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NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

TELECONFERENCE
March 8, 2022
9:10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Gordon Brower, Chair
- Brower A. Frantz
- William Hopson
- Martha Itta
- Wanda Kippi
- Steve Oomittuk
- Edward Rexford
- Peter Williams

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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Anchorage, AK 99501
907-227-5312/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 3/8/2022)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'd like to call the meeting to order for the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. It's March 8th and it is 9:10 a.m.

With that, Madame Coordinator, I'll go ahead and give the invocation this morning and let -- let's take a moment to pray.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'd like to go ahead and get the roll call started. I'm not sure if Wanda has chimed in yet?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And let's see. Steve, I think you get to do the roll call, Steve. I think you're -- it looks like you're the Secretary. And normally Wanda was our Secretary for how many years and when we reorganized looks like Wanda moved up as Vice Chair. And now, Steve, you're our Secretary so I'm going to go ahead and ask you to do the roll call.

MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native) good morning. I will do the roll call. Morning everybody, can you hear me okay?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can hear you.

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Gordon Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). I'm here.

MR. OOMITTUK: Wanda Kippi.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. I just got a text from Wanda, she's still trying to connect on the teleconference number. Hopefully she'll be able to get through

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1 shortly.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Steve Oomittuk.
6 I think he's here partly.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: Billy Blair Patkotak,
11 Jr.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 Council. And I did not get confirmation from Billy
15 Blair Patkotak that he would be able to join us for
16 this meeting today.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm also having
21 my Staff call the liaison's office or the advisor to
22 the mayor in Wainwright to see if they can knock on his
23 door and see if he can be calling in.

24

25 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Edward
26 Rexford, Sr.

27

28 MR. REXFORD: Good morning. I'm here.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Eddie.

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK: Martha Itta.

35

36 MS. ITTA: I'm here.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Esther Hugo.

39

40 MS. HUGO: Good morning, I'm here.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning, Esther.

43 (In Native).

44

45 Brower Frantz.

46

47 MR. FRANTZ: Good morning, Steve, I'm
48 here.

49

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. (In
2 Native).

3
4 And then we have Peter Earl Williams.

5
6 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Good
7 morning.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. Good
10 morning.

11
12 Mr. Chair, look like we have a quorum.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). And I'm
15 going to go ahead and move down to the next item. And
16 thank you so much, Steve, for the roll call. Now that
17 we confirmed that we've got a quorum and can act on
18 business and that's awesome.

19
20 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
21 This is Wanda.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Wanda, you go
24 on. All right.

25
26 MS. KIPPI: Good morning, everybody.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We just.....

29
30 MS. LEAVITT: (Indiscernible -
31 simultaneous speech) is online.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
34 you. We're going to go through welcome and
35 introductions and -- and I'm going to go ahead and
36 start from the -- those that are online. I know we
37 just heard Doreen Leavitt. I think that ICAS. And
38 let's go ahead and see who else is online.

39
40 MS. de SOUSA: Leandra de Sousa,
41 Department of Wildlife Management, North Slope Borough.

42
43 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
44 This is Carmen Daggett, Alaska Department of Fish and
45 Game, Barrow.

46
47 MR. TING: Yes, good morning. This is
48 Alex Ting, Alaska Department of Fish and Game out of
49 Kotzebue.

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1 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
2 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

3
4 MS. COLD: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
5 This is Helen Cold with the Alaska Department of Fish
6 and Game, Division of Subsistence in Fairbanks.

7
8 MR. VICKERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
9 members of the Chair -- members of the Council. This
10 is Brent Vickers, I am from the Office of Subsistence
11 Management, supervisor and anthropologist. I'll be
12 representing the leadership team for OSM. And let me
13 be the first to break open the introductions from OSM.

14
15
16 So OSM roster, why don't you start
17 getting in there now, announcing yourself.

18
19 Good morning, everyone.

20
21 MR. STONE: Good morning, everyone.
22 This is Jarred Stone, fisheries biologist with the
23 Office of Subsistence Management.

24
25 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning. This is
26 Kendra Holman, wildlife biologist with the Office of
27 Subsistence Management.

28
29 MR. LIND: (In Native). This is
30 Orville Lind, Native liaison for the Office of
31 Subsistence Management. Good morning, Council.

32
33 MR. PLANK: Morning. This is Tom
34 Plank, wildlife biologist, OSM.

35
36 MS. MIKOW: Good morning, Mr. Chairman
37 and members of the Council. This is Beth Mikow. I'm
38 the anthropologist for the BLM with the Arctic District
39 Office. Good morning.

