to Federal public lands, it
5 wouldn't apply to State lands.

6

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's right. That's
9 right. And so I could see that that would -- this --
10 if this were to be the law of the land for the year,
11 and a special action, if you guys at the OSM, those are
12 one year?

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ready for school, like 5 minutes, and I missed the
beginning of the proposal.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva -- it's for caribou and for moose and closure to Federal public lands in Unit 23 and Unit 26A to caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for August and September 2021. So it's just -- it's to affect August and September only 2021, it's -- and for that season in 2021 coming this fall, a temporary closure and limited to only -- in my view, real subsistence users in those villages.

MS. KIPPI: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I hope that helps.

MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we did.....

MR. REAM:Joshua Ream with the Park Service.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Joshua.

MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just had a couple of points that maybe the Council might consider in thinking about how to craft your action on this special action.

I was involved quite a bit in the analysis process for the closures in Unit 23 as well as the requested closure in Unit 26A and 26B for caribou, and, you know, one of the big things that the Federal Subsistence Board struggles with is understanding, you know, whether or not the non-local users are affecting the caribou migration and where, specifically, that would be, you know, trying to find evidence or testimony about that actually occurring. Ultimately, you know, the Unit 23 closures were largely based in continuation of subsistence uses. What we did as analysts was look very closely at where the most intense areas of user conflict were so we looked at all

of the old transcripts from the Regional Advisory Councils and from the Federal Subsistence Board to determine that the conflict was centralized on the Noatak River, the Aggie and the Squirrel, and that's how we ended up with a geographically isolated closure

6 to non-Federally-qualified users.

7

8 On the North Slope, when we were
9 analyzing that proposal, we had public hearings, of
10 course, as is required and we did hear from members of
11 both Wainwright and Point Lay that they had concerns
12 being surrounded by State land, that if Federal lands
13 were closed it was going to concentrate those nonlocal
14 users even closer to their communities.

15

16 So that's just something maybe to be
17 aware of.

18

19 You know the request by the Northwest
20 Arctic RAC does now include sort of this temporal
21 limitation, you know, it would only be -- I believe
22 they're asking for August and September, if that's
23 right, so if you do choose to support it, I would just
24 recommend maybe talking a little bit about how you
25 think it will positively affect the ability for local
26 people to access the herd.

27

28 I hope that helps. I'm happy to answer
29 any questions as well.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
32 Josh. And, you know, my -- you know, we want to try to
33 do the best and try to figure out why many communities
34 in the Northwest Arctic RAC, why the caribou didn't
35 come to them, and I think we're very sympathetic
36 because we depend on those same resources. And I think
37 trying to help on maybe giving advice to the Council on
38 being supportive but being able to suggest maybe
39 limiting the closure to maybe an area of influence, I'm
40 not exactly sure if Wainwright is exhibiting the same
41 types of concerns but I see a lot of my friends and
42 hunters very, very, very successful in the Wainwright
43 area with a lot of caribou. I see a lot of (In Native)
44 folks happy and been hunting caribou all fall and
45 through the winter and -- because the availability of
46 caribou was abundant and I'm seeing that in Nuiqsut
47 where even the community of Anaktuvuk Pass hunters were
48 able to work cooperatively with Nuiqsut to hunt and
49 quite frankly using the road infrastructure, new ones,

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1 industry roads to access more areas to hunt, and very
2 successfully, and so I'm -- I'm not sure we're
3 exhibiting the same impact to this central band of
4 communities around Selawik and Noatak and these areas
5 where the migration would go through.

6

7 So it could be localized and so those
8 are the concerns that I raised if we were to outright

9 support this when we may not be exhibiting the same
10 level of impact by maybe competing uses or a deflection
11 or a natural deflection or something, I just haven't
12 heard that in our regions yet. Maybe from Anaktuvuk
13 there might be more concerns about the caribou but
14 through October and November, I think the caribou start
15 to come through to Anaktuvuk where a lot of my
16 relatives, I seen, were very happy in getting their
17 caribou, little late but they got it.

18
19 And so looking at it from that
20 perspective, my suggestion would be to make
21 modification and limit the -- our sugges -- you know, a
22 suggested modification could be to exclude Unit 26A
23 altogether and -- and support Unit 23 with a radius
24 where it's not -- Joshua you seem to think it's a
25 localized concentrated area but if it's -- if you're
26 talking about Noatak area and then Selawik, having the
27 same concern of the caribou not coming that way, and
28 are you saying or suggesting that the transporter
29 problem is right in the Noatak drainage area?

30
31 MR. REAM: Thank you for the question,
32 Mr. Chair. For the record this is Josh Ream with the
33 National Park Service. I think one thing that, again,
34 the Board struggles with is that they don't have clear
35 evidence of what exactly the causes of deflection or
36 migration change over time are, and so without that
37 evidence, they struggle to have the authority to close
38 to non-Federally-qualified users. In Unit 23, we've
39 heard from a lot of parties since we've done the
40 targeted closure that they seem to like, or it seems to
41 be working to have the closure in the areas where it
42 currently is, in the Aggie, the Noatak and the
43 Squirrel. When there was a full closure, however, we
44 were hearing some concerns of communities along the
45 Kobuk River because they are primarily surrounded by
46 State land and so with the majority of Federal lands
47 being closed, or all Federal lands being closed in Unit
48 23 back then, they were seeing more State hunters near
49 their communities, and so it just provided a layer of

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1 complexity and might have, you know, further -- you
2 know, if there is an affect of nonlocal users on
3 caribou migration it may have been amplified by the
4 changes that were made because of the closure.

5
6 So it's just a really complex
7 situation.

8
9 But all I can say is that I've heard a
10 lot of positive feedback from folks in Noatak that hunt
11 in the Squirrel and the Aggie with those areas

12 remaining closed because of user conflict.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

15

16 MS. PETRIVELLI: Hello, Mr. Chair.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would.....

19

20 MS. PETRIVELLI:this is Pat

21 Petrivelli.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right, Pat,

24 go ahead.

25

26 MS. PETRIVELLI: I listened to the
27 Northwest Arctic meeting also and there were other
28 people that were concerned about -- and the reason they
29 included 26A is they felt that because it was closed in
30 23, the transporters were going up to 26A and
31 interfering with the migration down to 23. So -- and
32 maybe that's why maybe more people are getting caribou
33 in 26A and Kyle Joly would know more about that
34 pattern. But that migration -- Northwest Arctic seemed
35 to really feel the transporters were interfering with
36 the migration pattern and that's why they included 26A.

37

38 And another thing is, because the
39 calving grounds are in 26A and they felt that -- they
40 heard that the transporters were saying, yes, we'll
41 take you to hunt right on the calving grounds and so
42 maybe they were concerned about that issue also.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Thank you,
45 Pat. And those are good insights to think about.

46

47 You know, I'm going to take my hat off
48 for a second, too. You know, I have -- at least --
49 these are public information, you know, people can

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0204

1 query what happens at the Borough and things like that
2 when we do -- when we do permits and violations and we
3 had worked with ASRC of unauthorized use of ASRC
4 airstrips by either transporters and big game guides.
5 And one of them actually we investigated all the way
6 with State Troopers and things that way, which ended up
7 on a hunting channel, and -- with Savage firearms and
8 we issued the violation notice and we actually made
9 inspector visits to the area that was suspected and
10 found the areas and issued the violation notice to some
11 guides that were in the Haul Road region but extending
12 out of their concession area way to the west and so
13 there is some bit of, you know, these types of things
14 that I'm aware of. And also the communities in Point

15 Lay expressing concerns about these Piper Cubs with
16 guns and stuff hanging out and -- on these big balloon
17 tired Piper Cubs and like working in tandem and looking
18 for places to hunt near Point Lay. And it only leads
19 me to think that, you know, these are -- might be some
20 private individuals that are residents of the State of
21 Alaska maybe, or guided operations, and we try to do
22 investigations of these type but they're not from the
23 North Slope, I can tell you that much, those aircraft
24 either coming out of Kotzebue or out of Fairbanks or
25 some other part of that, take the opportunity to -- and
26 go to these large concentrated areas for caribou and --
27 and disturb and actually local hunters have expressed
28 concern about that.

29

30 So, yeah, I think there's a fair bit of
31 that that goes on. And I had intended to get my Staff
32 to attend the Big Game Services Board meeting to look
33 at who's trying to get their license, or who's getting
34 sanctioned or other things like that. It's just
35 information and it's all public, it's not confidential
36 or anything.

37

38 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is
39 Carmen with Fish and Game. I'd like to add just a
40 couple of.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
43 Carmen.

44

45 MS. DAGGETT:information -- so I
46 looked up some information for caribou from 26A and for
47 the last three years reported harvest by non-Federally-
48 qualified subsistence users, the average was about 13
49 animals. In 2017 there were no animals harvested by

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1 non-Federally-subsistence users that were in 26A. In
2 2018 that number went up to 31. And in 2019 it went
3 back down to 8. So the average is 13 but there was
4 some variability over the last couple of years and I
5 thought you guys might want to use that information to
6 inform some of the decisionmaking.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And when it's
11 a non-Federally-qualified user, it's just not a rural
12 resident, at this point, it could be an Alaska
13 resident, right?

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: So a non-Federally-
16 qualified subsistence user would be someone that lives
17 outside the area, their residence is not within the

18 range of that herd, I believe, is how they define it
19 for caribou. But someone could.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Like somebody
22 from.....

23
24 MS. DAGGETT:correct me if I'm
25 wrong.

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Fairbanks or
30 something like that.

31
32 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

33
34 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, this is Earl.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to
37 recognize Earl.

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. I was going to put
40 a little input on that lady that just spoke about 26A.
41 The village people are concerned because, you know, the
42 way the flights are going up to that State land, and
43 that's what's holding it up, and one elder guy told me
44 that it's just like it was being boxed in there, I said
45 what do you mean by that, he said, well, it's from the
46 road to Ambler and now there's already a road on the
47 north side, what are we going to do now, Earl, and I
48 said -- you mean all these flights going through there,
49 that's going up to -- Wright's Air, about 50, 60

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0206
1 hunters there at the airport and you know we're was
2 still having problems with flights there and they're
3 just coming and going and they're -- the caribous
4 migrate different ways, this one elder said, but, you
5 know, we can't visualize what's going on here, we need
6 to work on this proposal so that the village people
7 will be happy in these certain ways.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, thank you,
12 Earl. And was Steve next after that.

13
14 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, go ahead.

17
18 MR. OOMITTUK: You know during the
19 month of August when caribou season opens and moose
20 season for harvest -- non-resident people, whether

21 they're sporthunters or people coming in to harvest
22 that used to live in that area but no longer live
23 there, especially in the NANA area, and through the
24 month of August and the month of September, you know,
25 the abundance of non-residents that are coming in to
26 Kotzebue, you know, to harvest is a large number of
27 people, I mean you're talking plane loads, and then
28 sometimes it's very hard for you to get a flight
29 because they're booked and having that accurate number
30 of exactly who's coming and going and this is just only
31 people coming to Kotzebue and, you know, like when you
32 said, Gordon, you know, you see different aircraft and
33 you have hunters that -- whether they're sporthunters
34 or whatever that come with airplanes that have the
35 money to pay for guides that come into the territories
36 of Unit 23 whether to harvest moose or harvest caribou,
37 whether it's in 26A or Unit 23, it's a high number.
38 What they're saying, and estimating they're low numbers
39 -- it's -- we see it with our own eyes, you know,
40 especially in the Northwest Arctic Borough because I
41 fly through Kotzebue a lot, especially -- and, you
42 know, it's hard to get a flight out of Kotzebue or from
43 Anchorage to Kotzebue because of the abundance of
44 hunters that have these planes booked and then you're
45 talking on a daily basis.

46
47 And I would support this proposal and
48 with some of the modifications that you suggested and,
49 you know, they are our neighbor villages and they are

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0207

1 subsistence hunters, they are in a very high cost of
2 living area. We're very fortunate that on the North
3 Slope that we're subsidized with other things such as
4 fuel to heat our homes. A lot of people in the NANA
5 area, they support on their subsistence hunting, and
6 just for the fuel alone, to heat their house, some of
7 them are paying \$14, \$15 a gallon for diesel, stove
8 oil, and the gas is a lot higher, too. I don't know
9 how much they pay for gas, a lot of these communities
10 you got to fly through them, they're not on the coastal
11 villages. You know, we're very fortunate up north
12 where we are subsidized by the North Slope, especially
13 with our heating and our electricity bills, you know,
14 we don't pay -- but we still live in a high cost of
15 living and we still -- you know, the high cost of
16 travel, the high cost of freight, but we still are
17 subsistence hunters.

18
19 I would support our neighboring
20 villages and -- because like I said yesterday, that a
21 lot of the migration of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
22 has not been coming through in these areas, and I talk
23 with local hunters because they're our neighbors, I

24 know them. I -- you know, I'm on the Western Arctic
25 Caribou Herd Working Group. And the Western Arctic
26 Caribou Herd Working Group met in December and
27 supported any closure to non-residents and sporhunters
28 within Unit 23 on Federal lands. They would support
29 that. Yeah, we passed that in the past and they are
30 willing to support and -- and -- because they know the
31 importance of rural Alaska and subsistence hunting and
32 the high cost of living just to put food on the table.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
35 know we're at lunch hour, do you guys want to recess
36 for lunch?

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, from Earl.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: No, we're under.....

43

44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may.....

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK:discussion, and I
47 don't know if we're done on the discussion and I know
48 we could go into a vote and with the modifications that
49 you suggested, the motion to modify this.....

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0208

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK:proposal to go with
4 it, I know you had made some suggestions and then after
5 we do this proposal maybe we can go to lunch. I know
6 if there's any other questions on it or.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Well, I'm
9 not sure, you know, listening to Josh Ream earlier
10 about the shift in transporters that might be
11 transporting in Unit 26A, I would almost tend to think
12 about just supporting this as it is. If I was going to
13 try to think that a way to modify it, it might be that
14 a 30 mile radius around each village with a
15 modification to define the 30 mile radius around each
16 village as an area of influence to affect that for
17 those two months. And at the same time, I don't know
18 if that would do it or not. Just trying to, you know,
19 we try to, at the North Slope Borough, define a village
20 area of influence where the community describes the
21 immediate boundaries outside of the village boundaries
22 that provide for the contemporary use, traditional and
23 subsistence use to support the community, and we define
24 those as village area of influence where we should give
25 subsistence a little higher priority to allow for local
26 use, rural -- it's almost like a rural preference area

27 or something. But I'm not sure if that's -- if that
28 would help, there's so many different things here.

29
30 So with that if you -- it would be up
31 to the Council whether to modify it now or to support
32 it just the way it is and then go to a vote with that.

33
34 So we're at discussion.

35
36 You're right, we're at discussion.

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. Steve for
39 the record. While we're under discussion, I would
40 support your decision on keeping it the way it is and
41 come to a vote and I don't know if you need a roll call
42 vote or if we're going to do it all at once. If
43 there's no other questions or comments I would call for
44 the question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
47 Question's been called for on Special Action 21-01
48 ending discussion. For all those in favor of
49 supporting Special Action 21-01 signify by saying aye.

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0209

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
4 same sign.

5
6 (No opposing votes)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, ayes
9 have it. North Slope Regional Advisory Council
10 recommendation is to support 21-01.

11
12 So we'll get that out of our hair.
13 Thank you very much Council, a very healthy discussion.

14
15 And before we go to the Board of Game
16 proposals, we got, I think two of them, to deal with,
17 do you guys want to take a lunch recess.

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: It is going on 12:16, is
20 45 minutes long enough to be back at 1:00 o'clock.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's the wish of the
23 Council. 45 minutes be back at 1:00 o'clock, or 1:15,
24 either one.

25
26 MR. WILLIAMS: 1:00 o'clock.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We're at
29 recess until 1:00 o'clock.

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(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So we did on item 11, call for Federal wildlife proposals, commented and embraced the special action 21-01. So we're done with that one.

And we did amend the agenda in the beginning to -- so that we can go through the Board of Game proposals. And I suggest we go through the -- I think there were two remaining ones that we were waiting for Carmen so that we can ask the questions.

MS. PATTON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I'm going to go to those proposals.....

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:Board of Game.....

MS. PATTON:did just want to reconfirm Steve Oomittuk started some discussion with the Council yesterday about a Federal subsistence proposal for caribou in unit 23. And I just wanted to confirm, so the Council just passed the -- or supported the special action request regarding caribou and moose in unit 23 and 26A that was submitted by the Northwest Arctic Council. So that is a temporary special action request for 2021, for fall of 2021. So I just wanted to confirm if Steve had wanted to follow-up with a Federal subsistence proposal for unit 23 still or if he felt that was probably by the special action request. I just wanted to reconfirm before we move on.

Thank you.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. And I -- I'll -- Mr. Chair, if I can ask -- comment on that. And -- and.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

33 MR. OOMITTUK: That -- that would.....

34

35 (Teleconference interference -

36 participants not muted).

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK:for us, unit 23,
39 within our area and that was a concern. And -- and I
40 don't know, that states -- I know in the past we've
41 passed it on the Federal lands to nonresidents and
42 nonresident is a wide variation of people which
43 includes sporthunters that aren't on Federal lands.
44 And now this is what we -- is similar to what we just
45 proposed to support.

46

47 But with that said I don't think I'll
48 be bringing that -- that one, but there was something
49 else on muskox that -- that got my attention.

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0211

1 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve, for --
2 for confirming that.

3

4 Yes, and then the muskox proposal
5 discussion was coming up under one of the Board of Game
6 proposals that the Council had started yesterday. But
7 if we still have Carmen Daggett available then she
8 would be available to address more questions on that
9 Board of Game Proposal for muskox.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva, this is
14 Gordon. Normally we get our rule books when we're
15 working on proposals and stuff, you know, what our
16 current regs say in Federal public lands. And I'm not
17 sure if I got that on the existing regs and I wanted to
18 see in unit 26A what the current regs allow for moose
19 for qualified subsistence users?

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
22 -- the Federal subsistence regulatory books, the
23 publishing was a bit delayed due to a delay in the
24 Federal Register, but meeting books were mailed out to
25 the Council with -- end of November, early December.
26 And there should have been a copy also with the meeting
27 book materials, but I can review 26A moose you were
28 looking for?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. If you can --
31 if you can read what the current reg is on that it
32 might help me because I'm -- I'm thinking about a
33 proposal myself for -- to introduce and -- and see if I
34 can't persuade the Council to think about it. But --
35 but I would like to see what our current regs say on

36 the unit 26A.

37

38 MS. PATTON: So there were several
39 regulations, one under 26 -- unit 26A, that portion of
40 the Colville River drainage upstream from and including
41 two of the Anaktuvuk River drainage, one bull, August 1
42 to September 14. And then there is the area unit 26A,
43 that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream
44 from and including the Anaktuvuk River.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you go slow.
47 Eva, if you can restate.....

48

49 MS. PATTON: Certainly.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:from the first
2 one?

3

4 MS. PATTON: Yes, I'll -- I'll start
5 again. So unit 26A, that portion of the Colville River
6 drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk
7 River drainage, one bull and that's August 1st through
8 September 14th.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I want to
11 understand better that from the Colville River
12 drainage, does that exclude north of Ana -- of the
13 Colville River? I'm trying to define the area of --
14 some of the language when you -- when you read it, it
15 says certain things and I want to understand if this
16 one bull includes Chipp River or if it includes around
17 by Wainwright or those areas? Maybe somebody can make
18 it more understandable.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So there's several
21 hunt areas defined with different seasons and I know,
22 you know, one of the hunt areas that's been of -- of
23 discussion for the Council is that portion west of 156
24 longitude.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. But I want
27 to know what this one bull -- I want to know what this
28 one bull is for unit 26A, Colville River. Is it just
29 on the Colville River or is it 30 miles on either side
30 of the river or what does this regulation do, August 1
31 to September 14, one bull, unit 26A?

32

33 MS. PATTON: I'm just looking here.
34 And I don't know if we have.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Either -- maybe
37 Carmen knows it or what -- what is -- what does all
38 that little language mean?

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MS. PATTON: Yeah, and this is -- this is what's in Federal regulation here and maybe we have Chris McKee online as well to help define in the Federal hunt area for those BLM lands.

MR. McKEE: Yeah, Eva, this -- yeah, the problem is is that the -- the maps and the -- and this is Chris with BLM. The -- the problem is is that the maps in the Federal regulations are of a very coarse scale so, you know, the -- the only areas that

are Federal regulations is 26A where the harvest limit is one bull is in 26A, that portion of the Col -- Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk Riv -- Anaktuvuk River drainage. And also unit 26A remainder which is basically everything that's left over in unit 26A after you've already described the other two hunt areas in the unit. So unfortunately the scale that these -- these hunt areas are at just doesn't -- and in the map on -- in the reg book which is on page 128, just doesn't show that level of detail.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does in include.....

MR. McKEE:unfortunately.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:all of NPR-A, that -- that language?

MR. McKEE: Yes. I mean, the -- the area that's within the Colville Riv -- I'm sorry, Colville River drainage includes -- is that -- the Federal land within that portion of 26A is all within the NPR-A.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So let's just say we saw a moose just north of this gigantic lake called Teshekpuk -- Teshekpuk Lake. I can catch that bull moose with this reg.

MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

MS. DAGGETT: So there -- for future reference there's some maps on the Fish and Game website and I can share that link with you for those maps. And the regulations and how they're defined are pretty concurrent between the Federal and State regulations so the State maps should work for the

42 Federal regulations too from what I can glean from
43 looking at those sets of regs. But 26A remainder, the
44 one bull that is defined under Federal regs, you look
45 at the State maps and what is defined is 26A remainder
46 in those, that would include the area north of
47 Teshekpuk Lake, it would include basically everything
48 east of the 156 west longitude. So you could get a
49 bull on the Chipp River if you wanted to during that
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1 time period.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah,
4 it's -- it's these kinds of things that lead you to
5 think why do we have a west 156 for a -- and that's
6 authorization each year for an antlerless moose and --
7 and it just doesn't quite make sense to me when we can
8 go out and get a bull moose and -- and then make some
9 other language for another moose, it could be a bull or
10 a -- or a cow without horns and, but put an edge to it
11 at 156 west.

12

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Anyway, it's just.....

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MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, would you like
me to.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it just -- it
just makes for confusion in my mind.

MS. DAGGETT: So I guess my -- my
question to you is it more that there's this boundary
that is sort of abstract and not defined by natural
features or is it more really that the area and the --
and the -- kind of the desire to be able to hunt an
antlerless moose in the Chipp River area. I just --
I'm try -- I tried to discern where the confusion there
is and I -- and I can't quite figure out where the
problem is, if it's -- if it's that there's this
boundary that's not natural that is catching up or if
it's that you would like to have the ability to hunt an
antlerless moose further eastward. I -- I -- so can
you answer that for me?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, first thing I
-- I want to know what our current regs say and that's
one boo -- bull moose and that's available to all of
the communities in the Federal lands there. So that --
that's good, I'm not going be ever confused with that
any more unless we change it. But the antlerless moose
and -- and then put an edge. So what makes the -- the

45 bull moose in practically the same period of time, not
46 -- not being described like you said on -- against that
47 boundary that it's to preserve mating or recruitment.
48 And what's not to say that the -- the moose that -- the
49 bull moose is not part of the recruitment process as

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0215

1 well. And it just seems like if you're going to have
2 one antlerless moose you should have defined it by that
3 boundary of 156 west. It's just my thoughts.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, that's a --
6 that's a fair question. So really the issue is are we
7 going to allow people to be able to harvest a female
8 moose that could be -- could be fertile in a population
9 that's low. And even though bull moose are important
10 in -- in procreation, female moose have a larger impact
11 on population growth than bull moose do. It only takes
12 one bull moose to impregnate a fertile female and they
13 can -- and they can breed multiple females whereas, you
14 know, that's not really true the other way around. So,
15 you know, if -- if you take a viable female out of the
16 population, you are reducing your ability to be able to
17 grow that population fast.

18

19 And so the amount of area that's made
20 available for harvesting potentially a female moose, I
21 mean, it -- antlerless moose doesn't necessarily have
22 to be female, but it doesn't exclude females. And it's
23 -- they can -- they're hard to distinguish from each
24 other which is part of the way this regulation is
25 written the way that it is for a moose, you know,
26 especially during that time of year because they
27 probably won't have antlers.

28

29 So that's -- that's kind of why that --
30 there's that distinction there, that you can take a
31 bull where there's more moose in the population, but
32 when you get to the area, you know, where you're
33 talking about, you know, having females really being
34 the limiting factor for moose growth -- population
35 growth, you -- the level of impact that you have when
36 you take a female moose out of the population is more
37 significant than when you take a bull out.

38

39 So that's kind of the reasoning why,
40 you know, trying to preserve areas where there are
41 breeding females is important to try to continue the
42 viability of the population in the area particularly
43 when the population is low.

44

45 Does that make sense?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it

48 makes -- it makes some sense. But also when you're
49 proposing to do a muskox and then -- then you put the
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0216

1 same boundary again 156 whatever it is, it seems to be
2 sticking to some proposals like that. And I'm not
3 exactly sure if the 156 is the mating line or not, you
4 know.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, so, Mr. Chair, that
7 -- that boundary for muskox is -- is for a different
8 reason. So it's not so much a mating boundary as it is
9 a population boundary. So and for the record, you
10 know, the reason why I brought that area up was because
11 I wanted people thinking about roughly where the
12 division needs to be, but I still think it would be
13 better to try to have a natural boundary to reduce
14 confusion with hunters on the ground.

15

16 And so when I was in discussion with
17 the unit 26B biologist who manages the muskox
18 population in unit 26B, those muskox are part of a
19 population that is around 300 and it is just reaching
20 its management objective, it's not large enough to open
21 a hunt yet. And so the reason why there needs to be
22 some division in game management unit 26 for that hunt
23 is because there are two distinct populations in 26A
24 and one of them is growing and seems to be doing okay
25 and it has a population that's high enough to sustain
26 some harvest which is the one that, you know, we were
27 talking about, the Cape Thompson population earlier.

28

29 The one that's easter -- eastern side
30 of 26A around like Nuiqsut, that population is just
31 reaching its management objective and it's also under a
32 different jurisdiction. So that population is mostly
33 managed out of the Fairbanks office under Beth Leonard.
34 And she expressed that she did -- she did not want
35 anything including Ikpikpuk and eastward to be
36 potentially harvested from. And so that's why we were
37 looking for a boundary that made some sense, that was
38 Ikpikpuk and eastward -- including the Ikpikpuk and
39 eastward.

40

41 And so because people in 26A are
42 already using this boundary for moose and it's the
43 general area that we need to be in, I thought that was
44 a place where we could start discussion. However I
45 don't think that it necessarily has to be the -- the
46 way that it's written. In fact that's I asked you at
47 the last meeting what you thought a better natural
48 boundary would be.

49

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0217

1 So that being said I hope that helps
2 disentangle some of that confusion about logic and
3 reasoning why things are structured the way that they
4 are.

5
6 And I'm happy to answer more questions
7 if you have more.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.
10 And I think Ikpikpuk east, if you did that, I think
11 that would be better than what you're proposing with
12 156 west because 156 west is about 15 miles to the west
13 of Ikpikpuk. And I think those are important things to
14 -- to look at because, you know, if you were to go to
15 150 -- 155 or just follow the Ikpikpuk River drainage,
16 you know, I don't know that the populations will be
17 discernible between either side. I know there's -- is
18 Beth Leonard State or Federal or.....

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: She's -- Mr. Chair, she's
21 the State area biologist for unit 26B and she's
22 actually the -- you know, helps manage 26C as well.
23 And I guess one of her concerns is also the western
24 delta of the Ikpikpuk area and wanting to exclude that
25 population or that portion of the population.

26
27 So, you know, even if, you know, we
28 said something like -- you know, we wanted to
29 completely exclude every animal that was or around the
30 mouth of the Ikpikpuk River and we did the Chipp River
31 instead or the Topagoruk, I think either of those might
32 be more favorable just given my discussions with her.
33 However that doesn't necessarily help us define the
34 southern portion of it because it's got to go all the
35 way -- the boundary has to go all the way to unit 23.
36 And so there's not much river systems that go the whole
37 length of the game management unit because it's really
38 long. So I think that part of the challenge here is
39 just really trying to find something that makes sense
40 as a far as a natural boundary goes north south.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right.
43 Anyway it's just interesting. I -- I like to bring
44 that up because it just seems like it's a -- it's an
45 area where there's a -- seem to be a lot of exclusion
46 and -- and Chipp and Ikpikpuk is a -- you know, it's a
47 accessible area by many families that use that area.
48 And -- and you have to be very aware what 156 area is.
49 So in any event.....

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0218

1 MS. DAGGETT: Well, Mr. Chair, would
2 you be happier with lining up with the Chipp River and

3 including the Chipp River in the western side of things
4 because I think -- I think that that would probably be
5 doable, it's just it needs to be further west of the
6 Ikpikpuk.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

9
10 MS. DAGGETT: Would that work or no?

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, the --
13 well, the Chipp River is between the Ikpikpuk and the
14 Topagoruk, between Ikpikpuk, (in Native), Chipp and --
15 and Topagoruk. So.....

16
17 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we do see.....

20
21 MS. DAGGETT: So I.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER:muskox from time
24 to time, they're not always there. And, you know, I've
25 seen them on more than one occasion where there's eight
26 -- eight or 10 of them together moving around. They
27 usually just disappear.

28
29 MS. DAGGETT: So if the Chipp River was
30 included and it was like defined as you know, the Chipp
31 River south, you know, extending and, you know, towards
32 unit 23 somehow westward, would you be happy with that?

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I -- I think we
35 -- you know, if it's -- yeah, I think things like that,
36 even if it was on not even a natural boundary, but 156
37 -- 155 going south and -- would, you know, anyway that
38 -- that's -- since you've been using numbers.

39
40 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I guess
41 one thing that I would say though is that I've had lots
42 of questions from hunters about where that line is
43 during the moose hunt. And I've actually had a moose
44 taken out of season because there was confusion about
45 where that line was. And so.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT:I do think it would

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0219
1 be beneficial to have it be a natural boundary instead
2 of a line of longitude.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. If we're
5 going to put a -- a.....

6

7

MS. DAGGETT: I think it's.....

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9

CHAIRMAN BROWER:river name on it
I would do -- I think comfortable with Aluktuk River
going south because Aluktuk is -- will -- will connect
with the Ikpikpuk, you know, and -- and that's where it
is set. It's set from the Ikpikpuk River. If you were
looking for a natural boundary I would -- because
Aluktuk River is about maybe two miles to three miles
to the west of the Chipp River.

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MS. DAGGETT: So west or to the east,
on the map that I'm looking at it looks like it's to
the east?

22

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, to the east. To
the east. Aluktuk is about two miles to three miles
east of the Chipp River.

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MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

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MS. DAGGETT: All right. So I'll --
I'll certainly -- I think that that will be important
to include in your comments and I can certainly talk
with others about it too and see how they feel about
that boundary. But I think, you know, if you included
that in your comments from, you know, the RAC regarding
the muskox proposal that that would be helpful and --
and I think would probably be better for hunters on the
ground too.

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So thank you for your comments.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean -- yeah, I
mean, I don't think we're going to go out there and --
and -- you know, this will be probably a very
controlled hunt anyway, you know.

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MS. DAGGETT: Yes, it'll probably be a
tier two hunt. Although that's a Board of Game
decision.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, I think
we should do a Federal proposal for muskox in that area
for -- for the same as -- for the Federally-qualified
users. Anyway it's very -- very good to make time and
talk about these thoroughly and especially if there's

9 some proposals being entertained.

10

11 So with that I'm going to -- I think I
12 kind of like.....

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted).

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: I have a question, Mr.
18 Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
21 Steve.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: So I know we keep going
24 back to moose and then muskox in the same area there.
25 But so if I heard right you said the population is
26 about three -- I mean, 300 and then for -- to harvest a
27 muskox what -- what's the rate that you guys are
28 allowing, is that -- I know there was talk about
29 harvesting one antlerless moose so I -- I was going to
30 moose and antlerless and muskox I was thinking, you
31 know, within that area of allowing, you know,
32 especially moose that come in that very rarely come
33 into that areas at times, even in our area. And -- and
34 when you have guidelines on catching a moose at certain
35 times of the year when they're not around or -- or
36 having to submit a permit or -- or pay for a permit or
37 is that the guidelines that you have to do and we -- we
38 never know if we're going to see a moose in that area
39 or even harvest one. And to pay for a license or a
40 permit to harvest one when you don't even know it's
41 going to be there. I -- I know in our area we very
42 rarely see moose.

43

44 But, you know, and you mentioned -- I
45 don't know if it was one muskox that you were talking
46 about annually for that area with a population of 300
47 and then for unit 23 and 26 and population of 900 and
48 you're allowing 12 and the growing rate of population
49 is about a hundred a year and growing. And, you know,

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0221

1 and that normally wasn't in our area that was
2 introduced back, you know, it -- it just doesn't make
3 sense to me sometimes when I try to add -- figure
4 things. And -- and that we should be able to hunt
5 moose -- I mean, muskox within our area and, you know,
6 that's why I'm submitting a proposal.

7

8 But I'm just trying to get what she --
9 on -- on the east side of the Borough and the boundary
10 lines on the Brooks Range up in their neck of the
11 woods, Ikpikpuk River and Colville and I'm not familiar

12 with those areas, but I -- but I heard of them.
13 So.....

14
15 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I can try to
16 address Steve's concerns there if you like.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead there,
19 Carmen.

20
21 MS. DAGGETT: So the -- the annul bag
22 limit for muskox in either location, either in, you
23 know, the western portion of 26A or the eastern
24 portion, the bag limit is always going to be one a year
25 for hunters unless the population gets super high.
26 Right now there's kind of not enough muskox to go
27 around to let everybody have one so that tier two
28 process is sort of what's in place to help distinguish
29 among users and -- and help provide an opportunity even
30 though the population isn't very large.

31
32 Now you mentioned the population on the
33 eastern side for muskox and so that relation, eastern
34 side of 26A on into 26B, most of those animals are in
35 26B the majority of the time. There are -- there have
36 been a few that have been documented further westward.
37 And so we're trying to keep that population closed
38 because it -- it's not large enough to sustain harvest
39 right now. So that's part of the reason why this split
40 is needed between the game management unit area.

41
42 It's a little tricky with moose, Steve,
43 and I -- I think there might have been a little bit of
44 confusion there. So there are opportunities for you to
45 hunt moose. None of these permits you have to pay for,
46 the only thing that you may have to pay for if you're
47 under 60 is a hunting license to be able to get the
48 permit. However hunting licenses are generally
49 required for hunting any terrestrial game species. So

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0222
1 whether you're getting caribou or moose or muskox, that
2 same hunting license you should be getting or get a
3 permanent one that costs nothing if you're over 60. So
4 you just have to get different permits and those
5 permits don't cost anything once you get the hunting
6 license. And there's also low income licenses for
7 people that are like \$5. So if people have financial
8 issues they can just get those. And you can get them
9 online, you can get them in person at a Fish and Game
10 office. If you're having a hard time getting them in a
11 village you can call me and I can try to help you
12 figure out a way to get you one. We try to be as
13 flexible as possible for working with people in
14 villages. And so, you know, the -- getting hunting

15 licenses is part of being able to legally hunt animals
16 on the North Slope and across the State. So that's
17 kind of the deal with that.

18
19 And, you know, you certainly have some
20 opportunity currently in Point Hope to be able to get
21 both moose and muskox although the muskox thing like I
22 ex.....

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted).

26
27 MS. DAGGETT:still requires going
28 through an application and drawing process because
29 there are so few available. Moose on the other hand is
30 a -- is a general season permit. Anyone can get those
31 within the State of Alaska and they're available
32 online, they don't cost you anything and you can get
33 them -- if you can't get one online and you can't get
34 one in person from a local vendor, then call me up and
35 I'll figure out how to get you one.

36
37 So that's kind of the gist of that and
38 I think that answers all the questions that you had,
39 there was some things in there that.....

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

42
43 MS. DAGGETT:that.....

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted).

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve
49 again. And just, you know, out of curiosity, you know,

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0223

1 I know that bag limits and certain amount of permits
2 that are awarded and I understand that rural areas have
3 priority. But permits and what is giving us, you know,
4 permits to, you know, is statewide, you know, and --
5 and we're limited and I would think that the rural
6 areas that live within their communities, their
7 subsistence hunt -- hunters have top priority.

8
9 And then just out of curiosity what,
10 you know, when you do have a bag limit what majority
11 goes to the residents within that area compared to
12 nonresident?

13
14 MS. DAGGETT: So, Steve, let me make
15 sure I'm understanding your question correctly. You're
16 wondering first of all about what species because the
17 way that the moose hunt is structured and the way that

18 the muskox hunt is structured and the way the caribou
19 hunts are structured are all very different from each
20 other. And so which species are you talking about to
21 start with?

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Well, yeah, I'm talking
24 about moose.....

25
26 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK:because we see a
29 larger number of people coming in for moose or, you
30 know, especially in unit 23 within the NANA area and
31 coming up towards the north.

32
33 And also, you know, muskox, you know,
34 in that area also and sportshunters that want to get
35 muskox and they're only limited so much and, you know,
36 that that these permits are competitive or are they
37 vital for subsistence users to have top priority in
38 these numbers. And I was just curious of what exactly
39 are the numbers that is given to nonresidents to --
40 versus residents especially with moose or with the
41 limited amount of muskox.....

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted).

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: Good question, Steve. So
47 first of all moose in both unit 23 and in unit 26A are
48 closed to nonresidents. So there's no season for
49 nonresidents to come take moose in either game

50
0224
1 management unit. And furthermore the entirety of 26A
2 is a controlled use area during the moose hunting
3 season for aircraft. So, you know, during the time
4 period where the moose hunting seasons are open, people
5 are not allowed to use aircraft to go hunt for moose.
6 And except if they were going to take a flight, like a
7 scheduled flight, like a Wright flight or a -- like a
8 Ravn flight from like Barrow to Wainwright or whatever,
9 they could do that, but they can't use a personal
10 aircraft to go -- to go anywhere beyond that. So, you
11 know, that's something to -- to keep in mind. The
12 regulations say that that controlled use area, July 1
13 through September 30th and from January 1st to March
14 31st is closed to the use of aircraft for moose
15 hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their
16 gear and parts of moose. However this does not apply
17 to transportation of moose hunters or gear with parts
18 by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the
19 controlled use area.

20

21 So I -- they could use their personal
22 aircraft to go in between airports, but they could not
23 use it to go out onto the landscape beyond those
24 village based runways. So there's that that kind of
25 restricts moose hunters.

26
27 And then there's a similar controlled
28 use area in Anaktuvuk Pass for caribou that controls
29 the aircraft -- use of -- during caribou hunting
30 season. So that's from August 15th to October 15th for
31 aircraft except on the publicly owned airports.

32
33 So there's that and then, you know, as
34 far as muskox goes the hunts that we've been talking
35 about for muskox, they are only for Alaska residents,
36 they are not for nonresidents. So and I just want to
37 be clear, there's a difference between a Federally-
38 qualified subsistence user and a nonresident. So a
39 Federally-qualified subsistence user lives in the area
40 and utilizes the resources in that area. A nonresident
41 lives outside the state or outside of the country.
42 Well, that's an illegal alien -- well, an alien is how
43 they define it in regulation, not illegal alien. So,
44 you know, anyone from outside the country, anyone from
45 outside the state, would fall under those nonresident
46 regulations as defined by the State.

47
48 Now non-Federally-qualified subsistence
49 users are a Federal definition and, you know, that kind

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0225

1 of comes a whole different spot of information with
2 that. And it's a little bit defined -- it's defined by
3 the species because caribou have a different definition
4 of what that is than -- than other species from what I
5 understand. But that's a little bit outside my realm
6 of expertise.....

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted).

10
11 MS. DAGGETT:probably just
12 talking about some of this.

13
14 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. And
15 thank you for clarifying that because, you know, when
16 we talked about Federally-qualified users and -- and
17 when you live in the rural areas there are others that
18 have Federally recognized tribes that are members. And
19 it gets a little confusing that it's only for the
20 tribal members, Federally recognized tribes that -- and
21 when you have that and but it includes residents that
22 are not tribal members, but are residents and live
23 within each of the communities.

24
25 So it gets a little confusing sometimes
26 just to people.
27
28 MS. DAGGETT: I agree. I agree. So
29 did that answer all your questions, Steve?
30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you.
32
33 MS. DAGGETT: You're welcome.
34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and.....
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
38
39 MS. PATTON:Council, if I may.
40 This is.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.
43
44 MS. PATTON:this is Eva. Thank
45 you, Mr. Chair and Council. Just wanted to follow-up.
46
47 So I -- I hear from the Council an
48 interest in supporting that Board of Game proposal 193
49 with an amendment that you had suggested, Gordon, using
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1 the Aluktuk River southwest of the Aluktuk River south
2 as the boundary for that unit 26A muskox hunt. And
3 I've heard the Council discuss an interest in
4 submitting a proposal -- Federal subsistence proposal
5 that would mirror that. If the Council is interested
6 in that, one way to approach that at this meeting would
7 be to make the motion to support this Board of Game
8 proposal with the amendments and the language that you
9 want to see and then follow-up with a proposal to the
10 Federal Subsistence Board to mirror that if that's --
11 if that's what the.....
12
13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted).
15
16 MS. PATTON:Council is wanting to
17 do.
18
19 Thank you.
20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. So moved.
24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.
26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: I make a motion for
28 adopting the proposal 193, hunting season bag limit for
29 muskox. Establish a hunt muskox within the portion of
30 unit 26A as follows. And -- and once we come into
31 discussion, I don't know we can make any amendments or
32 suggestions on this.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we're going to
35 try. There's a motion on the floor from -- from Steve
36 from Point Hope to -- for the proposal for 193 to adopt
37 that.

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: I second. Earl.

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41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted).

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44 MR. WILLIAMS: That's been seconded by
45 Earl. Discussion.

46
47 MS. KIPPI: Question.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. I got a question.

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1 This is Point Hope. And, you know, we -- we talked
2 lengthy about the muskox earlier this morning
3 especially within the Cape Thompson area and Delong
4 mountain and up towards, you know, where the majority
5 of the surveys and -- and further east and my
6 understanding that the population is at about nine --
7 just over 900. And -- and when it was introduced it
8 was about 65, 70 back in the '70s and the growing rate
9 of this population is about a hundred per year. And it
10 -- and yet we have to be competitive for how many
11 different villages to harvest only a certain number of
12 -- I think it's 15 muskox that are at a population of
13 960 and growing at a hundred a year and that is stable.
14 I would think that we can bring that number up in --
15 certain areas also for -- because for Point Hope to
16 hunt the muskox we have to go into Kotzebue and -- and
17 get a permit and compete with other communities further
18 south than us. And -- and the muskox are right in our
19 area, right in our back yard. And -- and to increase
20 that number whether it's just for this area, I'm -- you
21 know, we are within the North Slope Borough range and
22 we are not on the Northwest Arctic Borough, I -- you
23 know, we are part of unit 23 and the majority of the
24 population stays within that area. I don't know if we
25 can make any amendments to this because this is a Board
26 of Game proposal.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, we could
29 make -- we could make amendments. I was actually

30 thinking of -- thinking about this too that instead of
31 having it say something like open a hunt in that
32 portion of unit 26A west of the -- and I would change
33 Topagoruk to the Aluktuk River, following -- following
34 west 155 south to the border -- to the unit 26A border
35 with a season date of August 1 to March 15. Something
36 to that effect would be useful for -- for us if that
37 was a amendment that the Council would entertain. And
38 maybe the.....

39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted).

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and the dates
43 maybe August 1 to March 15, maybe make that into
44 something like July 15 to March 15 would be good.

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. This is
47 Steve for the record.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead.

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved. And then
2 under discussion they will discuss the bag limits.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
5 motion under discussion to amend proposal 193 to state
6 open a hunt in that portion of unit 26A west of the
7 Aluktuk River following west 155 south to the unit 26A
8 border with a season date, and I would like to suggest
9 moving August 1 to like July 15, to March 15 and then
10 now we're still under discussion to talk about bag
11 limit of one muskox.

12
13 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, if I may for a
14 moment, please.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: So I just want to
19 clarify. Steve mentioned bag limit/quotas and you can
20 certainly make recommendations, but that's going to be
21 a Board decision about the quotas and stuff.

22
23 And I guess I wanted to clarify the
24 difference between a bag limit and a quota. So a bag
25 limit is how many a hunter can take in a year and/or in
26 a certain defined time period. A quota is how many
27 total can be taken out of the population in a year. So
28 I hear it kind of being used the same as bag limit and
29 it's not the same. So I just want to make sure that
30 that's understood when you're talking about this stuff.

31
32 Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: So listening to you there for a second, Carmen, what would be the quota that you're talking about, I mean, are we -- out of that -- that herd that extends all the way to Point Hope, there's about -- what did you say, about 900 animals?

MS. DAGGETT: So the -- the Cape Thompson population that this proposal is about so the portion of it that's in 26A, the population of -- that's in 26A is 455 muskox. There is a total population including 26A and 23 that's 955. There -- the reason why I'm defining that is the hunt that's in unit 23 right now is built off of the total population amount in unit 23 and how many might be taken out of that, whereas this -- this hunt that's going to be in

26A will most likely be the dynamics of how the decision is going to be made, it's going to be based off how many muskox are in 26A. So 455 are in 26A. That is the most recent population estimate in 26A.

So I just want to be clear about that. And the hunt that already exists out of unit 23, both quotas were based on a survey that was done previous which estimated the total population to be about 550 ox. So it hasn't been readjusted since this last spring to reflect an increase in the population and that's something to consider that those numbers may change just as a result of getting information from the new survey. However that decision is going to be made independent of what this proposal is.

So this proposal, you know, considering a 2 percent harvest and other dynamic things that we know about it, the quota's going to be somewhere probably between six and nine ox for 26A harvest.

And so I hope that's clear. And if you have other questions let me know, I know it's confusing, there's lots of details. So.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MS. DAGGETT:more details than that.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

36 Yeah, go ahead, Steve.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I just want some
39 clarification on the growth of the two herds. And it
40 sounds like they're about half and half at 900, you
41 know, 400 and 400 something. And -- and I heard
42 earlier this morning that the growing rate for these
43 two herds is about a hundred a year. So if that's
44 50/50 so, you know, it -- it sounds -- and then only
45 harvesting six and still having a good number, you
46 know, I mean, the -- you know, we're -- you know, for
47 this whole area we're -- we're asking to amend
48 something for -- within the North Slope area because
49 the muskox I -- I know Point Lay area and further east

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0230

1 where Gordon was talking about the bag limit of one for
2 all these areas and -- or quota should we say, but, you
3 know, having such a low number that was introduced back
4 into our area that is kind of a nuisance at times to
5 animals that we highly depend on for consumption.

6

7 And a animal that we rarely consump --
8 for consumption which is, you know, we're trying to
9 ensure our food security and ensuring that our
10 residents in our outlying villages and -- and that
11 these migration routes are not disturbed by -- whether
12 it's animals that were introduced back into our area
13 and the numbers that are increasing at a rate of a
14 hundred a year, you know, maybe that's part of the
15 deflection also and that yet we keep hearing oh, that
16 there's not very many sporthunters coming in and doing
17 that or aircraft. But it's alarming that, you know, we
18 only have a short quota or small quota for muskox that
19 haven't been here for over 10,000 years or so, you
20 know.

21

22 And -- and now it's -- you know, our
23 way of life for certain people that highly depend, you
24 know, especially the inland people that depend on these
25 migrations of the Western Arctic caribou herd and to
26 bring that, you know, bag limit up and to keep that
27 number at a lower -- you know, it's still stable, it's
28 climbing, climbing, climbing. But we -- we want to
29 ensure that they don't become a full nuisance to the
30 Western Arctic caribou herd and keep them out of
31 certain areas that they were all once in abundance of
32 the -- in the migration.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. So
35 I wanted to hear a little bit from Carmen about the
36 unit 23 allocation quota for -- that sounded like you
37 would need to get a -- that's managed out of Kotzebue
38 sounds like and should this one go through and the

39 Board of Game -- the Federal Subsistence Board move in
40 a way to allow for this, the management of that would
41 be out of Barrow or out of Fairbanks or out of Kotzebue
42 or is that something that.....

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Carmen, you
47 would be administering because you're doing the counts
48 of the North Slope population here?

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0231

1 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, so I -- well,
2 the unit 23 portion of the population is going to be
3 primarily managed by the unit 23 area biologist based
4 in Kotzebue. And, you know, I -- the portion that's
5 based in the Barrow office would be managing the
6 portion that's in 26A and the hunt associated with
7 that. That being said the unit 23 area biologist and
8 the unit 26 area biologist work together to do those
9 surveys and to get them accomplished. And we work with
10 each other to capture the big picture on things. So,
11 you know, the herd that's east of us that's primarily
12 in 26B, that herd is almost exclusively in 26B at this
13 point. All of the information and all the survey work
14 that's been done has indicated a very, very small
15 portion actually migrate over into 26A at this point.
16 So at least that's what I understand. So that herd is
17 primarily managed out of the 26B pop -- out of -- out
18 of the Fairbanks office. And I certainly communicate
19 with Beth about it and we talk about it pretty -- you
20 know, periodically. But it's -- it's mostly in
21 her.....

22

23 (Teleconference interference -
24 participants not muted).

25

26 MS. DAGGETT:at this point. So,
27 you know, I just want to convey that even though we
28 manage the hunts that are in our own game management
29 unit that -- that we are working.....

30

31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted).

33

34 MS. DAGGETT:and then to -- you
35 know, we're communicating with each other and such.

36

37 So I hope that answers your question.
38 Is there more that --that I missed?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No, I mean, that --
41 that's good. I just wanted to get that clear in my

42 mind.

43

44

45 So one -- one more thing is the bag
46 limit versus quota. This piece of regulation proposed
47 a bag limit of one muskox. I'm not sure who wrote this
48 and it's proposed by Alaska Department of Fish and
49 Game, but you bring out a sense of confusion when you
50 talk about the bag limit versus a quota. When I look

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1 at this it's a -- would mean a bag limit of one muskox
2 for a person that might get a harvest ticket or
3 something like that or -- can you talk about that
4 portion itself a little bit more?

5

6

MS. DAGGETT: A good question, Chair.
7 Yes, I certainly can. So the -- okay. So we know at
8 this point that the muskox population (indiscernible)
9 that's why the hunt hasn't been opened for a while,
10 right. So an individual that was interested in
11 harvesting a muskox, if they, you know, went through
12 and applied for the permit they would be issued a
13 permit to take one muskox. You know, you couldn't take
14 more than one of those in a year per hunter.

15

16

17 So, you know, I'm sorry to create
18 confusion with the discussion of quota, but, you know,
19 I just wanted to clarify that there's the amount of
20 muskox that can be taken out of the population from a
21 particular area and then there's like a total amount.
22 So like let's say, you know, there were let's say nine
23 muskox that were available for everyone to apply for
24 from the entire western or from the North Slope
25 basically. And then, you know, each hunter would be
26 able to take one of those, they wouldn't be able to
27 take two. And the only -- and I guess that quota.....

27

28

CHAIRMAN BROWER: My -- my question
29 here -- my question here is is this the wrong language
30 to be used in this, that there might be better
31 direction in this or is this something that we would
32 need to -- I don't want to -- you know, if somebody
33 were to read this yeah, I can get one muskox and then
34 somebody else, my neighbor can get one muskox and --
35 and pretty soon we have 300 people catching one muskox
36 and versus if you happen to win or are selected or you
37 put in for a permit or a tag, that tag process is super
38 controlled, it's not going to go anywhere near damaging
39 the ability for the growth of the herd and the quota
40 might be a total of 40 muskox are able to be used for
41 tags or something like that. I'm -- I'm just putting a
42 number out there arbitrarily.

43

44

MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So, Mr. Chair, I

45 think, you know, that the Board of Game is going to
46 define what that quota ends up being and it's going to
47 be based on the population size and the population
48 dynamics. The bag limit, you know, I don't think that
49 the bag limit is greater than one muskox. Let me look

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's the language to keep on there and the hunt will be crafted entirely differently away from this -- this regulation process?

MS. DAGGETT: I would say that using the word bag limit is a really common language for defining how many a hunter can take in a given time period -- a single hunter could take in a given time period. So bag limit is the correct word if that's your question.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Okay. Very good. So this one is not going to have any affect other than if you're -- if you got -- if you were somehow selected or you applied for a permit as a Federally-qualified user and you got the tag, you can only get one and that's all it means?

MS. DAGGETT: Yep.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MS. DAGGETT: You got it.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead, Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, for people, you know, communities that live with muskox right in their back yard just 10 miles out of the community that are there practically year round and, you know, compared to other communities it's three -- 200 miles away. And we see this on a daily basis, you know, that interfering with other migrations of animals that used to come into our territory. And this is why we want to -- you know, and with a herd that's growing at a rate of 100 per year and only having one harvested, you know, and, you know, there's concerns there. And there's -- we like to eat muskox, muskox is very edible. They taste pretty good. And -- and when we're limited, especially when they're in our back yard and we can get in trouble and they are a nuisance to

48 the animals that we depend on that we can get to
49 harvest three to five a day and that are interfering
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0234

1 with the migration of certain animals that we highly
2 depend on.

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And the Board of.....

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.

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MR. OOMITTUK:and the -- I don't
know if Alaska Department of Fish and Game have
anything to say on this. I -- I know they're online.

15

16

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
Steve.

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MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I can.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe.....

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MS. DAGGETT:I can try.....

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(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

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CHAIRMAN BROWER:before you --
before you respond I just wanted to try to -- for my
understanding.

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Let's say out of the management of the
herd, you know, we try to use the terms like
harvestable surplus or sustained yield principle so
that the herd can continue to produce and flourish. So
there's only a certain amount of animals that can be
taken population wise between those two muskox herds.
And we're differentiating unit 26A has about 400 and
then -- and then unit 23 has about 300, something to
that effect. And there -- there's only a certain
amount that maybe by community will be allotted to
take. Like let's just say Point Hope gets 20 tags and
whoever gets a tag for that -- you know, the muskox was
an endangered species for a long time and there was --
it was protected for -- since I was a kid anyway. I
mean, it's been -- muskox have been protected for 40
years, no hunting, very slow growth and real
suspectable to predation as well. We watch the grizzly
bears and wolves and other things watch these things.
I even watch a grizzly bear killed one before.

0235

1 And let's just say that the communities
2 would get a portion of the allowable harvestable
3 surplus which could be -- in my view could be like 70
4 maybe. And if you -- out of a total population of that
5 size and then allocate by community, it could be that
6 maybe Point Hope gets 20 tags. And then it's a matter
7 of -- I don't know if it's first come, first serve to
8 get a tag, but once you get a tag our regulations say
9 you can get one muskox if you got a tag. But 20 other
10 people in your community might get their own tag and
11 they're capable of getting one muskox as well. That's
12 what I'm kind of seeing how this would work to -- to
13 not allow the herd of muskox that's been protected for,
14 you know, well over 40 years in my view to continue to
15 try to keep growing to maybe to look at the harvest
16 surplus of what they're producing. If they're
17 producing at a recruitment rate of a hundred new ones
18 every year maybe half of that would be a harvestable
19 surplus, maybe we would be able to harvest maybe 50
20 throughout the region.

21

22 And -- and also we should define in
23 this regulation what it is. It should just probably be
24 a muskox unaccompanied by a calf, a calf should not be
25 part of this because we see a lot of little calves here
26 and there and but they're hard to distinguish sometimes
27 between a bull and a cow. But if it has a calf the --
28 the cow/calf pair should not be disturbed in my view.

29

30 I hope that helps and I think maybe
31 Carmen was going to add.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted).

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36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Carmen, if you
37 think I -- if I kind of was on the right track say so
38 as well.

39

40 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
41 helping to try to explain that a little bit more. I
42 guess I just want to be clear about -- I don't know, 50
43 percent of the -- the growth each year is a pretty high
44 amount to expect. You know, certainly the -- the
45 information that we have from managing other muskox
46 herds, you know, suggests that, you know, a 2 percent
47 harvest rate is more of what is generally accepted
48 right now for muskox management in the rest of the
49 State.

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0236

1 And -- and this population, I guess one
2 thing I don't have a good sense of, but is something

3 that is in the back of my mind is, you know, the level
4 of interest people are going to have and then also how
5 many people are going to go through the efforts to get
6 permits instead of just going in and hunting without a
7 permit and so not reporting harvest. And those are
8 things that you don't have control over necessarily
9 other than to try to do your best with education and
10 outreach. But they do have an impact on the population
11 as a whole when people take animals out of a population
12 and don't report harvest you -- it -- you have to
13 account for that somehow. And -- and with a population
14 that's still growing and -- you know, and not really a
15 high population, you can't -- you can't not take those
16 things into account.

17
18 And so I think, you know, the idea of
19 harvesting extremely liberally is -- seems like is, you
20 know, maybe being suggested that, you know, we can't
21 really do that with muskox. And you're -- you're right
22 about, you know, certainly considering all those
23 different aspects of operation dynamics, whether
24 they're -- you know, how quickly they're growing and
25 the predation of things and all those things have to
26 kind of being taken into account too.

27
28 And the other thing is that we don't do
29 surveys every year for this population. We do it every
30 three to five years. So we wouldn't necessarily know
31 the impact of some of these things until several years
32 later. So that's another consideration.

33
34 So I guess, you know, ultimately quotas
35 and things like that, those are generally set by the
36 Board of Game for how many can be taken out of the
37 population. And, you know, like I said you can make
38 your recommendation, but the Board of Game is going to
39 make those decisions.

40
41 So, you know, yeah, and -- and as far
42 as bag limit goes, you know, and between 23 and 26A,
43 you know, Point Hope is going to have two different
44 hunts they can choose from to try to get permits from
45 because they're in close proximity to those two
46 different management units. So they could try for the
47 unit 23 permit and when we get this hunt open they
48 could be eligible to try for the 26A permit too. So
49 have a couple of options to try for.

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0237

1 And they could still request, you know,
2 if they have some nuisance issues before we get this
3 hunt open, you know, they should contact me directly
4 and we can try to see if an emergency order is
5 appropriate. But those things are -- the emergency

6 order openings are kind of made on a case by case basis
7 and you need to involve the Barrow office. And they
8 can't -- it's already done in unit 23, they're --
9 they're really -- it's 26A reg that allows us to do
10 that. So I want to be clear about that one too.

11

12 So I hope that answers those questions,
13 helps clarify things and not muddy the water any more.
14 But -- yeah.

15

16 That's all I've got.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. It's
19 clear as mud.

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, thank you for
22 that. And, you know, I -- I know that -- well, Mr.
23 Chair, just for the record, sorry, but this is Steve
24 here. I -- I know that it's proposed by the Alaska
25 Department of Fish and Game. And -- and I see on our
26 agenda that for agency reports that the Board of Game
27 is -- I don't know if they're online, but they are
28 going to do a report on ACR-4, open for muskox hunt in
29 26A. I know Board of Game is on there and you
30 mentioned something about, you know, bag limit or quota
31 that would have to come under Board of Game. And, you
32 know, while we're on this discussion, I don't know if
33 they have anything to say on this amendment, what's --
34 what's the guidelines that we have to follow if we are
35 -- I don't know if Fish and Game would approve these
36 amendments, it's their proposal so they are online
37 also. So I haven't heard from them if any.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
40 Steve. Normally we would hear some justification on
41 who's opposing or -- or who's for something. And --
42 and -- and I think this proposal is also deferred to --
43 deferred as well, if -- I was trying to remember if
44 this is one of the ones that were deferred to March of
45 '22 by the Board of Game to take it up then.

46

47 And maybe Carmen or somebody could
48 respond, but it's still a proposal in front of the --
49 we could take action, we could modify it, we can make

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0238

1 it to our liking, we can copy it and make it into a --
2 into our own regs.

3

4 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is
5 Carmen. So I wanted to clarify for Steve, you know,
6 that I'm working for Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 and that this proposal was done as an agenda change
8 request to open this hunt because, you know, the -- the

9 survey suggested that we did in 2020 that the
10 population had increased and we wanted to be able to
11 make the hunt available sooner and take the proposal up
12 out of the normal cycle, the normal Board of Game cycle
13 so that it could be opened sooner for residents. So
14 the agenda change request process is how you do it and
15 that's why it's labeled ACR. ACR stands for agenda
16 change request. So hopefully that clarifies the reason
17 why it went through that process.

18
19 And you're absolutely correct, it -- at
20 the last Board meeting that they had or they -- or they
21 did a work session and they made a decision about what
22 proposals they were going to take up this March at the
23 statewide meeting and what proposals were going to be
24 dealt with later. And so what the Board decided was
25 that they were going to take up the proposals that were
26 statutory requirements like the antlerless moose auth
27 -- reauthorization, the brown bear tag fee exemption
28 proposal, but that they were not going to deal with
29 this agenda change request until 2022. So we do have
30 some time to discuss this proposal further if needed.
31 As Gordon pointed out you can certainly, you know, vote
32 on it and give your comments now if you like.

33
34 So I think that answers all those
35 questions. Please let me know if you have anything
36 further.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
39 Carmen. And those are good, important things to
40 remember because this one, I mean, we still have time,
41 we can even take it up in the fall meeting and the
42 Board of Game would take it up in their March, 2022
43 period because it's been deferred a year.

44
45 So with that and I think I'm
46 comfortable with a bag limit of one muskox because they
47 have yet to determine how and what the quota might be
48 and that's a Board of Game decision. And once the
49 Board of Game decides in 2022 on the amount. And, you

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0239
1 know, I -- you know, I just pulled a number out of a
2 hat when I said, you know -- you know, maybe 50
3 percent. I mean, that's like an impossible number
4 according to Carmen, that, you know, we would never use
5 50 percent of the recruitment rate, more like a
6 fraction of that sounds like if were to the principle
7 ideology.

8
9 So with that what's the wish of the
10 Council. We've made -- we're on the amendment, we're
11 still on the amendment.

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MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So far we've made an amendment to.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:to Aluktuk River and west 155 south to the unit 26A border and then August 1 to March 15 a bag limit of one so far.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the record.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: I just wanted to further comment. I -- I know we've talked about, you know, muskox because we do have muskox regularly in our community when they have porcupine quills on them and they're roaming around right inside of town and -- and to harvest that. And -- and we were told to call either Carmen or somebody else, but and if we can't do that that we wouldn't -- I mean, I'm just trying to get a clarification that if we were to harvest it we're not going to get in trouble as long as we report it. And -- and because it -- it could be a danger to life within our community, especially to the younger generation, to the kids that are playing out. It's -- we had some close calls in the past that -- because muskox can charge a man.

So I just want to get clarification when I do my report to the tribe -- to the Council that if a muskox is in town and is putting danger in life that we have the right to put it at ease and -- and harvest it for consumption for the community without

getting in trouble and because there's only one -- it's only going to be one for that.

But thank you. And if there's nothing else I would call for the question.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The question has been called for on the amendment to proposal 193 to read as open a hunt in that portion of unit 26A west of the Aluktuk River following west 155 south to the unit 26A border with season dates of August 1 to March 15 and a bag limit of one muskox.

All those in favor of the amendment

15 signify by saying aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed

20 same sign.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the

25 amendment has passed. And we're on the discussion

26 still on proposal 193 as amended.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Call for the question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been

31 called for on the main motion to adopt proposal 193 as

32 amended. All those in favor of adopting that proposal

33 signify by saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,

38 same sign.

39

40 (No opposing votes)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Proposal 193 has

43 passed the Regional Advisory Council with an amendment.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48 This is Eva.

49

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0241

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, we
2 got that and I think there was one more.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
5 Eva. The Council did discuss earlier wanting to submit
6 a same proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board. And
7 so now would be the time to do that. The Council could
8 simply make a motion to submit identical proposal to
9 Board of Game's proposal 193 to the Federal Subsistence
10 Board if the Council wishes.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
13 the Council.