40
41 REPORTER: I'm sorry, could you repeat
42 your name?

43
44 MS. MIKOW: Yes, this is Beth Mikow
45 with BLM.

46
47 REPORTER: Thank you.

48
49 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
50

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1 Pat Petrivelli with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the
2 subsistence anthropologist out of Anchorage.

3

4 MR. McKEE: Good morning. This is
5 Chris McKee, BLM subsistence coordinator and ISC
6 member.

7

8 MS. DREW: Good morning. This is Katie
9 Drew, fish biologist, BLM, Arctic District Office.

10

11 MS. URQUIA: Good morning. This is
12 Morgan Urquia, Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
13 Subsistence Division here in Fairbanks.

14

15 MS. SAVAGE: Good morning. This is
16 Heather Savage with the Arctic District Office of BLM
17 in Fairbanks.

18

19 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
20 Jochum, National Park Service Regional Office in
21 Anchorage. I'm subsistence program analyst and ISC
22 member.

23

24 MR. LACEY: Good morning. This is Will
25 Lacey with the National Park Service in Fairbanks.

26

27 MR. RACIK: Hi, this is Jeff Racik from
28 Gates of the Arctic National Park calling from
29 Fairbanks.

30

31 MR. HUCKLELUK: Good morning, Mr.
32 Chair, members of the Council. This is Nathan
33 Huckleluk, I'm the acting refuge manager for the Arctic
34 National Wildlife Refuge.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
37 Just checking in to see if there's anyone else on
38 teleconference who hasn't introduced themselves yet?

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MS. PATTON: Okay. Well, welcome,
43 everyone. And before we get started here just a quick
44 reminder for everyone on teleconference. In order to
45 keep the background noise to a minimum when you're not
46 speaking please keep your phones muted. You can mute
47 your phone by pushing the mute button on your cell
48 phone or you can hit star, six to mute yourself and
49 then just hit star, six to unmute. And if you get an
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1 incoming call please disconnect from the teleconference
2 line otherwise we get stuck on really bad muzak that we
3 can't get rid of.

4
5 So we'll just keep reminding folks as
6 we go throughout the meeting. It really makes a big
7 difference for everybody to have their phones on mute
8 to eliminate the background noise and to eliminate the
9 echo on teleconference.

10
11 So a big thanks to our Council members
12 for your patience with holding our meetings by
13 teleconference and welcome to everyone. Thank you for
14 calling in to join us for this meeting.

15
16 And then as the court reporter noted,
17 helpful for the record for people to identify
18 themselves prior to speaking so we know who's speaking
19 and making a recommendation.

20
21 All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 We'll turn it back over to you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, it's
25 always good to get the reminders out.

26
27 And before I go to review and adopt the
28 agenda, I'd just like to state for public comments.
29 Public comments are welcome for each agenda item and
30 for regional concerns not included on the agenda. The
31 Council appreciates hearing your concerns and
32 knowledge. The Chair will identify the opportunity to
33 provide public comments. At that time please let the
34 Chair know that you want to speak. Time limits may be
35 set to provide opportunity for all to testify and keep
36 the meeting -- to keep the meeting on schedule.

37
38 And let's go down to Item No. 5, review
39 and adoption of the agenda. What say the Board, the
40 Council.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Pete Williams.
43 I so move.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
46 the floor from Peter Williams in Anaktuvuk Pass to
47 adopt the agenda.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: Second by Steve Oomittuk
50

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1 from Point Hope.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
4 Steve. Any discussions.

5

6 Eva, are there any suggestion --
7 suggested changes to the agenda, any pressing action
8 items that we may need to move ahead or anything like
9 that?

10

11 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair
12 and members of the Council. We do have a couple
13 additions to the agenda, additions that were updated
14 after the agenda in your meeting books was mailed out
15 over a month ago. One of the things is that we do have
16 just a brief report on the Council charter changes
17 which will come after review and approve previous
18 meeting minutes. And then there's.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's at Item
21 No. 7?

22

23 MS. PATTON: That would be between
24 items -- yeah, Item No. 7, after Item No. 7.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How about 7A, we call
27 it 7A.

28

29 MS. PATTON: There we go. Thank you.
30 And then there was a.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that was the
33 charter?