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is

16 Steve.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an
22 opportunity to make a motion to adopt.....

23
24 (Teleconference interference -
25 participants not muted).

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: I think that was Steve.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve.
32 And I think.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK:I think the ones
37 that I was thinking of proposing I covered in -- in
38 some of these proposals that were passed and that were
39 supported by other areas, our neighboring friends in
40 unit 23 area with caribou.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. Is
43 there any other proposals? I know we did mention about
44 looking at proposal 193 as we amended that, that the
45 possibility of moving that as a proposal -- as a
46 Federal wildlife proposal because this is one -- will
47 go to the Board of Game. And just if we make a Federal
48 wildlife proposal it would go to the, you know, a
49 Federal -- Federal Board, the Federal Subsistence
50

0242
1 Board.

2
3 So with that.....

4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, with that
6 being said.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER:if there are no
9 other.....

10
11 MR. OOMITTUK:I -- I would
12 support.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

15
16 MR. OOMITTUK:having our own
17 quota for the North Slope.....

18
19 (Teleconference interference -
20 participants not muted).

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MR. OOMITTUK:lines for muskox harvest. Is that what you were suggesting earlier that -- that we have our similar proposal for harvesting of muskox within North Slope Borough with 26A and unit 23 within the boundary lines of the North Slope, was that suggested earlier?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, yeah, Steve, I think we -- we looked at this muskox proposal from the ADF&G and it might be prudent for us to have an exact replica of this proposal like a proposal from one of the Council members could be that we propose that proposal 193 in its entirety be proposed under the Federal management.

MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on the floor to propose that a open -- open a hunt in that portion of unit 26A west, west of the Aluktuk River following west 155 south to the unit 26A border with season dates of August 1 to March 15 and a bag limit of one muskox. There's a motion on the floor.

MS. KIPPI: Second.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Seconded by Wanda from Atqasuk. Any discussion.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would.....

MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:I was going to see if we wanted to make sure that this was for Federally-qualified users to -- under that regulation that it would be because it's a very limited hunt. The -- did it go through the Board of Game it would probably be a tier two hunt. And -- and this one should have some stringent regulation that it's for a Federally-qualified user.

Well, did somebody call for the question.

MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, can you help us
26 out.....
27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted).
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER:on where we're
32 at.....
33
34 MR. OOMITTUK: I would agree with that.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER:on the motion
37 that there's a motion to do something maybe about the
38 Federally-qualified users that might be the minor
39 language revision for a proposal that would affect the
40 Federal wildlife proposal?
41
42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
43 Council. So I -- so in submitting this proposal with
44 the same language that you have just referenced from
45 the Board of Game proposal 193, that will be submitted
46 to the Federal Subsistence Board and so that will
47 encompass Federal subsistence regulations and if
48 adopted that would mean a muskox hunt for Federally-
49 qualified subsistence users on Federal lands within
50
0244
1 unit 26A. So you don't need to add that.....
2
3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted).
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
7 you, Eva. Very good. Make me happy.
8 Okay.
9
10 MS. PATTON: And maybe just.....
11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted).
14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, the question's
16 been called for.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those in favor --
21 yeah, go ahead.
22
23 MS. PATTON: I was just reconfirming
24 when you read the amendment into the record you had
25 said the unit 26 west of the Aluktuk River again?
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.
28
29 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you for that
30 clarification.
31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And west 155 south.
33
34 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the question's
37 been called for. All those.....
38
39 (Teleconference interference -
40 participants not muted).
41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:of submitting a
43 Federal wildlife proposal for a hunt in that portion of
44 unit 26A west of the Aluktuk River following west 155
45 south to the unit 26A border with a season date of
46 August 1 and March 15 and a bag limit of one muskox
47 signify by saying aye.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50
0245
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
2 same sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
7 you very much. The ayes have it.
8
9 And I know we discussed a little bit
10 about unit 23, but it -- it seems to me there was
11 another provision for unit 23 and then they would be
12 able to request through both of these vehicles for the
13 muskox. So there wasn't a need to make another
14 proposal because there -- there's still another avenue
15 for muskox for Point Hope.
16
17 With that does that conclude our Board
18 of Game proposals?
19
20 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair. The
21 Council had discussed all the other ones yesterday,
22 took action on some and deferred a couple that the
23 Council would have time to review and take up at your
24 fall meeting.
25
26 So that concludes the Board of Game
27 proposals. And the Federal subsistence proposals that
28 the Council had brought up that you would like to
29 address, I just want to highlight that the call for

30 Federal subsistence proposals was just published today
31 and that starts a 90 day comment period for people to
32 be able to submit proposals. So if any of you as
33 Council members, as individuals, your community, your
34 tribe, people in the region, would like to submit a
35 Federal subsistence proposal then there will be time to
36 do that in the next 90 days. And so just to keep in
37 mind if you get any feedback from your communities or
38 there's issues of concern or interest that arise,
39 you're always welcome to contact us at OSM and we can
40 assist the public with -- with submitting proposals as
41 well.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

44

45 MS. PATTON: And then all of the
46 proposals will come before the Council at your fall
47 meeting for review.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

0246

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I also wanted
2 to entertain the Council on the moose. I know the --
3 the Board of -- the ADF&G submitted a proposed moose
4 and we -- and it was a annual reauthorization and it'll
5 come up again next year and then the next year and then
6 the next year. I'd like to see about putting a Federal
7 wildlife proposal that mirrors the ADF&G proposed, but
8 with some slight modifications to it for a Federal
9 wildlife proposal to -- to the antlerless moose season
10 in the portion of unit 26A west of the Aluktuk River
11 and that -- that goes along -- going further to 155
12 south to the -- to the border of the unit 26A boundary
13 and excluding the Colville River drainage as a Federal
14 wildlife proposal. And -- and mirroring the language
15 and the harvest, historical estimate language, between
16 the surveys and -- and abundance of those resources and
17 incorporating all of that other language in the Board
18 of Game proposal. And mirroring all of that, but to
19 create a Federal version of that that goes along the
20 Aluktuk River, going 155 south thereafter to the border
21 of the unit 26A unit border excluding the Colville
22 River drainage.

23

24 What say ye?

25

26 MS. KIPPI: That sounds like a plan,
27 Mr. Chair. I like that idea. I think it'll help with
28 most of the subsistence hunters along that way.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that in the form
31 of a motion?

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Yes, sir.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

36

37 (Teleconference interference -

38 participants not muted).

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
41 the floor to submit a Federal wildlife proposal by
42 Wanda from Atqasuk for moose or antlerless moose season
43 in that portion of unit 26A.....

44

45 (Teleconference interference -

46 participants not muted).

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER:south to the
49 unit 26A border excluding the Colville River.

50

0247

1 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I have a.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is
6 Carmen. I have a few things I just want to make sure
7 that get added to this.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll do that under
10 discussion because I -- we're in a motion right now.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Second the motion and go
13 into discussion.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
16 Point Hope. We're under discussion.

17

18 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, so I just
19 wanted to say two things. First of all that currently
20 the State and Federal regulations are in alignment with
21 each other and this would put them out of alignment
22 with each other. So I just want to point that out.
23 And I say that because when we're explaining things to
24 hunters things are kind of confusing to start with and
25 when we add more complications between State and
26 Federal regs it makes it even more difficult for
27 hunters. So I just want to make that one point.

28

29 And then I also wanted to just remind
30 you when we discuss the boundary, information about
31 muskox that natural boundary that you talked about was
32 -- the point was to exclude the Ikpikpuk River delta.
33 The biological concern behind the antlerless moose hunt
34 boundary are that there are breeding females on the
35 Chipp River and this would make those breeding females

36 exposed to being able to be harvested. And that was in
37 a population that's low.

38

39 So I just want to make those two points
40 known when we're talking about this because we talked
41 about a lot today and I'm just trying to clarify those
42 two things.

43

44 That's it. Thanks.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
47 And those are good points in -- in looking at that.
48 And I think we're fully understanding through the whole
49 day, even a couple days of talking about the

50

0248

1 reauthorization and what that means in -- you know,
2 sometimes at least during my tenure, I've been, you
3 know, trying to do some of these things on behalf of
4 residents for, you know, 20 years. And that sometimes
5 it's okay to not be completely aligned in one area and
6 -- and allow for the flexibility to either hunt under
7 Federal regs or under the State. So it's important to
8 recognize that so that we're not -- you know, it -- you
9 know, that we're not hamstrung in a way that some feel
10 it becomes.

11

12 When you're looking at breeding
13 populations, I don't see any moose on Chipp River, you
14 got to go to Ikpikpuk, another 60 miles up river in
15 order to go to Ikpikpuk to -- to do the -- to even try
16 to harvest. And the amount of resources that is
17 expended to go that far and by the way when you're in
18 Chipp River you're already 60 and 70 miles from Barrow.
19 And then to go to Ikpikpuk which is -- the Chipp
20 River's just a tributary of the Ikpikpuk going further
21 up around the Price River, around Maybe Creek,
22 Tittaaliq, (in Native) area, those are very, very hard
23 to reach. You got to have so much resources to even
24 get up in those areas and that's where the breeding
25 population is -- is up there. And if there is a bull
26 moose provision and we don't hardly ever see those, I'm
27 not saying, you know, they're not there, and it -- then
28 you found a lone antlerless moose and -- and we should
29 be able to -- we should be able to take that.

30

31 And -- and I don't think moving the
32 line from Topagoruk to -- to the Chipp or the Aluktuk
33 and then 155 doesn't contribute any more than what
34 we're already struggling with with populations of moose
35 that fluctuates so dramatically over the last 15 years,
36 we've had 1,200 moose and maybe there was a liberal
37 management going on, who knows what was the point of
38 decline, but in all the 20, 30 years, 40 years I've

39 been in the Chipp I've never caught one moose. Never.
40 Never caught one moose. And so it's important to look
41 at some -- I've always been blessed with nephews that
42 sat -- went up to areas where it was harvested that far
43 and then being able to harvest.

44
45 So I appreciate your sentiments, I
46 appreciate the dialogue that you bring in terms of
47 looking at mating pairs or whatever you're going to
48 call it and but it -- it's important to reflect on
49 those as well.

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0249

1 Thank you.

2
3 So that was -- we're still under
4 discussion. Any other discussion. Any other
5 discussion on the proposal we're on.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Question's called for.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
10 called for. All those in favor for a Federal wildlife
11 proposal that includes the antlerless moose season in
12 that portion of unit 26A west of the Aluktuk River and
13 thereafter west 155 south to the unit 26A border,
14 excluding the Colville River drainage signify by saying
15 aye.

16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
20 same sign.

21
22 (No opposing votes)

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
25 ayes have it. The proposal has been made and passed by
26 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

27
28 Thank you very much.

29
30 Any other proposals to be made for
31 Federal Wildlife proposals?

32
33 REPORTER: Gordon, this is Tina, the
34 reporter. Could I just stop and ask if people could
35 please mute their phones, we're getting some background
36 conversations going on.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tina.
41 Please listen to the recorder lady, she's very serious,

42 going get us.

43

44 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. I keep hearing
45 people talk behind -- behind my speaker.

46

47 Thank you, Tina.

48 REPORTER: You're welcome.

49

50

0250

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, with that I
2 think we should move o to item 12, agency reports.
3 Time limit 15 minutes unless approved in advance.

4

5 So I'm going to go down to tribal
6 governments. Do we have any agency reports that
7 include the tribal governments.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 Thank you. Unless we have someone that's joined us
11 online now, when we outreached most folks were busy
12 with other obligations at this time. So and also have
13 rescheduled a report from ICAS for the fall meeting too
14 when the timing might work out better.

15

16 So I'll just check online and see if we
17 have any tribal governments or representatives from
18 Native organizations online at this time.

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve
21 Oomittuk. Just for the record I'm going to take my hat
22 off as president of the Native Village of Point Hope.
23 I think we discussed a lot of things that we have
24 concerns about. And especially with the muskox and --
25 and finding out that, you know, getting numbers or, you
26 know, if we do have a muskox in our.....

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted).

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK:and like I said we
32 get them, you know, at least once every few years or
33 sometimes a year and they -- like I said they
34 practically live right 10 miles out of our community,
35 about a herd of about 50, 60 almost full-time that
36 don't go very farther than the -- up towards Cape
37 Thompson area.

38

39 Sheep are starting to come back into
40 our area and up towards Cape Lisburne area, they're
41 seeing more and more sheep over there.

42

43 And I understand you have a limit on
44 lynx and there's some lynx that have been seen right in

45 our area that haven't seen any lynx.

46

47

48 An abundance of wolves are still being
49 caught and wolverines within our area. We've never
50 seen so much in the last five years. But they're

51

0251

1 getting more and more wolves and wolverines out there
2 and like I said lynx.

3

4

5 But thank you. And there is some polar
6 bears that have been coming to town the last few days.
7 And then I would -- we do have polar bear patrol, but
8 there was some questions asked, you know, if there's
9 any other grants available that help patrol polar bears
10 or -- or any type animal that might be coming in. We
11 have polar bear patrol, but we're limited, you know,
12 with the wildlife and the -- it's not covered, only
13 about 16 hours a day. Some people were concerned
14 because there's a number of tracks on the outlying of
15 Point Hope and -- and there for a while polar bear
16 patrol only ended until 4:00 a.m. And then a lot of
17 our students walk to school and there was several polar
18 bears in town. Now we have funding to cover until 9:00
19 a.m., by the time kids go to school. But polar bears
20 are in the area, just right on the outside of Point
21 Hope. And one actually came into town just a couple
22 days ago. Somebody got a shot out, didn't hit it, it
23 was during the night, about 10:00 in the evening on
24 Saturday night.

24

25

26 But, you know, we had a bunch of open
27 water, you know, the winter ducks that are normally in
28 small numbers this time of the year because certain
29 ducks that spend the winters are by this time of the
30 year normally we just see a small flock of about 50 to
31 100, and we just saw a flock of about a thousand. And
32 we had open water a majority of the winter. And the
33 only time they're flying around is when there's little
34 open water, they're looking for open water for their
35 food source.

35

36

37 And we finally -- our ice finally froze
38 on the south side and we finally seen some tall ridges.
39 It's been pretty flat ice out there, (in Native) we
40 call them where there's a bunch of ice, but right now
41 there's a -- we're experiencing a lot of south winds
42 right now. We had the majority of our winds from the
43 north and from the east all winter. And that kept our
44 south ocean free of ice about a mile out.....

44

45

46

47

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

48 MR. OOMITTUK:a couple hundred
49 thousand or what -- what -- when you say how many feet
50
0252
1 out there, 200 yards, 300 yards.

2
3 But we're looking forward to an
4 abundance of animals. It was really fortunate we got
5 12 whales last year and finally seen some belugas in
6 the area.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Native
11 Village of Point Hope.

12
13 So with that any other tribal
14 governments or Native organizations reports? And we'll
15 still have an opportunity later in the fall, sounds
16 ICAS will bring their report in the -- in the fall.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going
21 to go down the line. North Slope Borough Department of
22 Wildlife.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair
27 and.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any representatives
30 from -- yeah, go ahead.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I hadn't heard back
33 confirmation from them as well. I haven't heard Brian
34 online. But just call them again one last time, North
35 Slope Borough Wildlife Department.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
38 none, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, wildlife
39 updates, I think we did some of that so I'm going to
40 leave that to Carmen if we concluded that.

41
42 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, thank you. I
43 think we covered everything that we needed to cover as
44 long as you're aware that there was the Dalton Highway
45 corridor discussion too, but that is again going to be
46 taken up in 2022. And that discussion is pretty
47 detailed and it's about details I'm not entirely really
48 comfortable talking about.

49
50

0253

1 So, you know, Glenn is really the
2 expert on that proposal. And I guess if you guys
3 wanted to have a discussion about that proposal at some
4 point it might be prudent to have him participate in
5 that discussion. But at this point I think we've had a
6 pretty extensive discussion about lots of issues today
7 and I think -- I don't have anything else to add other
8 than that.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
13 And it's been interesting and very extensive in my --
14 in my view. And we appreciate all that.

15

16 So with that, BLM, Bureau of Land
17 Management, NPR-A Arctic Field Office.

18

19 MS. SAVAGE: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
20 and Council members. This is Heather Savage, wildlife
21 biologist for the Arctic District Office. And I do
22 have a brief update if you have time for me.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. And was there
25 anything in the handouts that we should be pointed to
26 or.....

27

28 MS. SAVAGE: Yes. I don't have page
29 numbers unfortunately, but there's just a few updates.
30 Mostly what's in the handbook is the same as what was
31 handed out in November last year. There's just a few
32 small updates and I can go through them.

33

34 First there was a record of decision
35 that was issued in December for the 2020 NPR-A
36 integrated activity plan and associated environmental
37 impact statement that was published in June, 2020. As
38 you know this included many changes from the 2014 EIS
39 and these were discussed in November. Additional
40 details can be found online on the NEPA register if you
41 need to review those details.

42

43 Secondly we tend to alternate between
44 wildlife updates and fisheries updates and in November
45 it was a wildlife update, but unfortunately I was out
46 of town and February was supposed to be the fisheries
47 update, but unfortunately our fisheries person has
48 training that she needed to attend to so I'm giving the
49 fisheries update.

50

0254

1 There weren't any big changes to what
2 was in the provided document on that, but we did add

3 some more details and a few pictures. So if you wanted
4 to go in and review that it might give you more insight
5 into what we've been doing in that area. Notably
6 there's a more detailed map of study areas that we
7 added to provide a better idea of study site locations
8 for documenting baseline conditions.

9
10 And then the other two fisheries
11 projects involve the BLM funded Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game Nuiqsut subsistence fishery study as well
13 an NPR-A historical fish data entry contract that was
14 reawarded to Kramer and Associates and it's slated to
15 start this year.

16
17 So that's the updates to what we
18 provided and then in addition to those updates to the
19 material that we'd already presented there were --
20 there have been a few new applications that we received
21 so far this year.

22
23 First off North Slope Borough has
24 submitted a request to amend the right-of-way to add
25 two new snow trails. This includes a new route from
26 Wainwright to Point Lay as well as a more traditional
27 route to Wainwright from Utqiagvik. The request would
28 also add three safety shelters on these trails. So one
29 would be on the traditional Wainwright route and two
30 would be on the route between Wainwright and Point Lay.

31
32 So next ASTAC submitted a right-of-way
33 application for the use of (indiscernible) for the
34 purpose of supporting logistics for their fiber optic
35 operations and projects. ASTAC plans to use an
36 improved low impact tundra vehicle to navigate trails
37 while hauling freight and transporting crew.

38
39 The University of Alaska Museum has
40 also submitted an application to renew a land use
41 permit for paleontological work under Dr. Druckenmiller
42 along Colville River and the NPR-A. This proposed work
43 would be conducted in March of each year. And my
44 understanding is that Dr. Druckenmiller has quite a
45 history of doing research along the Colville River so I
46 don't think that's anything new necessarily.

47
48 And then the last new application was
49 from Alaska West Express Lynden Corporation which has

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0255

1 submitted a right-of-way amendment application to amend
2 the current right-of-way to include two additional
3 routes for delivering BLM housing to field camps in
4 2021. This includes a snow trail from the
5 (indiscernible) to Inigok air strip and to Umiat. And

6 it'll involve two to three pistonbullies with attached
7 sleighs that will be used to transport the housing
8 unit.

9
10 And then lastly something that might be
11 of interest to the Council is the Arctic District
12 Office is in the process of hiring a new subsistence
13 specialist and interviews have been conducted. I was
14 on that interview committee and we're expecting to make
15 a decision this week on that. So we're hoping by mid
16 year we'll have someone in that position.

17
18 And that's all I have. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Put it on
21 mute, I hear Russia hasn't done it and all that kind of
22 stuff.

23
24 REPORTER: Thank you, Gordon.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any
27 questions for the BLM folks?

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have one. And
32 this is in regards to probably your cousins at BLM
33 Yukon and I'm pretty sure you guys might be close
34 quartered somehow. In relationship to I think a
35 resource management plan on the Dalton corridor.

36
37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm trying to
40 find my.....

41
42 Yeah, go ahead.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Hi, Gordon. This is Eva.
45 I just wanted to let you know, we just got confirmation
46 that we have Michelle from the BLM Central Yukon Office
47 online now and available to address that brief overview
48 of that resource management plan if the Council wishes.

49
50
0256
1 Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
4 before we go to the Yukon Central folks was there any
5 questions for the Northern Field Office for BLM?

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve for
8 the record.....

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(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or the Arctic.....

MR. OOMITTUK:from Point Hope.

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know, there's always been a lot of concern when BLM is out there especially when they're doing their annual surveys yearly especially in unit 23. Usually around in July especially when that Western Arctic caribou herd is working its way south and they're out there roaming around with helicopters and dropping off certain barrels of fuel in certain.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MR. OOMITTUK:roaming around in the area. And -- and then that's -- you know, it's observed by a lot of our hunters that they see whether it's BLM in helicopters, we understand BLM at one time was out there and whether they still do that and it's just -- like I said it's right in the time of the migration route for the Western Arctic caribou herd to move south and come into Point Hope area. And there for a while, you know, we didn't -- we didn't see very much caribou. But the last two years I don't know if they changed their timing or what, but seems like we're getting more caribou lately.

But I -- if -- if that's the case I

want to thank BLM for listening to us several years ago.

MS. SAVAGE: Thank you. Glad to hear it. I think it varies depending on what projects we have going on. This year we have one project that will involve some fixed-wing aircraft, but it's in short duration. So two weeks and it's also going to be in the winter, so February and March. And that'll be along the (indiscernible) to take some imagery so that we get a better idea of snowload and where a good

12 placement for (indiscernible) would be in the future.

13

14 But that's the only project I can think
15 of that involves aircraft. So glad to hear that herd
16 numbers have been a little bit better.

17

18 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, may I say
19 something quickly? This is Carmen with Fish and Game.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. So I just wanted
24 to address some aircraft potential use in July that
25 Steve is bringing up. And, you know, that time frame
26 at the beginning of July, end of June sort of time
27 frame is when we're actually trying to do the photo
28 census on the Western Arctic herd. So it is possible
29 that, you know, the area in the Utukok Hills and, you
30 know, going that direction through Eagle Creek and
31 stuff. Even though that might not be BLM related work,
32 Fish and Game is certainly doing that photo census
33 work. So, you know, you may see some aircraft that are
34 Fish and Game related during that time period that are
35 doing photo census or trying to get a caribou count on
36 the Western Arctic herd.

37

38 So just keep that in mind when you see
39 those airplanes in -- in late June and early July. If
40 there's issues and concerns about for hunters you
41 should contact the Kotzebue office regarding any of
42 those concerns, but realize that we're out there
43 working for you, trying to get the numbers that you
44 need to make the decisions that you're making.

45

46 So that's that. Thank you.

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, can I just
49 comment on that?

50

0258

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
2 Steve.

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: And yeah, thank you for
5 that. And, you know, we -- we try to urge the hunters
6 to get the tail numbers and if they could specify
7 either BLM or -- or Fish and Game on what kind of
8 aircraft they use or what color so that we can better
9 know who's flying out there, whether it's a
10 sporthunter, because we have people with their own
11 private aircraft in Kotzebue area and some of the
12 outlying villages. And then therefore we had somebody
13 here in Point Hope that has their own aircraft and was
14 giving flying lessons to local people to help them out.

15 But, you know, if we could get a -- what kind of plane
16 they're flying out there or what color or -- I know we
17 always try to look for the tail numbers and get the
18 numbers because they're usually written, you know, in
19 big black numbers and letters.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Steve. Duly
24 noted.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
27 questions to the Arctic Field Office of BLM before we
28 engage with the Yukon -- Central Yukon folks?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having -- having none
33 and we appreciate your report from the Arctic office.

34

35 So we did have some comments come in
36 and that we read into the record earlier from Jack
37 Reakoff as public comments to the -- during yesterday's
38 section on -- section 9, public and tribal comments on
39 nonagenda items. And it fit in there so we read the
40 comments offered by Jack Reakoff who is the Councilman
41 from the Western Interior Council RAC and I could
42 reread those into the record or maybe we can have the
43 Central -- BLM Central Yukon staff talk about what the
44 BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Plan EIS is
45 doing. And the concern was raised that a portion of
46 that corridor is on Federal lands within region 10
47 which is the North Slope, with -- within our purview,
48 but it was not on a -- not on our radar. And Jack
49 Reakoff had reached out to us to make us more aware and

50

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1 then we may have misunderstood him when he first
2 approached us about -- about it and the concerns.

3

4 And so with that I'm going to ask the
5 Central Yukon folks to chime in.

6

7 BLM.

8

9 MS. ETHUN: Yep. Certainly. Thank
10 you, Mr. Chairman. Appreciate it. So my name is
11 Michelle Ethun and I am the project manager and the
12 district planner for the Fairbanks District and the
13 project manager for the Central Yukon RMP EIS which is
14 a large land use plan. And what Mr. Reakoff was
15 referring to is that we are in the -- within the 90 day
16 public comment period for the draft RMP EIS. That 90
17 day public comment period started on December 11th and

18 it ends on March 11. We had a series of seven virtual
19 meetings because with Covid we weren't traveling out to
20 communities so we did virtual public house meetings and
21 then we happened to have a virtual open house website
22 which provides some more information. And I can get
23 that link to the subsistence RAC coordinator so that
24 she can distribute it to everybody as well as the
25 project website.

26
27 The land use plan itself covers 13.2
28 million acres of BLM managed land, but the planning
29 area is quite large, it does reach up into the North
30 Slope. However the extent of the BLM managed land is
31 really up into the Nigu and the Central Arctic
32 management area wilderness study area. That's about
33 the -- the furthest north. And then reaches down
34 beneath the Yukon River to the villages of -- well,
35 Koyukuk, Ruby, Galena and then down into Fairbanks if
36 anybody can visualize sort of that landscape.

37
38
39 The area in particular that I am --
40 would assume Mr. Reakoff read about was land pattern
41 changes, potential changes, along the Dalton Highway
42 corridor. And within the draft RMP EIS there are --
43 there are proposed changes to existing land.....

44
45 (Teleconference interference -
46 participants not muted).

47
48 MS. ETHUN:and two types in
49 particular. One is the ANCSA 17D-1 which some of the

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0260
1 Council members may be familiar with those. Obviously
2 they were set aside for the purposes of Native
3 corporation selection. So in all of the range of
4 action alternatives there is a BLM proposal to -- for
5 the Secretary of Interior to revoke or lift those
6 land withdrawals because they have met their purpose
7 and the selections are -- have been -- have been met
8 even though the specific allotments have not all been
9 conveyed.

10
11 The one in particular that Mr. Reakoff
12 is likely referring to is also a land withdrawal and
13 that is PLO-5150. And that is the area of land that
14 was withdrawn 10 days after ANCSA so in 1971 for the
15 purposes of a utility and transportation corridor in
16 support of ANCSA 17C. And it covers the area that we
17 now know as the Dalton Highway corridor including the
18 Trans Alaska Pipeline.

19
20 And in all of the action alternatives,

21 and there's four action alternatives. There's B, C1,
22 C2 and D. In all of the action alternatives BLM is
23 proposing that the -- the outer corridor and pardon me,
24 I'm going to back up. PLO-5150 is divided into an
25 inner corridor and an outer corridor and some of you on
26 the Council may be very familiar with that. The inner
27 corridor really covers the area that the Trans Alaska
28 Pipeline is and the -- the Dalton Highway itself, the
29 outer corridor or those outer reaches.

30
31 In -- in all of the action alternatives
32 BLM is proposing that those lands don't need to be
33 reserved for a utility and transportation corridor
34 because they're not -- they haven't been used for that
35 purpose since 1971, the outer corridor land. The -- in
36 two of the action alternatives C2 and B, and C2 is the
37 agency preferred at this time, BLM is proposing to the
38 Secretary of Interior that a full revocation of PLO-
39 5150, in other words the lands doesn't need to be
40 reserved for that purpose, can be made. That in and of
41 itself is simply just a proposal about the revocation
42 of the PLO, held up for the State of Alaska under
43 ANILCA 906E was allowed to top file lands not available
44 for selection and these lands were not available for
45 selection.

46
47 The State of Alaska has nearly 90 --
48 over 90 percent of the land in PLO-5150 have a top
49 filing and if the Secretary were to act upon BLM's
50

0261
1 recommendation to revoke or lift the PLO those top
2 filings become selection. And as the Council knows
3 selected lands are considered encumbered and are no
4 longer available for Federal rule priority subsistence.

5
6 The communities of Coldfoot and Wiseman
7 have a -- well, we found a subsistence finding for the
8 communities of Coldfoot and Wiseman in all of the
9 action alternatives because this would affect the
10 Federal Subsistence Board regulation that allowed those
11 communities for access, OHV access for priority
12 subsistence in that area. And then in the cumulative
13 case BLM found a positive finding, 810 finding, for all
14 the communities that were identified in unit 24C under
15 the same Federal Subsistence Board regulation that
16 allowed method of take and access. And that includes
17 Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Evansville, Coldfoot,
18 Wiseman.....

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted).

22
23 MS. ETHUN:throughout my computer

24 in front of me, I believe Erin Julianus is also on the
25 line and she can jump in here if I get one of them
26 incorrectly.

27

28 So in -- in a nutshell in all of the
29 action alternatives right now there is a draft 810
30 finding that would affect those communities that do
31 have access through the Federal Subsistence Board
32 regulations in that unit as well as method of take.
33 And that is likely what he -- his comments were
34 directed toward. And if the Council is interested in
35 reviewing that again I can send the coordinator the
36 links to the pertinent document and I would highly
37 encourage the Council to make comment.

38

39 Does that help clarify anything? I'm
40 happy to answer more questions or add more detail if
41 you need me to.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And what
44 was your name again?

45

46 MS. ETHUN: It is Michelle Ethun, E-T-
47 H-U-N.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Michelle Easten.

50

0262

1 MS. ETHUN: Ethun, E-T-H-U-N.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And I
4 appreciate your willingness to participate here. And
5 we know it's a nonagenda item and wasn't in our agenda,
6 but, you know, I was -- you know, we -- we do maintain
7 contact between periodically with Western Interior
8 Regional Advisory Council. And Jack Reakoff had
9 reached out and I recall him mentioning this, had to be
10 about a year ago almost, that there was some concerns
11 about this planning initiative. But it didn't really
12 set in in maybe the explanation of how we kind of
13 understood. And more of -- and communicating with him
14 and his willingness to share his comments and then to
15 provide them as comments from the -- from him as a --
16 as an individual as well and strongly urge the Council
17 to oppose the BLM resource management plan alternative
18 that recommends to the Secretary of the Interior. And
19 he believes that it violates the ANILCA statutes within
20 the utility corridor and you mentioned the public land
21 order 5150.

22

23 And so I want to see if there are any
24 other -- if there are any comments or concerns from the
25 Council and in this one it would be more close to
26 probably the Anaktuvuk representative in that there is

27 this area of land that is near the border of the North
28 Slope Borough and the region 10 North Slope Regional
29 Advisory Council which puts it in our area of this
30 Federal land that could potentially be lifting of the
31 PLO-5150 and once you do that those lands are already
32 top filed, I -- it sounds like top filed by the State
33 and would be selected lands of the State.

34

35 Is that what I'm understanding there,
36 Michelle?

37

38 MS. ETHUN: That is correct. That is
39 what you're understanding. And Erin reminded me that
40 the communities that we found had a subsistence impact
41 in the 810 just for the Council purposes is Alatna,
42 Allakaket, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Coldfoot,
43 Evansville and Wiseman. And you are correct in that
44 the top filings don't -- the top filings have no effect
45 until the land is made available for selection and as
46 soon as -- if the Secretary were to take action upon
47 our recommendation to lift or revoke the PLO which
48 prevents selection then indeed those top filings would
49 become selected lands. And as selected lands they are

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0263

1 considered encumbered and not public in the definition
2 of ANILCA for Federal priority rural subsistence. The
3 State of Alaska clearly still manages for subsistence,
4 it is just the rural preference that would be no longer
5 available. And as I mentioned before those communities
6 have a regulation through the Federal Subsistence Board
7 for method of access and take that would be affected.
8 And it is an all -- well, the -- for the entire
9 community list, it's an accumulative case and for all
10 the action alternatives the 810 findings is for
11 Coldfoot and Wiseman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

14

15 MS. ETHUN: If the Council's interested
16 I sent a link to a website that provides some more
17 information to the Council coordinator and it provides
18 you where in the document to look specifically the --
19 and for those Council members that might be interested
20 and want to read more, the 810 analysis is appendix R
21 as in Ralph. And section 3.1 of the document goes into
22 a lot of detail about where the -- where the top
23 filings are. So it's -- for the purposes of timing and
24 maybe people's workload, if you wanted to just look at
25 those two areas that would be the quickest way to look
26 at what Jack is referring to. And then the subsistence
27 appendix is appendix Q. But you're welcome to look at
28 the whole document.

29

30 And -- and I'm always available.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any -- any.....

33
34 (Teleconference interference -
35 participants not muted).

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, and I appreciate
38 that. And as we try to understand better what the
39 ramifications are and, you know, kind of liking to, you
40 know, we have top filing for airport runways in Point
41 Lay and there's some consternation over others that
42 want to have those access, but -- but they're --
43 they're just filings, they're an interest, they're top
44 filed and they're not transferred and there's still no
45 way to do that unless some mechanism was lifted or
46 created in order for the selection to go through. So
47 our only recourse.....

48
49 MS. ETHUN: Right.

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0264
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:is to -- to
2 lease those lands from the Federal government for right
3 now. And it's an example of some of the kind of things
4 that I -- I do recall about lands that we've top filed
5 over, that ANCSA corporation lands would select as
6 well.

7
8 So in this case I would like.....

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER:more -- yeah, go
13 ahead.

14
15 MR. REAKOFF: This is Jack Reakoff on
16 the phone. I would also like to testify at some point.
17 Just letting you know.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I really
20 appreciate to hear from you, Jack. And I did read your
21 comments in its entirety to the record. And for us to
22 be able to understand better what is -- what is really
23 going on here. I'm not -- you know, a lot of the EISes
24 and other things that would affect areas we would
25 either hear or be invited as -- to participate, comment
26 or even the local government in their region could be
27 invited or should have been invited to be know -- to be
28 more in the know. And maybe as a cooperating agency or
29 a participating agency the North Slope Borough at a
30 minimum would have -- would be important to hear more
31 and understand in much of the same way that we interact
32 with the integrated activity plan and invited to

33 participate and so that we understand thoroughly what
34 -- what's at risk and what these alternatives do. Like
35 for the NPR-A area and the coastal plain EIS that we
36 were invited to participate as a participating
37 agencies.

38

39 So with that any questions from the
40 Council members before I extend it out and maybe allow
41 Jack Reakoff just -- because we did submit his comments
42 under item 9 under public and tribal comments on
43 nonagenda items and certainly this was a nonagenda
44 item, it didn't make the cut of our agenda because we
45 were unaware of it. And not sure if it was something
46 that we would have been aware of to begin with.

47

48 So any other comments to or questions
49 to Michelle over from the Central Yukon Office for BLM?

50

0265

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is
2 Steve.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having none, I'm
5 going to.....

6

7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted).

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK:make any --
11 anything and if this is an action item and I know we
12 talked about it this morning, but to hear him in person
13 and he can elaborate more on -- on what.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK:I suppose.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve,
20 from Point Hope. And we can make this an action item
21 if we want to submit formal comments. I think they're
22 -- it's of interest to us because we're kind of -- it's
23 like an 11th hour notification because the comment
24 period ends in about two weeks is what my understanding
25 unless we can convince them to extend the comment
26 period and have some maybe collaboration of some sort.
27 I -- I don't know where they are in the EIS process, if
28 they're going to publish or how long it's already been
29 -- if there was a public review draw, public hearings
30 or -- or participation from the local government up
31 here in the Arctic with the Borough. If -- if we did
32 they sure didn't notify me because I would have some
33 planning staff being able to commit some time and
34 resources to attending these things.

35

36 With that, let's hear from Jack Reakoff
37 a little bit in his understanding.

38
39 Go ahead, Jack, you have -- you have
40 the floor.

41
42 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
43 Yes, I wanted the North Slope Council to realize that
44 it's not just Wiseman and Coldfoot and Allakaket, all
45 of the communities of the North Slope that have
46 customary and traditional use of caribou, dall sheep,
47 bear, et cetera have subsistence use within the Federal
48 lands of the utility corridor. There's getting to be
49 more and more people from the North Slope driving the

50
0266

1 road and they have a subsistence priority. What the
2 BLM is intending to do under their preferred
3 alternative is to give 2.1 million acres to the State
4 of Alaska and the subsistence users lose, they lose 2.1
5 million acres of Federal lands that they have a
6 customary and traditional use on.

7
8 And so the -- my interpretation of the
9 ANILCA law is that they -- the State is not eligible to
10 select and it says that in the ANILCA law at 906. They
11 can top file, but that doesn't mean that the Secretary
12 is obligated or legal to actually convey those lands,
13 but the Regional Councils have to be clear to the -- to
14 the Federal process and to the BLM that those lands are
15 vital subsistence use lands. There's more and more
16 people driving the roads, they would be eligible to
17 have a subsistence priority. If the State selects the
18 lands or they get the lands they list the 5150 public
19 order, they lose all those lands and it becomes a
20 sporthunt. And anybody that's ever driven the road in
21 the falltime will see what that entails. That's
22 massive amounts of hunters that have -- have the
23 ability to hunt on this road and subsistence hunters
24 would then have no ability to hunt. And that would be
25 using firearms or snowmobiles. I know people from
26 Nuiqsut that are actually inside, right up to the road
27 in the wintertime. There's people from Nuiqsut hunting
28 on SnowGos rights up to the road. And so the reality
29 those lands -- that wouldn't be legal anymore.

30
31 And so I'm opposed to lifting the 5150,
32 the Secretary of Interior lifting that or the BLM even
33 proposing an illegal action like that.

34
35 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,
38 Jack. Any questions to Jack from any of the Council.

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0267

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve for the record.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: I -- I want to thank Jack for making those comments and, you know, it really helps us out hearing that and we thank you for calling in and verifying some things that we had questions on.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And I have a
6 question, Jack. And, you know, I really appreciate,
7 you know, making light of this. And -- and I -- I
8 don't think it would have shown some daylight here on
9 the North Slope other than your bringing more closer
10 attention to this. And I'm wondering the amount of
11 interaction with folks at Coldfoot with the Yukon
12 office in terms of public hearings and other
13 individuals that -- from those areas that might have
14 been able to say more during the public comment period.
15 I'm just not aware of any of the normal process when
16 I'm looking at an EIS, the scoping meetings that occur
17 through communities and -- and the local government
18 that should be more aware and then the participation
19 level, whether being invited to participate and look at
20 alternatives and look at impacts and -- and to suggest
21 certain things, we weren't aware of any of that. Can
22 you shed a little bit of light on any of these
23 processes that may have come your way maybe?

24

25 MR. REAKOFF: Well, we were informed
26 about the process, but it was all basically internet
27 based. You had to register to -- to comment, you had
28 to be -- basically had to click on several different
29 links to get to a registration to comment. Most of the
30 communities here don't have good internet, they hardly
31 have good phone service. So when you -- when you
32 logged in you could comment, but you had to be on a --
33 basically on a Zoom. Well, my internet's not good
34 enough to be on there, I had to call in. And the call
35 in numbers were all stateside long distance, there were
36 no toll-free numbers provided. So I paid like a
37 phenomenal phone bill just to try and comment and I was
38 only given three minutes to comment.

39

40 So the communities here I do not feel
41 they -- they met the 810 -- ANILCA 810, they have to

42 provide a hearing for the impacts to subsistence. Most
43 of the people couldn't access the document, most people
44 have no idea what the document actually says because it
45 takes so much time to -- to download it or even to see
46 it so it takes literally days for the average person to
47 even look at the document. There was no hard copies
48 provided to the communities. The only hard copy that I
49 know of north of the Yukon River is at the Yukon River
50

0268

1 Bridge where there's nobody there, there's no community
2 there. And it's probably locked in the visitor's
3 center there. I have no idea what -- where that hard
4 copy was. But the reality is no one saw the document
5 and the doc -- the online document is really hard to
6 decipher.

7
8 So I think the BLM needs to back up and
9 reevaluate and start looking at a lot wider impact to
10 the subsistence users of the North Slope and the
11 Western and Eastern Interior. There's several
12 communities and I list those in -- in that document I
13 sent you that are going to be impacted. Those people
14 all have customary and traditional use within the --
15 within the utility corridor, the 2.1 million acres.

16
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And thank you, Jack,
20 for providing some of those important insights. And,
21 you know, for many, many years I would have likened
22 this to some of the difference between the State
23 managed lands and some of the Federal managed lands and
24 why probably I had decided to get myself involved with
25 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council in 1998 or
26 1997. I mean, it was pretty soon after the impasse
27 with the State of Alaska occurred on a constitutional
28 amendment to amend the constitution of the United
29 States to provide for a rural subsistence priority.
30 And then when that didn't happen the split management
31 of wildlife resources on lands occurred where Federal
32 management on Federal lands and State management on
33 State lands.

34
35 And there is a difference and we hear
36 that quite a bit from Anaktuvuk north where north of
37 Anaktuvuk we have State lands and the management of
38 State lands is for the benefit of the residents. And
39 the residents are the residents, it could be somebody
40 in Juneau, could be somebody in Anchorage, Fairbanks.
41 If you're a resident of the State it was managed for
42 you, wherever that State land was. And it's important
43 to try to differentiate how these two types of
44 management things come to a head and rural subsistence

45 priority when you have that. And we were just
46 developing wildlife proposals with just that intent
47 earlier in the day in our communication and looking at
48 State Board of Game proposals and -- and then our own
49 proposals.

50

0269

1 So, you know, it's important to see and
2 it's almost like you've got to be clear that the
3 animals are extinct to even -- to even go into a tier
4 two hunt and manage them more effectively. And it's
5 almost like a guarded -- a very guarded approach to
6 managing State resources for all the residents
7 regardless of where they live and not look at the tier
8 levels of management until you've effectively depleted
9 those resources and made it into a very preservative
10 management scheme. That's my opinion and I think
11 there's a lot of people with that opinion as well.

12

13 So there's those protections in Federal
14 lands where there is a rural subsistence priority
15 attached to them. And they put -- you know, lifting of
16 the PLO-5150, if that were to happen, and it sounds
17 like it's a recommendation from the Yukon Central Field
18 Office would expose those lands to a prior top filing
19 that's already been in occurrence which doesn't
20 automatically get those lands in the hands of the
21 State, but the top filing is a statement of interest to
22 the intent to secure those lands in the -- in the
23 government in which is has the top filing.

24

25 And so I would be equally concerned
26 that lands that have these protections for Federally-
27 qualified users with -- and we have had concerns and
28 even commented on the State ACs for the management of
29 the Dalton Highway corridor, and that too is a question
30 being raised. I -- it was part of our packet to talk
31 about the Dalton Highway corridor management plan and
32 it sounds like somebody's made a proposal to repeal
33 that, but it's not going to be taken up until March of
34 2022. And it seems that there needs to be more effort
35 and to talk more about what that means. And that means
36 more liberal hunting and -- and other things like
37 management for the residents in a way that lifts the
38 bow and arrow limit.

39

40 Anyway maybe I'm -- I try to set an
41 example of what it's liking to and I think Earl from
42 Anaktuvuk, you know the difficulties of how. And we've
43 all -- we've tried to comment as the North Slope
44 Regional Advisory Council on the AC, the North Slope AC
45 for the Board of Game for proposals and to try to help
46 manage the competing uses of lands from urban hunters
47 and the -- and the uses from the village. And it's a

48 very difficult thing to -- difficult process.

49

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1

With that, any -- any concerns or questions to Jack Reakoff. And I'm sorry, I'm -- I try to -- I get long winded when I start to talk about examples and stuff. So and I'm thinking also that maybe Department of Wildlife Management has now chimed in and called in as well. And if there's -- if they would want to be recognized. We did go through the agency reports earlier and called out the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department and no one answered when it was their turn to make any types of reports.

11

12

MR. LOHMAN: Mr. Chairman, this is Tom Lohman with the Borough Wildlife Department.

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Mr. Lohman. Go ahead.

16

17

18

MR. LOHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Brower. Just a quick comment -- couple of quick comments perhaps. I agree with Jack in -- in talking about the difficulty of reviewing this document online. It has an extraordinary number of appendices and maps, all of which are very good, but they're very, very difficult to jump between text and sections and appendices and maps. It -- it's a very difficult document to review and, you know, I've been at this for a couple of decades and -- and I'm having a hard time parsing the fairly technical land management language in terms of does a withdrawal mean lands are going to be more available, less available, is a revocation of a withdrawal or a public land order, the implications of some of the language, it -- it's just kind of hard to track. And with limited internet access and, you know, people in villages that have a whole lot of other things on their plate, I think this would be an extraordinarily difficult document to review.

36

37

38

And I think the bottom line for our folks and I think, Mr. Chairman, you've commented that, you know, the extent of the land area at issue is not too far into the North Slope, but we certainly have more than just Anaktuvuk that have some concerns. We need to sort of boil our concerns down to the central question of -- in the context of these land transfers to the State, will it have a negative affect on subsistence. And I think speaking among friends here we all think I -- I believe, that any transfer to the State is going to result in some impacts to subsistence greater than we're seeing now. We've already -- and

49

50

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1 I'm wondering whether the document and I haven't found
2 it yet, adequately considers the potential long term
3 impacts of any transfer of land to the State that would
4 result in the State either facilitating or encouraging
5 or allowing greater access to even more remote lands
6 using the newly State lands as a launching point for
7 guide operations, transporters, in a way that would
8 interfere with subsistence uses far beyond the corridor
9 that would be transferred.

10

11 And those are issues we've seen for
12 decades that the State has been very -- you know, very
13 careful to ignore. I mean, they -- they really have
14 not made it easy for us to express those concerns and
15 they certainly have not acted on them both in terms of
16 the long term make up of the State Board of Game, but
17 also the way they conduct their meetings, the way they
18 change schedules at the last minute, the way they limit
19 testimony to people who may have traveled long
20 distances to testify to a couple of minutes.

21

22 So I think we can all acknowledge that
23 transfer of lands to the State is almost certainly
24 going to result in some impacts to subsistence across
25 an area far beyond the lands that are transferred, that
26 there are impacts on a.....

27

28 MS. KIPPI: Hello, I can't hear
29 anybody. Hello.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hello.

32

33 MS. KIPPI: Hello. Hello.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hello.

36

37 MS. KIPPI: Are you there?

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, can you hear
40 us?

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, can you hear
45 us now?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda may need to

50

0272

1 redial in. Tom, are you still on?

2

3 MR. LOHMAN: Yeah, I'm still on.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'll try and
6 text Wanda that she needs to redial.

7

8 MR. LOHMAN: So that -- again that's
9 our concern, Mr. Chairman, I think from the Borough
10 standpoint and we're still working through the
11 document. And you're right, the deadline is I believe
12 on March 11 so we've got just a couple of weeks.

13

14 And beyond the issue of impacts to
15 subsistence that are of concern here, there are other
16 issues related to gravel extraction along the road
17 which again is maybe not the direct subject that this
18 body is taking up, but anything like increased
19 locations of gravel mining along a long stretch of the
20 highway is going to have impacts to subsistence.
21 Anything that takes place within that corridor over any
22 length of time is going to have some impacts on
23 subsistence far flung beyond that limited area that
24 might be transferred.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Thank you,
27 Tom. Any questions to Tom from any of the Council
28 members.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, for the record
31 this is Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Yeah, I noticed
36 yeah, you said it wasn't on the agenda, it was a
37 nonaction item and now is this an action item and would
38 it make it stronger if we opposed this position rather
39 than, you know, you had -- the timeline, the framing,
40 you know, the -- the deadline's in a few weeks and we
41 do want to, you know, we're -- we're very subsistence
42 hunters and not just within our area, but south of us
43 also, you know, your traditional land use and
44 everything and want to ensure that it stays that way.
45 And then if we can -- if this benefits us in a certain
46 way along with our neighboring communities that rely on
47 subsistence hunters that have been there for thousands
48 of years and, you know, we all need to work together
49 and ensure that our way of life continues. And if

50

0273

1 there's anyway we can support anybody or makes things
2 stronger so that we continue to live a life that we
3 grew up with since time immemorial.

4

5 And -- and if it is a action item then

6 I would propose that we not support this from BLM.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
9 Steve. And just for your information Wanda's still
10 trying to dial in. She text me and said all circuits
11 are busy, but she's still trying to dial in. She got
12 booted out of her phone call there.

13

14 With that I think it's important to
15 hear from Michelle, is that Easten, about where in the
16 process are you in the BLM Central Yukon RMP, I guess
17 that's resource management plan, and EIS. Where are we
18 -- where are you in this process and just to shed some
19 light on that, are we at the tail end of this and --
20 and do you have the -- any extension provisions or have
21 any authority to mention any of those provisions.

22

23 MS. ETHUN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24 So we are about two-thirds of the way through the
25 process and I'm going to just take us back to a
26 timeline just for the purpose of I guess filling in
27 some of the gaps.

28

29 This land use plan, resource management
30 plan, actually initiated in 2013 so it's been going on
31 for a while, but in a series of fits and stops. We
32 engaged with public scoping as you indicated in 2013
33 and '14 and then we went into a pause while the staff
34 worked on some other land use -- major EISes and land
35 use plans and then started again in 2016. We did go
36 out with some additional requests for consultation as
37 well as government to government, but some time has
38 gone by so I can see where, you know, and that -- we're
39 coming on eight years, it gets rather fuzzy. And in
40 2017 we went out and did some initial kind of
41 reengagement with communities. We went to Anaktuvuk
42 Pass, we never made it to Nuiqsut or to Utqiagvik or
43 any other places.

44

45 We did initially send letters to the
46 North Slope Borough and Utqiagvik and Nuiqsut, but this
47 last round -- so let me back up. Then we went back and
48 formulated the range of alternatives and this is where
49 the stage we're in now, the 90 day public comment

50

0274

1 period, is for the draft RMP EIS. And we sent out
2 notices, we have a couple of members on our mailing
3 list that are in Nuiqsut, but I don't see anybody else
4 further to the west that might have been notified of
5 the public comment period.

6

7 As you indicated the public comment
8 period does end on March 11. The next step would be to

9 look at all of the public comments that have been
10 generated and make adjustment to the document and then
11 come out with a final EIS and a -- and a proposed final
12 alternative.
13

14 We have not been briefed by the new
15 administration so it is unknown at this time what
16 changes if any may come about. We -- we haven't even
17 been given a date so there is always a chance that with
18 a new administration they may have further questions
19 and maybe delays in the process, it is unknown. And as
20 well we are -- it is unknown -- we are assuming that
21 the end of our public comment period is March 11. You
22 are welcome to request an extension and I am forwarding
23 those requests along. So if the Council wishes you
24 could request an extension. I don't have the authority
25 to grant that extension, that goes to the department
26 level and because we haven't had a briefing all I can
27 do is pass it along. But you are certainly welcome to
28 do that. I would recommend doing that sooner than
29 later just because I can pass it along quickly.
30

31 And then in regard to the document
32 itself, as I mentioned before I sent along my contact
33 information and a -- we put together a virtual open
34 house website is the less -- less technical than the
35 planning website that was mentioned, kind of gives a
36 little bit more overview and the coordinator can pass
37 that along.
38

39 I am also happy and able to answer
40 questions if the Council or one of your representatives
41 has questions or needs me to pull up items in the full
42 EIS itself. And so you're welcome to contact me in the
43 next two weeks if you'd like for assistance in ways to
44 best inform your comments.
45

46 Does that answer your question?
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
49 Michelle. And I'm sure we've got a few questions here.
50

0275

1

2

3

4 And I -- you know, I read through
5 Jack's comments a couple times and the resource
6 management plan indicates a recommendation to lift
7 public land order 5150 is what I gather. And there --
8 in the resource management plan alternatives is there a
9 alternative that does not recommend lifting public land
10 order 5150 and -- and but allow for the management area
11 to be managed effectively?

11

12 MS. ETHUN: That's a very good
13 question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And because you
14 have some good running knowledge of top filing I'll go
15 into a little bit more detail than I probably normally
16 would.

17
18 So the BLM's responsibility within the
19 land use plan per our land use planning handbook and
20 the code of Federal regulations and FLIPMA is that when
21 we go to a land use planning process we're supposed to
22 review any existing public land orders or withdrawals
23 and determine within the land use planning process if
24 they're meeting the purpose by which they were set
25 aside.

26
27 And one of the simplest ways to think
28 about that is for some military lands and in this case
29 just outside of Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright and we
30 would look at that and say well, let's -- they're using
31 it for its purpose so we recommend no action. In the
32 case of the ANCSA 17D-1 as we mentioned before, the
33 corporations have met their entitlement even though the
34 conveyances are still moving forward and so those lands
35 aren't needed to be set aside for that purpose.

36
37 In the case of PLO-5150, the outer
38 corridor has not served the purpose of the utility and
39 transportation corridor in the 50 years since it was
40 enacted and nor is there -- nor is there anticipated
41 uses such as fiber optic lines, et cetera, et cetera,
42 in that area. So absent the State's interest if we
43 just are thinking about BLM responsibilities we would
44 say that land doesn't need to be reserved for that
45 purpose, it can be managed it other ways.

46
47 It is the State interest that came
48 about per ANILCA 906E that creates the indirect affect
49 on subsistence. And it is -- it is within the outer

50
0276
1 corridor if BLM is following the.....

2
3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted).

5
6 MS. ETHUN:guidance that it must
7 follow for looking at land withdrawal.

8
9 (Teleconference interference -
10 participants not muted).

11
12 MS. ETHUN: It -- it would -- we do not
13 have justification for retaining the withdrawal in that
14 corridor for that purpose by which it was set aside.

15 So yet it creates in all the action alternatives
16 because of the State's ability to top file it creates
17 that affect on subsistence. The only -- the only
18 alternatives right now in the draft RMP would be the no
19 action alternative which would be no action on that
20 PLO.

21
22 The inner corridor which is in
23 alternative C2 and D is meeting it's purpose by which
24 it was set aside, but the BLM could -- is suggesting
25 that the withdrawal could be lifted and the BLM could
26 manage as a utility corridor in the same way without --
27 without a reservation on it.

28
29 So those are some things you might want
30 to think about it as you're framing your comments. It
31 is certainly as I describe to many people, it is 50
32 years of uses, laws and regulations that are not an
33 easy onion to peel when we simply say is the outer
34 corridor being used for the purpose by which it was set
35 aside and I think judging by your experience, Mr.
36 Chairman, with top filing lands, I -- I would guess you
37 understand that that onion is kind of hard to peel.

38
39 Does that answer your question?

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's pretty
42 complicated, but it -- it's important to, you know,
43 look at the concerns and the intent behind the corridor
44 and if it wasn't achieving its management objective in
45 the last 50 years and.....

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, at some point
48 I'd like to.....

49
50
0277
1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:that it would --
2 and that it would be -- what's the difference if it
3 didn't -- if you didn't manage -- if it didn't meet its
4 objective in 10 years or 20 years and now 50 years, why
5 the change in the -- in the resource management plan to
6 -- intent to lift that public land order.....

7
8 MS. ETHUN: The last.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I mean, is there
11 a request?

12
13 MS. ETHUN:the last utility
14 corridor -- the last time the resource management plan
15 was done was -- well, this is replacing two resource
16 management plans, one signed in the late '80s and one
17 signed in the late '90s. And so at that time, while I

18 wasn't involved in that project, I think there was
19 still anticipation that, you know, there could be those
20 -- you know, like utility or transportation type users
21 in that outer corridor. And then of course now it's
22 20, 30 years later so BLM is just following its
23 guidance again absent of the State's interest, just
24 following BLM guidance much as if you were looking at
25 the Fort Wainwright lands and say well, is it being
26 used for that. No. Okay. Do we need to reserve it
27 for that. No, we don't. We could manage it other
28 ways, we would do other things over there. It is the
29 but for, it is the indirect effect of the State's
30 ability to top file lands under 906E that has -- that
31 creates the affect on subsistence.

32
33 And -- and because -- because the
34 assumption that once the PLO would be revoked and the
35 top filings become selections that is something that is
36 outside of -- well, BLM has to follow its guidelines.
37 I think Mr. Reakoff has indicated that the Secretary
38 doesn't have to take action on it, but BLM has to
39 follow the policy and guide -- guidelines.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

44
45 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, this is Jack
46 Reakoff.

47
48 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chairman, just for the
49 record I'm -- I'm on -- I'm back online, I've been on
50

0278
1 for almost 12 minutes now.

2
3 Thank you.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
6 you, Wanda.

7
8 Go ahead, Jack.

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Well, Michelle keeps
11 quoting ANILCA 906E which allows top filing, but I keep
12 quoting J-1 which says -- I'll quote it right out of
13 the -- I got the statute, the ANILCA statute in front
14 of me which is 40 years ago, not 50 years ago. This
15 was after they'd done the Alaska Native Claims
16 Settlement Act, they'd done the public land order in
17 1971. It says withdrawal for classification pursuant
18 to 17D-1 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
19 except in accordance with a memorandum of understanding
20 between the United States and the State of Alaska dated

21 September 2, 1972, to the extent of the public land
22 orders numbered 5150, the first one they cite and about
23 six others, by their terms continue to prohibit State
24 selections of certain lands. Such land shall remain
25 unavailable for future State selection except as
26 provided in the Statehood Act. And there's a portion
27 of the Statehood Act that talk -- talks about that it
28 -- what a citing is in the Statehood Act is community
29 expansion which they did around Coldfoot in 1991, they
30 gave 7,000 acres to the State of Alaska.

31
32 The statute and what Michelle Ethun
33 should be talking about is the entirety of this statute
34 which does not allow the State to select for future
35 selections. It's in the ANILCA law, that's what I'm
36 quoting is out of the ANILCA law. So the State cannot
37 select the utility corridor because it's under public
38 land order 5150 cited in ANILCA.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jack.
43 And, Wanda, do you have any comments that you wanted to
44 express or any of that as well?

45
46 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, none at this
47 time.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank

50
0279
1 you. Well, I think it's important that we -- you know,
2 it's a nonagenda item, I appreciate.....

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER:the.....

7
8 (Teleconference interference -
9 participants not muted).

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. Is
12 that Steve?

13
14 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve for the
15 record. Yes. You know, I -- I would like to hear the
16 Chair's recommendations, you know, because this is a
17 nonaction item or is it an item or it is a proposal,
18 you know, it wasn't on the agenda items.

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted).

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: And, you know, we do

24 want to hear from the Chair recommendations to this BLM
25 proposal. And aft -- after hearing from Jack and other
26 people what -- what kind of recommendations would the
27 Chair want to make to this proposal by BLM even though
28 it's not an action item and -- or is it now an action
29 item.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK:and how would
34 it.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well.....

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK:can you elaborate
39 on that a little bit before we do anything.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would propose
42 we make a comment, maybe in the form of a motion, that
43 we -- we recommend that the BLM Yukon -- Central Yukon
44 Resource Management Plan that a blend of alternatives
45 without any recommendation to the Secretary of Interior
46 to lift any portions of the utility corridor, PLO-5150,
47 for conveyance of land to the State of Alaska. And --
48 and then provide for an extension to allow for regions
49 affected to participate more thoroughly in

50
0280
1 understanding the impacts.

2
3 That would be my recommendation that --
4 that is imperative to attempt to move forward before
5 the BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Plan to a
6 final record of decision. It's pretty much consistent
7 with Jack Reakoff's recommendation and that's what I
8 would recommend.

9
10 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the
11 record this is Steve.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

14
15 MR. OOMITTUK: I make a motion to that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
18 the floor from Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk, to provide
19 comments to the BLM Central Yukon Resource Management
20 Plan and EIS and recommend a request of a blend of
21 alternatives without any recommendation to the
22 Secretary of Interior to lift any portions of the
23 utility corridor, public land order 5150 for conveyance
24 to the State of Alaska. And -- and to find a way to
25 move forward with the BLM Central Yukon Resource
26 Management Plan to a final record of decision and to

27 allow and -- and request for an extension of time to
28 work with local governments in affected areas.

29
30 There's a motion on the floor.

31
32 MS. KIPPI: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
35 Wanda from Atqasuk. Any discussion.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
42 called for by Anaktuvuk Pass. All those in favor of
43 providing those comments to the BLM Central Yukon
44 Resource Management Plan signify by saying aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
49 same sign.

50
0281
1 (No opposing votes)

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
4 ayes have it.

5
6 Eva, if you can draft up those comments
7 and I think we're going to make it before March 11th.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair. I'll draft up the comments and provide for
11 the Council for your final review. And we have
12 extension -- extensive discussion on the record as well
13 for supporting justification.

14
15 So thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
16 members.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, all, for
19 participating in this area on the nonagenda item and
20 thanks, Jack Reakoff, for calling in and, Mr. Lohman
21 from the Wildlife Department and also Michelle Easten
22 -- is it Easten?

23
24 MS. ETHUN: It's Ethun.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ethun.

27
28 MS. ETHUN: Right.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we really
31 appreciate your time and we know you weren't on the
32 agenda, but we really appreciate you talking about the
33 project under BLM's Arctic Field Office slot.
34

35 MS. ETHUN: I'm happy to participate
36 and I'm glad that -- I'm glad we had the opportunity
37 and I look forward to receiving your comment. And I --
38 as soon as I receive them if they have any mention of
39 request for extension I will pass that along
40 immediately. I'm trying to pass those along as quickly
41 as I can.
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. And we'll
44 hopefully maybe the mayor of the North Slope Borough
45 might get an invitation to participate in something,
46 who knows.
47

48 MS. ETHUN: Yeah, I'll -- I'll talk to
49 our field manager, Tim Lamar and as I mentioned before
50

0282

1 I'm happy to answer specific questions if -- if any of
2 the Council members want to do any follow-up. I'm --
3 I'm always available and happy to -- happy to answer
4 questions.
5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So noted. Thank you
7 very much.
8

9 We're going to go down the line. We're
10 going to Gates of the Arctic National Park and
11 Preserve.
12

13 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council members. For the record my name is Marcy
15 Okada, I'm the subsistence coordinator for Gates of the
16 Arctic National Park and Preserve. You should have
17 received three handouts in your supplemental packet.
18 They all have the Park Service arrowhead on them. I'm
19 just going to give a quick update on our last
20 Subsistence Resource Commission meeting and then Kyle
21 Joly will give an update on caribou on moose and then
22 we'll round it out with Will Deacy giving an update on
23 dall sheep. So I'll go ahead and get started.
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
26

27 MS. OKADA: Our Subsistence Resource
28 Commission met this past November via teleconference.
29 Our SRC received updates on the Ambler mining district
30 road as well as Federal Subsistence Board wildlife
31 proposals that were passed and turned into regulation.
32

33 Our SRC continues to hear updates on
34 wildlife projects that occur in the Park and Preserve.
35 And a couple of the action items the SRC will be
36 following up with is a letter to the Secretary of the
37 Interior sharing concerns about the timeliness of SRC
38 appointments and reappointments. And then they also
39 will be submitting a comment letter on the Board of
40 Game proposals affecting the Dalton Highway management
41 corridor.

42
43 Our next meeting will be April 14th so
44 that's coming up and it'll be via teleconference.

45
46 Do you folks have any questions before
47 I pass it on to Kyle?

48
49 (Teleconference interference -

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1 participants not muted).

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
4 Marcy Okada from National Park Service?

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead and proceed,
9 Marcy, I don't see any question just yet.

10
11 MS. OKADA: Okay. So if Kyle is still
12 online he'll -- he'll give -- he'll share some
13 information about caribou and moose.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kyle.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MS. OKADA: I think we might have lost
20 him, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, you can finish
23 for Kyle there, Marcy.

24
25 MS. OKADA: I will just quickly give an
26 update on caribou and moose. So the handout that you
27 received on the Western Arctic caribou herd about where
28 they calve. The main point of this handout, it shows
29 -- it shows a map of the calving areas with this far
30 most area colored red. So that -- that's the primary
31 area that the caribou calve and then the outer layers
32 show the expansion of area. You know, the primary area
33 where they calve is the red -- the red central area,
34 but they -- they've also been known to calve in the
35 outskirts or the bluer area of the map as well.

36

37

38 And the main point of this handout is
39 that caribou use memory, they use their memory to guide
40 them back to their calving areas each year and they
41 tend to search for the general part of their calving
42 area is where there's high quality forage such as
43 flowering -- flowering cotton grass. And so that's the
44 main point of the handout.

44

45

46 And then lastly on moose. This moose
47 study occurred mainly south of the Brooks Range so in
48 the forested areas.

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MS. OKADA: Oh, sure. This is Kyle so
I'll hand it over to Kyle.

MR. JOLY: Sorry about that. I don't
know what was going on.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kyle Joly
with the National Park Service. I'm a wildlife
biologist for Gates of the Arctic.

Yeah, Marcy covered that brief on our
caribou paper. The other paper that we wanted to
highlight is about moose south of the Brooks Range.
And it just talks about how even in the Arctic moose
are seeking out places that offer shade to get away
from the heat in the summertime. And in the lower 48
moose populations are declining and they've -- they've
attributed it to warming temperatures. And so this
research just goes to show that even in the Arctic
moose are responding to very warm summers. This is
again south of the Range.

And I'd be happy to answer questions
about the caribou paper or the moose paper.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions to Kyle
on caribou, Western Arctic herd, and the -- and the
moose from any of the Council members.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: On the moose and this
is the National Park Service lands, what are the
population trends in that area?

MR. JOLY: So on the south side of the
Brooks Range it's a low density population, but it's
been fairly stable. There's maybe a slight decline in

39 the moose population and that's something that we've
40 seen across the south side of the Brooks Range into the
41 Noatak, lower Noatak, Kobuk, Selawik area. Just kind
42 of somewhere between stable and -- and declining a
43 little bit. But that's -- we're not sure why yet and
44 that's something that we're -- we're looking to do some
45 more research on.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Yeah. And
48 I'm not sure if you were following along on many of the
49 other moose dialogue in the fairway of the Colville

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1 River area and -- and if any of your moose ever
2 interact with those moose or if there are any exchange
3 that go on that way.

4

5 MR. JOLY: So the moose research that
6 we've done in the Park has all been on the south side
7 of the Range. So we've put collars up into the north
8 fork of the Kyakuk River so just west of Jack's house
9 there. And we've had some animals, you know, move up
10 the north fork a little bit, but the winters tend to be
11 too difficult for them and they -- they get pushed down
12 to the larger drainages. And so we didn't have any
13 moose migrate north of the Brooks Range and into the
14 North Slope at all. We did have some moose migrate
15 between like the Glacier River area south into the
16 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, but we didn't have any
17 that migrated north. And all of our population surveys
18 all focus on the south side of the divide. So we -- we
19 really don't have any information and Carmen would be,
20 you know, the go to source for moose on the north side
21 of the Range.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm just
24 drumming up some talking points. That's about it
25 there, Kyle.

26

27 MR. JOLY: Well, I appreciate it and,
28 you know, we're -- if you guys got questions and we
29 have the opportunity to try and answer them, you know,
30 that's always the most exciting research for us.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Yeah. All
33 right. So last time we -- I think we talked, we were
34 talking about delegating management authority in some
35 way for the Park Service. Has that worked out good?

36

37 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair, I think you're
38 talking about the individual customary and traditional
39 use determination that I presented to you at the last
40 North Slope RAC meeting. And Kim Jochum is the one
41 that provided the update on that. And so as she had

42 mentioned the Federal Subsistence Board decided not to
43 delegate the authority to the Park Service. It's still
44 under -- it'll still be under the Federal Subsistence
45 Board.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And -- and that was
48 just only on that one process and -- and it didn't
49 defer any other delegation at all?

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1 MS. OKADA: Correct. So that was
2 strictly for individual C&T and it wasn't a delegation
3 of authority for anything else. And.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just kind of
6 remembering and it just kind of gets a little foggy
7 when we don't communicate on these for a long period
8 after we see what the trend was going to be.

9

10 Any questions for the Park Service from
11 any of the Council members.

12

13 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
14 Joly again.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
17 Kyle.

18

19 MR. JOLY: Yeah, you just jogged my
20 memory speaking of that. So there -- there was two
21 other things that I wanted to touch base on. One is
22 that we spoke in the fall and I'd mentioned that we
23 were unable to put out any collars in the Western
24 Arctic herd. And so we're planning with Fish and Game
25 to deploy them via helicopters and the decision was
26 made to do that via net gunning. And so that operation
27 should be taking place on the south side of the Brooks
28 Range probably out of the Dall Creek area which is just
29 north of the village of Kobuk. And so Fish and Game
30 and Park Service will be deploying collars in about a
31 month's time on the Western Arctic Herd.

32

33 And the other thing I wanted to mention
34 is that we had a caribou poop project where we're
35 looking at diets and stress levels of caribou through
36 their poop. And that project was delayed last year due
37 to Covid and we're going to try and do it this year.
38 And most of the herd is in Gates of the Arctic, the
39 western side of Gates of the Arctic so I think we'll be
40 fairly far from any subsistence users, but we'll do our
41 best to stay away from any subsistence activities for
42 that project.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sounds interesting.

45 I would love to have a job just deploying the nets from
46 the helicopter.

47

48 MR. JOLY: Yeah, it's exciting.

49

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve for the
2 record.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, I -- I
7 know there was some concerns about when they do collar
8 certain caribou and -- and using the drug that they use
9 to tranquilize caribou which make them unedible for,
10 you know, human consumption for up to two weeks. And
11 are they still using that drug, is that how they still
12 collar animals and putting them down with helicopters
13 and using that certain drugs that makes the animals
14 unedible for human consumption?

15

16 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, Kyle Joly
17 again. So the decision was made to go with net gunning
18 so we won't be using drugs at all and so the animals
19 will be safe to consume immediately upon release. We
20 were debating whether or not to use darting techniques
21 where we shoot a dart at the animal and inject them
22 with drugs that would render the animals inedible for a
23 period of time, but discussions with this RAC and other
24 RACs, ACs, some SRCs and some other conversations that
25 the State led -- led us to try and go with the net
26 gunning operation again and that's what we're planning
27 on doing this year is net gunning and no drugs.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very
32 good. Did that answer your question there, Steve.

33

34 Any other questions for the National
35 Park Service and Preserve?

36

37 MS. OKADA: And, Mr. Chair, I think we
38 have one more information share on dall sheep if we
39 still have Will Deacy online.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

42

43 MS. OKADA: It's the third handout in
44 your meeting packet.

45

46 MR. DEACY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
47 is Will Deacy. I'm a biologist with the National Park

48 Service. I'm just going to give a quick update about
49 the Park Service's effort to monitor dall sheep in
50

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1 Gates of the Arctic Park and Preserve.

2

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4 During the last meeting Marcy gave a
5 summary of results from a dall sheep survey we flew
6 last July and that's -- there's -- there's a
7 supplemental handout that Marcy was just talking about.
8 It says dall sheep, 2020 survey at the top. And that
9 has a lot more detail than I'm going to talk about now.

9

10 To briefly review we were unable to fly
11 our normal aerial survey because of concerns about
12 Covid transmission. We instead flew a small pilot only
13 survey of just portions of the Itkillik Preserve in
14 northeast Gates of the Arctic Park and Preserve. The
15 survey results indicated approximately average lamb
16 recruitment last year. And in addition there were no
17 clear -- there was no clear change in population size
18 compared to the previous few years. Which means that
19 the population is still down about 50 percent compared
20 to before 2013.

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Now in terms of plans for surveying
next summer, there's been concerns that poor weather
conditions on the south side of the Brooks Range has
caused a major decline in sheep populations there. And
that decline's not reflected in the surveys that we do
annually on the north side of the Brooks Range. So in
addition to our regular surveys of the area around
Anaktuvuk Pass and the Itkillik Preserve. We're also
going to survey sheep in southeast Gates of the Arctic
Park between the John River and the Dalton Highway.

And overall these surveys will allow us
to return next fall with information about the status
of dall sheep around Anaktuvuk Pass, the Itkillik
Preserve and also in southeast Gates.

And that's all I have for you on sheep.
I'd be happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions from
the Council on dall sheep survey?

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, dall sheep. I
noticed that -- yeah, this is Steve for the record.
When you say dall sheep I.....

(Teleconference interference -
participants not muted).

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1 MR. DEACY: Yeah, through the Chair.
2 This is Will Deacy. Yep, these are all -- this is all
3 talking about dall sheep.

4
5 MR. OOMITTUK: We noticed that the
6 sheep are coming back into Cape Lisburne area and the
7 Delong Mountains. They -- seemed like they were gone
8 for a while, but we know that local hunters are
9 starting to see dall sheep. Now, you know, for
10 consumption do we still need to get a license or a
11 ticket for them or are they -- are they in abundance of
12 other areas. We know that they were gone from Delong
13 Mountain or Cape Lisburne area for quite some time,
14 that's why we never saw them for a while.

15
16 MR. DEACY: Yeah, through the Chair.
17 This is Will Deacy. My understanding is that they're
18 still -- there's not a Federal subsistence hunt for
19 dall sheep in the Delong Mountains. And I didn't
20 realize that there were sheep up in Cape Lisburne, I
21 heard you say that earlier and I made a note of that.
22 But yeah, as of now there's no subsistence hunt in the
23 -- in Federal lands where the Delong Mountains are just
24 because the population had crashed so hard. And we're
25 continuing to monitor that population every few years
26 to see if it will recover.

27
28 MS. KIPPI: I was -- I'm back on, I was
29 off. I got -- I got closed off on the phone again. I
30 was using my cell phone.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Wanda.
33 And we're still -- we're on the National Park Service
34 under sheep and -- and discussing that.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

37
38 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other question?
41 Go ahead, Steve.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, they -- yeah, they
44 are back. The local hunters have been seeing them for
45 -- especially this last year. And they were towards
46 Cape Lisburne right by (in Native). And they -- there
47 are sheep up in that area. We don't -- we don't ever
48 see sheet towards Cape Thompson, but in the past
49 they've been around Cape Lisburne. They used to be for

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1 consumption years ago. And, you know, we haven't
2 caught any in a while, but they are back, they're

3 observed by local hunters. And also lynx are back in
4 the area too. So.....

5
6 MR. DEACY: Through the Chair. This is
7 Will Deacy. Thank you, Mr. Oomittuk, for that
8 observation. We'll keep that note and hopefully the
9 population there and the Delongs will continue to
10 recover and we can eventually have another hunt in
11 those areas.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Any
16 other questions to the National Park Service.

17
18 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is Eddie
19 from Kaktovik.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

22
23 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I just wanted to
24 ask Marcy if the Park Service receive the new
25 Secretarial order 3392?

26
27 MS. OKADA: For the record this is
28 Marcy Okada to Mr. Rexford. To my knowledge we -- we
29 haven't received that executive order as of yet.

30
31 MR. REXFORD: Well, it was signed by
32 Ben Hart before he got off and we -- we received it on
33 January 12th of this year. And it was marching orders
34 for the assistance.....

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participants not muted).

38
39 MR. REXFORD:of Fish and Wildlife
40 and Parks within 60 days of the date of this order
41 submit a report to the Deputy Secretary. So I think
42 it's prudent that you guys get the Secretarial order
43 and converse with Anaktuvuk Pass because this is
44 regarding their lands also.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MS. OKADA: And, Mr. Rexford, it was
49 executive order 3392?

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1 MR. REXFORD: That's correct.

2
3 MS. OKADA: Okay. Thank you.

4
5 MR. REXFORD: Secretarial order from

6 the Secretary of Interior.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's pretty good
9 information there, Eddie, and making sure that these
10 kind of things get set in motion and it should have
11 been conveyed to us rather than we conveying to them.
12 But it's what it is.

13

14 MR. REXFORD: And that's all I had for
15 the Service. Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaqpak. Any
18 other questions for the Park Service?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, thank
23 you, Marcy and all the -- all your folks there with
24 your reports.

25

26 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
27 Council members.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're going to go
30 down the line and Fish and Wildlife Service. Was that
31 -- are these different things? I think that is a Fish
32 Wildlife Service for National -- Arctic National
33 Wildlife Refuge and then U.S. Fish and Wildlife
34 Service, Utqiagvik Field Office, are subsets of that.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 We have Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff online.
38 We do not have confirmation from the field office so I
39 don't think we'll have that report today. But Arctic
40 National Wildlife Refuge is online.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. NAGEAK: Hello, this is Ernest
45 online as well.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Oh, wonderful, Ernest, you

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1 are online. Great. Last but not least. So wonderful.

2

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4 Thank you so much.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. You guys got
7 the floor.

8

9 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
10 and Council. This is Steve Berendzen, Refuge manager
11 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I think you
12 should have received a packet of our summary update
13 which doesn't have a lot of new stuff in it, but I
14 would like to mention a few things that are updates.

15
16 Due to the Covid situation we had
17 limited field activities this past year and -- and but
18 we still have plans for more this upcoming season and
19 we'll see how Covid works for that.

20
21 But as far as updates we had a staffing
22 position filled. We were able to recruit and fill the
23 supervisory biologist. Paul Leonard was selected and
24 started in that position in December. So we're happy
25 to have that position filled.

26
27 The oil and gas program, the record of
28 decision for the lease sale EIS was signed last August.
29 And that -- that was in effect. And there was an EA
30 developed or in progress to be developed for the
31 seismic proposal that was submitted by KIC that was not
32 completed, that the oil and gas development program was
33 put on hold by the new administration and they are
34 reviewing that program. However there was a lease sale
35 that was held in January with nine leases sold on the
36 coastal plain. And we were unable to do hardly any
37 field projects on the coastal plain in support of the
38 oil and gas activities last summer, but -- due to
39 Covid, but if Covid will allow we're hoping to conduct
40 several field monitoring projects this summer, but some
41 of those we've already had to remove off the list of
42 the earlier ones that were planned due to the
43 uncertainty of Covid and our lack of ability to plan
44 for them at this time.

45
46 But I wanted to mention a few of the
47 highlight projects that we still hope to do. We have
48 several collaborative studies and other studies that
49 were supporting for the coastal plain. One of those is

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1 the Beaufort Lagoon long term ecological research
2 project that Kim Dunson has been doing for several
3 years out of the University of Texas at Austin. And
4 hopefully that will happen this year.

5
6 We've also been working with the
7 University of Alaska Fairbanks on snow mapping, trying
8 to identify patterns of snow, that we've noticed that
9 there are a lot of areas that have less snow and more
10 snow even -- even variations between years so we're
11 hoping to learn more about that.

12
13 We're also supporting a soundscape
14 ecology study that looks at soundscape and impact of
15 wildlife behavior. And that's out of the University of
16 Alaska Fairbanks.

17
18 We've also got a wolverine study that
19 we're collaborating with. They'll be using camera
20 traps to detect wolverines that are attracted to a
21 scent attractant. And that's being done by the
22 Wildlife Conservation Society and University of Alaska
23 Fairbanks.

24
25 And then we've got a couple other
26 studies that are looking at petroleum geology. One is
27 from the State, it's looking at both petroleum geology
28 and lakes. The lakes they'll be looking at the
29 symmetry of the lakes and -- and fish species and
30 that's being done by the State of Alaska.

31
32 And then another geology of petroleum
33 systems project is scheduled by USGS and that's been
34 ongoing for several years by USGS.

35
36 And then we've got some of our own
37 studies that we're planning to do. The Canning River
38 bird study that we've been doing for several years.
39 We're hoping to get out and do that, but that's usually
40 right at the very beginning of the summer field season
41 and we should be planning that, right, and actually we
42 should have had that all planned, but and with Covid
43 we're not sure we'll be able to do it.

44
45 We do have a caribou habitat and a
46 climate change impacts on habitat and the insect
47 harassment study that we've got planned and that's
48 going to be in collaboration with the Alaska Department
49 of Fish and Game, USGS and Canadian agencies.

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1 And then we're also planning to conduct
2 a baseline contaminants and water quality study on the
3 coastal plain. So hopefully we'll be able to follow
4 through and do those.

5
6 Another item that I wanted to mention
7 is we're also submitting comments on the Central Yukon
8 RMP that there's been much discussion about today.

9
10 And we just issued a contract for a
11 traditional access study for the villages of Kaktovik,
12 Arctic Village and Venetie on traditional means of
13 access. And we've identified this as a need in our
14 comprehensive conservation plan. We're following

15 through with that as well as a memo that -- from our
16 director, Fish and Wildlife Service director that we
17 received which directed us to do that as well. So
18 we're.....

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted).

22
23 MR. BERENDZEN:and hope to have
24 that completed within a year.

25
26 So those are the updates that I've got
27 and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. That's a
30 lot of stuff there. And -- and lots of different
31 moving parts.

32
33 Any questions for Steve Berendzen from
34 the Refuge?

35
36 MR. REXFORD: This is Eddie. I've got
37 one.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

40
41 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I'm curious, I know
42 you guys did moose surveys and what's the -- and you
43 guys did sight some muskox in our area. Is there a
44 total number of muskox counted for the past year or the
45 previous year?

46
47 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you. Through the
48 Chair. Mr. Rexford, we -- we have not been able to do
49 any surveys this past year. So I think what you're

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1 referring to is the survey we did over a year ago, I
2 believe it was the fall of 2019. And it -- yes, we did
3 document one group of muskox with that moose survey,
4 but we have not -- it's been a few years or more since
5 we've done any muskox surveys because for the last few
6 years that we did surveys we generally didn't find any
7 muskox or -- or it was only a handful, just a few.

8
9 MR. REXFORD: Okay. And the other
10 part, one other question I have is what the total count
11 would have to be for a limited hunt for Kaktovik like
12 we used to do in the past. Is there a number that
13 would have to be counted?

14
15 MR. BERENDZEN: Through the Chair.
16 Thank you, Mr. Rexford. That's a -- that's a good
17 question and I don't have an answer off the top of my

18 head. I would have to -- I think that -- that would
19 have to be discussed with our mammal biologist as well
20 as Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. And
21 I think the -- the other thing we'd have to do to
22 support that would be have a survey specifically for
23 muskox to try to get a better understand of how many
24 are on Arctic Refuge or on the coastal plain in that
25 area.

26

27

28 So it's a good question, we can look
29 into that and pursue that, but I'm -- at this -- what I
30 understand from the top of my head that those would be
31 some requirements before -- before I could give you an
32 answer as to how many there would have to be.

32

33

34 MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you,
35 Steve. That's all I had.

35

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38

39 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you.

39

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
42 to the Refuge manager?

42

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, this is Earl,
45 Sports Creek -- I mean, Anaktuvuk.

45

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
48 Earl.

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50 MR. WILLIAMS: Anyway to answer Eddie's

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question. Anyway there was one muskox on there, maybe
not even three days on the Anaktuvuk River, but they
said it just appeared and all of a sudden a caribou
came around again. The way that people are saying that
caribou are scared of caribou or something and it was
up there by Tutalwok Lake too and that's where it hung
out for a while.

That's all I had to say. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl, for
those observations.

And, Earl, did it -- was the community
feeling that it was deflecting caribou or what was --
any other observation there?

MR. WILLIAMS: Well, all it -- all
these elders think that when there -- when there's a
muskox come around here, you know, it's -- caribou

21 don't come around, that's all they say, you know, and
22 they go down to (indiscernible) Pass.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ten/four. I do have
25 a question about moose in that area. How often does
26 the census take place by the Refuge over there?

27

28 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
29 After discussions in previous RAC meetings we committed
30 to doing more frequent surveys. And we -- we had been
31 doing both a fall and a spring survey for -- I guess it
32 was just the year 2018 or fall of -- sorry, spring of
33 2018, fall of 2018 and then spring of 2019. But we --
34 due to Covid we or -- and also fall of 2020 or 2019.
35 Due to Covid we have not been able to do any surveys
36 since then. But what our commitment was both fall and
37 spring surveys because there was some good points made
38 that what we might see in the spring may be totally
39 different in the fall. And so we -- we did what we
40 could in the fall as well as spring and there were some
41 differences noticed the couple years that we were able
42 to do that.

43

44 But that -- that's our -- our plan.
45 That's what hope to proceed with.....

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted).

49

50

0297

1 MR. BERENDZEN:we can go get -- I
2 guess I'll say back to normal, but we don't know when
3 Covid's going to allow that and -- and how much back to
4 normal we'll actually be able to get.

5

6 Mr. Chairman, did that answer your
7 question?

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I got
12 tangled up in another phone call real quick, but yeah,
13 basically.

14

15 Yeah, go ahead. Is that Eddie?

16

17 MR. WILLIAMS: No, Earl.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay. Earl.

20

21 MR. WILLIAMS: Anyway about a couple
22 months ago one of the hunters when they came back from
23 -- from (indiscernible) Pass fishing area and they were

24 coming home they said they ran into five moose there in
25 that Anaktuvuk River. Usually we don't see moose
26 around here, but if we're lucky we get one.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

31
32 (Teleconference interference -
33 participants not muted).

34
35 MS. KIPPI:for question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I'm back
38 and.....

39
40 MS. KIPPI: Do we have any more
41 questions?

42
43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted).

45
46 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Any other
49 questions to Steve Berendzen over at the Refuge.

50
0298

1 (No comments)

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we appreciate
4 your time and -- and your feedback and all the
5 information regarding what's going on around the Refuge
6 over there and we'll -- we'll catch up again when the
7 time is right.

8
9 MR. BERENDZEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So
12 Utqiagvik Field Office.

13
14 MR. NAGEAK: (In Native). Greetings.
15 It's been a while since I called in. This is Ernest
16 Nageak from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Barrow
17 Field Office. I'm the Alaska Native affairs
18 specialist.

19
20 Last time we had (in Native) with us,
21 but she no longer -- her term expired so it's just me
22 in the Barrow Field Office and our supervisor, Neesa
23 (indiscernible) out of the Fairbanks Field Office.

24
25 Last summer we had no field work due to
26 Covid. We usually have biologists and volunteers come

27 up for our migratory bird survey and also a shorebird
28 people that come up. So it was a quiet summer.

29
30 I did road surveys looking for steller
31 eiders along the road system, along Gaswell, Nunawak
32 and Freshwater Lake Road. And (indiscernible) did some
33 nesting area surveys middle of the summer.

34
35 But that was all our field work. And
36 right now we're currently doing our Native relations
37 training for Federal employees that work in Alaska or
38 the U.S. We just finished last week our cross cultural
39 relations class with Father Alexa so we'll be
40 continuing to do that.

41
42 We'll continue to do outreach with lead
43 -- lead shells. You know, the birds are going to start
44 migrating this year so keep in mind to watch out what
45 kind of shells you buy, make sure they are -- doesn't
46 consist of lead and they -- you know, they're steel.
47 But if you have old lead shells we had recently got a
48 shipment of steel that if you have old shells we can --
49 last -- last year we had ran out, but we had gotten --

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0299

1 we had a program back then that if you had lead shells
2 we could exchange them shell for shell for steel. So
3 we -- we have some shells now so if you have old lead
4 shells we'll be able to switch them out from 12 gauge,
5 16 and 20 gauge.
6 So we have that going.

7
8 Hopefully we're starting to set some
9 guidelines for if there will be an upcoming program
10 this year, but for as -- for as long as the Barrow
11 Field Office, I haven't heard anything yet if anybody
12 will be coming up this summer.

13
14 But other than that, that's what going
15 on in Barrow. We're also still continuing the polar
16 bear tagging and the walrus test tagging. So we have
17 taggers in Point Hope, Point Lay, Wainwright, Barrow
18 and a lot of the coastal villages. And we usually
19 travel to I think Point Hope and Wainwright in the
20 month of June (in Native) season while everyone's in
21 town to get tags. So if you guys need any polar bear
22 or walrus tags just call our office, 852-2058, for all
23 the North Slope Borough.

24
25 That's it. Any questions?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Ernest.
28 (In Native).

29

30 Any questions for Ernest from any of
31 the Council.

32
33 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, good afternoon.
34 This is Steve for the record in Point Hope.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Point Hope,
37 Steve.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Good afternoon,
40 Ernie. It's been a while.

41
42 Now, you know, we know that North Slope
43 Wildlife provides funding for polar bear patrol, but
44 they kind of started late. We're wondering if you guys
45 have any -- because they only supplied for one -- one
46 worker which was about eight hours a day and they --
47 they would quit like 4:00 in the morning. And we were
48 so concerned about the kids walking to -- there's a lot
49 of kids that walk to school and, you know, now that we

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0300
1 have more daylight, you know, there's been a lot of
2 polar bears around.

3
4 You know, it's -- this year has been --
5 you know, we stayed at a temperature from late November
6 to minus 20 throughout November, December, January and
7 February, it never go above zero. You know, in the
8 past we had some rain in January and February where it
9 made it hard for animals to -- like the caribou, the
10 Western Arctic caribou herd to get access to their food
11 because of rain in January and February when it froze
12 the ground and there's an abundance of snow this year.
13 You know, it hasn't -- but it -- you know, it -- this
14 year's been different, it stayed at a temperature of
15 minus 20 and as low as minus 30, but you're not talking
16 wind chill. You know, we had winds up at 55 miles an
17 hour and gusts to 60, you know, at times. We always
18 have winds here in Point Hope average most of the time
19 and around 20 miles an hour which isn't too bad. But
20 we do get gusts to 55, 60 at least once or twice a
21 month.

22
23 And, you know, the thing about, you
24 know, the winds have been majority from the north
25 lately. We finally got south wind and, you know, our
26 ocean has been open all winter even though it stayed at
27 20 below. You know, we -- we celebrate the born of the
28 ice when it's (in Native), you know, the -- when the
29 ice is born and connects to the land and we pull out
30 the whale's tail. And it's been getting later and
31 later the last few years. It's now, you know, I stated
32 earlier that, you know, it froze up towards the later

33 part of November, right before Thanksgiving. And we
34 pulled the whale tail's out. When you catch five or
35 under you pull them out when the ice is born, but after
36 -- after five whales, the sixth whale you can pull it
37 out anytime you want.

38
39 And -- and the ice cellars have been
40 staying frozen because they're stored, you know,
41 they're at a certain temperature not fully frozen, but,
42 you know, a temperature where they don't thaw or flood
43 with water or anything like that and that's an
44 attraction to polar bears.

45
46 But I -- I know that you know in Barrow
47 area that the ice was open earlier also. But, you
48 know, there's -- you know -- you know, the abundance of
49 snow out there in the last few years.

50
0301

1 But the animals are still here, the
2 caribou has been around year round. And like I stated
3 just the other day, I don't know if anybody contacted
4 you guys or anything, but there was a caribou in town
5 that was injured, right in the middle of town, right by
6 the school, the playground. And that's right in the
7 back middle of town and but they put it out of its
8 misery because it was injured. And there was caribou
9 caught -- there's been caribou by the airport, the old
10 village. They're just a few miles out of town spending
11 their time -- you know, they're very observant of their
12 surroundings. They're just -- like they're not scared
13 -- I don't know if they -- some people said oh, I think
14 those were reindeer, you know, you can tell reindeer
15 and caribou, you know, by the -- how short some of them
16 are with their legginess and -- and they're more -- you
17 know, they don't tend to run away from humans.

18
19 But thank you and thank you for calling
20 in.

21
22 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Steve.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
25 for Ernest or the Utqiagvik Field Office?

26
27 MR. NAGEAK: Thank you, Steve. I just
28 wanted to share the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
29 provides grants and funding to the North Slope Borough
30 to help provide polar bear patrol.

31
32 And also the Federal -- the Federal
33 government has these Federally recognized grants for
34 Federally recognized tribes. Because I used to work
35 with Native Village of Barrow and we received a grant

36 to provide -- we had a young hunter's program, bring
37 people out hunting that didn't have the resources.

38

39 And another example is Point Lay. They
40 had applied for the Federal grant provide monitoring
41 for walrus. And that could be another avenue, you
42 know, maybe the Native Village of Point Hope to maybe
43 apply for that grant and maybe they could have one of
44 their tribal members as a polar bear patrol if they're
45 able to get that grant.

46

47 But just wanted to share the -- I think
48 Fish and Wildlife Service works with the North Slope
49 Borough to provide polar bear patrol across the North

50

0302

1 Slope.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

6

7

(Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted).

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It would be all the
11 tribes that are -- we better call all the tribes that
12 are on the coast. There's money out there, you just
13 got to put in a grant request.

14

15

All right. (In Native).

16

17

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

18

19

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

20

21

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, here in Anaktuvuk
22 we have the animals patrol from the city, but the
23 falltime of the bear coming to town and -- and winter
24 we have problems with the wolves coming around and now
25 lynx coming around now. And there were a couple of
26 them here. So we're just trying to survive and them
27 providing good animals and pretty surprising with a
28 lynx this far up.

29

30

Thank you.

31

32

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Earl. And
33 I think lynx at least when my -- my old man was alive
34 he would talk about them. (In Native) they call them
35 (in Native). And they have a cycle. (In Native) every
36 eight years (in Native) eight or seven years is their
37 cycle. (In Native). So I remember the old man talking
38 about those lynx, they get more and more in abundance

39 every six or every seven or eight years. Just
40 listening to old stories and there was some hiding
41 around Barrow too and I seen some of the hunters
42 getting them out of Nuiqsut area and stuff.

43
44 (In Native).

45
46 Thank you, Ernest. If there aren't any
47 other further questions for Utqiagvik Field Office we
48 appreciate your service and the things that you do.

49
50
0303
1 Thank you so much.

2
3 So with that.....

4
5 MR. NAGEAK: (In Native).

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Office of
8 Subsistence Management, OSM.

9
10 MR. FADDEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
11 members of the Council. My name is Steve Fadden, I'm
12 the acting division chief of wildlife for OSM in
13 Anchorage.

14
15 First of all we wanted to thank you and
16 all the Council members for your work. It has been
17 very difficult for all of us dealing with the Covid-19
18 environment. We are holding all 10 winter 2021
19 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
20 This decision was made with the utmost consideration
21 and concern for the health and safety of Council
22 members, families, rural communities, the public and
23 staff who are all part of Council meetings. The health
24 and safety of everyone is our highest priority.

25
26 The Center for Disease Control and
27 Prevention guidelines suggest that people avoid travel
28 and refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
29 help prevent the spread of Covid-19. The Regional
30 Advisory Councils are the foundation of Alaska's
31 Federal Subsistence Management Program. We recognize
32 that holding face to face Council meetings in rural
33 communities across Alaska is preferable for engaging
34 the public most effectively. The Federal Subsistence
35 Management Program is fully committed to resuming in
36 person Council members across Alaska as soon as it is
37 possible to do so safely.

38
39 Since your last Council meetings the
40 following staffing changes have occurred.

41

42 Dr. Brent Vickers started as OSM
43 anthropology chief in December.

44
45 Greg Risdahl moved over to the U.S.
46 Forest Service in January and will be their
47 representative on the InterAgency Staff Committee. We
48 are grateful to have experienced on the InterAgency
49 Staff Committee that will remain with the program as

50
0304
1 advisors to their Board member.

2
3 George Pappas is currently the acting
4 OSM fisheries division chief in addition to his normal
5 job as liaison to the State wildlife and fisheries
6 programs.

7
8 Katya Wessels, Council coordinator is
9 currently acting OSM policy coordinator. Katya was
10 just selected as the Council coordination division
11 chief and will be starting in mid March.

12
13 Steve Fadden came to us from U.S. Fish
14 and Wildlife Service Refuges to be the acting OSM
15 wildlife division chief.

16
17 Sabrina Schmidt has served as one of
18 the clerks at OSM, she took a promotion with the
19 military in January.

20
21 Annual Council appointment processes
22 are very complex and takes about 15 months to complete.
23 It begins in September of each year when the Federal
24 Subsistence Board announces the open application period
25 for the Council membership. During a six month
26 application period the program conducts an extensive
27 statewide recruitment effort. The program distributes
28 approximately 2,000 applications throughout Alaska via
29 mail and email to individuals, agencies and
30 organizations. Additionally the program conducts wide
31 ranging outreach through a variety of media outlets
32 including, but not limited to newspaper, radio, TV,
33 internet, Facebook and public conferences. Last
34 year's, 2020, effort resulted in 74 applications to
35 fill 62 vacated or expiring seats.

36
37 After the InterAgency nominations
38 panels conducted the interview the Federal Subsistence
39 Board reviewed the application and forwarded their
40 recommendations to the Secretaries of Interior and
41 Agriculture on September 4th, 2020. On January 15th,
42 2021 OSM received copies of the Regional Advisory
43 Council appointment letters signed by the former
44 Secretary of the Interior. The original appointment

45 letters were sent by regular post and the applicants
46 whose appointments were approved should be receiving
47 the letter soon if they have not already received them.

48

49 We received full appointments for three

50

0305

1 Councils, Kodiak-Aleutians, Bristol Bay and Seward
2 Peninsula, and partial appointments for four Councils,
3 Eastern Interior, Northwest Arctic, North Slope and
4 Southcentral. Three Councils, Western Interior, Yukon-
5 Kuskokwim Delta and Southeast Alaska did not receive
6 appointments at all. Some Councils that received
7 partial appointments that left them with three to four
8 vacant seats, we are working with our Fish and Wildlife
9 Service headquarters office as well as with the
10 Department of the Interior, to see if we can get the
11 additional appointments considered out of cycle.

12

13 The application period for this year's
14 2021 Regional Advisory Council appointments is open
15 until March the 12th. By December 2nd of this year we
16 are going to.....

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20

21 MR. FADDEN:62 open seats for
22 appointment or reappointment and as of today we have
23 received very few applications for these appointments.
24 So we are encouraging Council members whose terms will
25 expire in December, 2022 to reapply. Your Council
26 coordinator contacted you if your membership expires
27 this coming

28 g December. We also encourage other rural
29 Alaskans to apply for Council memberships. Serving on
30 a Regional Advisory Council is the best way to
31 proactively participate in the Federal subsistence
32 management regulatory process and help to sustain
33 traditional ways of life.

33

34 Your participation on the Regional
35 Advisory Council allows for better regulations to be
36 developed to satisfy the needs of the users of the
37 resources and at that same assure the continued
38 viability of wildlife populations.

39

40 Please let your coordinator know if you
41 want to reapply or apply so they can get you the
42 application forms.

43

44 Over the past two years we have been
45 reminding Council members about the change in
46 requirements for IDs at airports. This has been

47 postponed until October the 1st, 2021. Note that all
48 Council members will need to make sure that they have
49 the required real ID for travel next fall. If you

50
0306

1 don't have the correct ID please make sure that you get
2 it before the fall, 2021 Council meeting cycle.

3
4 On August the 10th, 2020 the State of
5 Alaska filed a lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence
6 Board after it adopted emergency special action 19-14.
7 This allowed the village of Kake to engage in a
8 community harvest of two antlered moose and five male
9 Sitka black-tail deer. Also included in the lawsuit
10 was temporary special action WSA 20-03 which closed
11 Federal public lands in units 13A and 13B to non-
12 Federally-qualified moose and caribou hunters. As part
13 of the lawsuit the State asked the court to issue two
14 preliminary injunctions. One to prevent the unit 13
15 closure from taking effect and another vacating the
16 Kake hunt and prohibiting the Board from allowing any
17 additional emergency hunts related to the impacts of
18 Covid-19.

19
20 On September the 18th the U.S. District
21 Court denied the State's request for a preliminary
22 injunction on the unit 13 closure. The court found
23 because has the State has not demonstrated either a
24 likelihood of success or serious questions on the
25 merits of its claims, the court need not consider the
26 remaining elements of the preliminary injunction
27 analysis.

28
29 Two months later on November the 18th,
30 the court also denied the State's motion for
31 preliminary injunction on the Kake hunt after Judge
32 Gleason concluded that the State had not demonstrated a
33 likelihood of success on the merits, raised serious
34 questions on the merits of its claim or demonstrated
35 any likelihood of irreparable harm.

36
37 While these rulings on preliminary
38 injunctions are encouraging, they do not resolve the
39 litigation. Settlement negotiations between the
40 Department of Justice, the Department of Interior
41 Solicitor's Office, the U.S.D.A. Office of General
42 Council and the State are ongoing. The parties have
43 agreed to delay the court proceedings while these
44 discussions are underway. Barring a settlement the
45 Solicitor's Officer now estimates that the briefing
46 should be complete in the summer of 2021 and that the
47 court will issue its decision in late summer.

48
49 Based on legal guidance program staff

50
0307

1 does not comment on any active litigation directed
2 against the Federal Subsistence Board beyond what has
3 been set forth here.

4
5 We will be happy to answer any
6 questions and thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of
7 the Council.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any
10 questions for OSM.

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Steve for the record,
13 Mr. Chair, from Point Hope.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

16
17 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- I just wanted to
18 thank you for that report. And, you know, the -- hear
19 about it and I -- I appreciate it.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 And hopefully we get a -- I didn't see
24 a written report in my packet or anything so I can
25 follow along, but thank you for that.

26
27 MR. FADDEN: Through the Chair. You're
28 more than welcome.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then go down the
33 -- and I appreciate all of the agency reports and we'll
34 go to item 13, future meeting dates.

35
36 Eva.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr Chair and
39 Council. Actually there's just one last action item
40 for the Council which is approving your annual report.
41 You'll recall all the way from yesterday we had started
42 the review of your annual report which is found on page
43 10 of your meeting books and the Council was going to
44 take a look at that and then let me know if you have
45 any edits that you would like to make to that annual
46 report or additional topics.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

49
50

0308

1 MS. PATTON:or if you approve.

2 And again that's on page 10 of your meeting books.

3

4 And once.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We need a
7 motion on the floor. We need a motion on the floor for
8 the FY 2020 annual report. And we started it
9 yesterday.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll make a motion.....

12

13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted).

15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

17

18 (Teleconference interference -
19 participants not muted).

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
22 the floor to approve the FY 2020 annual report for
23 Anaktuvuk Pass, Earl.

24

25 MR. OOMITTUK: Seconded from Point
26 Hope.

27

28 MS. KIPPI: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded from Point
31 Hope. Any discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
38 called for. All those approving the FY 2020 annual
39 report signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All opposed same
44 sign.

45

46 (No opposing votes)

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
49 ayes have it.

50

0309

1 Eva, the report is approved to move
2 forward.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

5 Council. So I'll finalize that and it will go to the
6 Board and you'll receive a reply from the Board at your
7 fall meeting.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council
10 members.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So we're
13 on scheduling meeting dates for fall, 2021. What's our
14 window?

15
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council
17 members, the Council is currently scheduled -- actually
18 there was a typo from your request so it says in the
19 calendar November 4 and 5. The Council had actually
20 requested November 3 and 4. But the Council can
21 schedule it for when you -- when you wish at that time.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
24 the Council?

25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the
27 record this is Steve.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: I would go with the
32 recommendation.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: November 3 and 4?

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
39 for our fall, 2021 Regional Advisory Council meeting to
40 meet November 3 and November 4.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: AKP, Earl.

43
44 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
47 Earl. Any discussion.

48
49 (No comments)

50
0310
1 MS. KIPPI: Question.

2
3 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
6 in favor of selecting November 3 and November 4 for our
7 fall meeting, 2021, signify by saying aye.

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0311

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
ayes have it. November 3 and 4.

Winter meeting, 2022 Regional Advisory
Council.

MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and Council
members, you'll find that on page 20 of your meeting
books. And so far only three other Councils have met
to select their meeting dates. So there's just a
couple weeks that are not available. That week of
February 13th to the 19th is already booked up with
Council meetings.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. PATTON: And other -- otherwise
there's an opportunity on the rest of those meeting
windows between February 7th and March 25th.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would propose maybe
somewhere in March, maybe March 8 and 9.

What's the wish of the Council?

MR. WILLIAMS: I so move.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
the floor to schedule our winter meeting for 2022,
March 8 and 9.

MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by

Wanda. Any discussion.

(No comments)

MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
called for. All those in favor of selecting March 8
and March 9 for our winter, 2022 signify by saying aye.

10

11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
14 same sign.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, winter,
19 2022, March 8 and 9 is our dates.
20
21 Item 14, closing comments. We'll start
22 from Point Hope.
23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 It's been a good two days, I really enjoyed it. And a
26 lot of good information and insight on our surroundings
27 and reports from our different agencies.
28
29 And I thank you, Mr. Chair, for your
30 knowledge in this area and always keeping us on top of
31 things. And having a better under -- having us have a
32 better understanding of these proposals that come
33 before us, especially how they are written at times.
34
35 But I thank everybody, it's been a long
36 two days. I know a lot of these agencies have been
37 with us all day long and always to give us their
38 report. And we thank you for always being there and
39 giving us your report.
40
41 And, you know, usually we do meet in
42 person, but due to the Covid hopefully in our next
43 meetings we can be face to face.
44
45 But thank you. Thank you all and all
46 our Council members.
47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
49
50
0312
1 MR. OOMITTUK: And then just one other
2 thing. I thank Eva for always keeping us on top of
3 things and -- and coordinating things for us.
4
5 Thank you for all your hard work.
6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. Thank
8 you all.
9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). All
11 right. We'll go to Atqasuk.
12
13 MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I

14 just want to say thank you for all those that spoke at
15 this -- at this meeting. And I hope we get to meet in
16 person next time. It's been pretty hard with lots of
17 kids in the background for me to concentrate.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We love you, Wanda,
22 you and your kids. (In Native). And congratulations
23 for turning to Vice Chair this time around.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. (In Native) for
26 you guys' confidence in me.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). We'll
31 go to William Hopson, Barrow.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And then we'll go to
36 Nuiqsut, Martha.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we'll go to
41 Anaktuvuk, Earl.

42
43 MR. WILLIAMS: All I want to say is
44 thank you very much and for the last two days. Stay
45 warm and safe. Hope to see you all next year.

46
47 (In Native).

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). It's

50
0313
1 always good to hear you.

2
3 We're going to go to the far reaches
4 out at Kaktovik, Eddie.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure if
9 Eddie's on mute or if we lost Eddie.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, I would
14 just like to encourage all the Council members, you
15 know, it's important work and -- and encourage younger
16 people. Pray for one another. And again thank you for

17 your confidence in me to serve as your Chair. And I
18 always try to my best and try to -- I always want to
19 keep learning, I always want to understand.

20
21 Thank you very much.

22
23 With that, any other closing comments
24 from anybody else.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Item 15.

29
30 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
33 to adjourn.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, everyone, take
36 good care.

37
38 MR. WILLIAMS: And I'll second it.

39
40 MS. KIPPI: Question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those in favor to
43 adjourn say bye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Bye.

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

50
0314

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2
3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
4)ss.
5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6
7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through
12 ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
14 MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 23rd day
15 of February;

16
17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and

20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

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

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 10th
27 day of March 2021.

28

29

30

31

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

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