34

35 MS. PATTON: Yes. So it's just a quick
36 review. Last year the Council made recommendations to
37 changes to your Council charter and the Council's
38 charter is renewed every two years. And so your
39 current charter was just signed and approved by the
40 Secretary of the Interior and they did adopt some of
41 the recommended changes that the Council had requested.
42 So just a quick update on that.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other changes to
47 the agenda?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We

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1 have two wildlife special action requests that were
2 submitted since your meeting book materials went out.
3 And we would like to take those up after the Council
4 addresses the deferred wildlife special action 21-01 on
5 the agenda.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that would.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: You'll see under old
10 business.....

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER:old business.

13
14 MS. PATTON:we have the wildlife
15 special action 21-01 and we would add after that a.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe a C.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Yes. So we have -- on
20 your agenda is the WP-22-55, the muskox unit 26A,
21 establish a hunt. We're going to revisit that to
22 discuss permitting. And then we have the wildlife
23 special action request and for the deferred.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, we need to go
26 one by one here. I'm -- we're on Item No. 10C, what's
27 the number?

28
29 MS. PATTON: Yeah, correct. So and
30 that will be wildlife special action request 22-01.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 22-01, special action
33 request.

34
35 MS. PATTON: And then D.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we need a D for
38 the next one?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Yes. D would be wildlife
41 special action request 22-02.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
44 -- any other besides those two additions?

45
46 MS. PATTON: Well, the main thing we
47 wanted to discuss was under that -- the third wildlife
48 special action, 21-01. We had planned to provide the
49 Council with the latest caribou information prior to
50

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1 the Council considering the shareable portion of that
2 special action request. And then we'll take up the
3 moose portion of that special action request
4 separately. But the two -- the two primary biologists
5 that are online this morning that would be providing
6 that updated caribou information are available. Alex
7 Hanson is available this morning, but he may if
8 the.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

11

12 MS. PATTON:weather is good he
13 may get called out for a aerial survey. So his
14 availability to provide that caribou report would be
15 sometime this morning. So if we could make sure we get
16 to his report, you know, before noon for sure and kind
17 of the sooner the better before the weather turns good,
18 if he might get called on a aerial survey.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is Alex going to
21 present both 22-02 and 22-01?

22

23 MS. PATTON: Just the caribou -- the
24 Western Arctic Caribou Herd report for WSA21-01.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

27

28 MS. PATTON: And then we do have Carmen
29 Daggett online as well and she would be able to provide
30 the Teshekpuk information as well. And she is
31 available.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

34

35 MS. PATTON:today.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other proposed
38 modifications to the agenda?

39

40 MS. PATTON: And then the only other
41 changes that we had two Fisheries Resource Monitoring
42 Program reports that were on the agenda under new
43 business, right after the FRMP. And we have -- we have
44 an ANSEP student that will be providing a report under
45 the FRMP report. And both she and Brendan Scanlon who
46 will be providing the Colville grayling report are
47 available tomorrow afternoon. So we're wondering if
48 the Council would consider a time certain for our ANSEP
49 student report tomorrow after lunch, Wednesday
50

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1 afternoon after lunch for a time certain?

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So what are you proposing, put it under -- that's under new business A, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and then have the ANSEP students provide a report as well as OSM?

7

8

9

MS. PATTON: Correct. But for a time certain rather than coming up as the FRMP is discussed so it would end up kind of in the timing of the agency reports if those two FRMP reports with our ANSEP student are able to come at a time certain tomorrow after lunch, Wednesday after lunch.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: So you want to put that under agency reports then?

MS. PATTON: Yeah, it would fall roughly under agency reports in the timing on the agenda.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. And it kind of leaves the book open when you haven't really dealt with the term on a time certain. So we just put 1:00 o'clock or something?

MS. PATTON: Yes, that sounds good. And that's what I had put -- you know, discussed with them is 1:00 o'clock or 1:30.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

MS. PATTON:whenever the Council resumes after lunch.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. 1:30 I think would be maybe all right for the ANSEP student's report.

MS. PATTON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other modifications to the agenda.

(No comments)

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, what's
2 the wish of the Council.

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Call for the
5 question.

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

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I'll call for the
13 question with the changes and the amendments to the
14 agenda that's presented by our coordinator.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
17 that was the second one that -- there was another call
18 for question.

19
20 All right. The question's been called
21 for to adopt the agenda as amended with the changes to
22 add 7A, charter review; and then on 10, old business,
23 add Item C, 22-01, special action request; and then
24 item D, 22-02, special action request; and then under
25 agency reports ANSEP student presentation at 1:30.

26
27 All those approve signify by saying
28 aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
33 same sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Agenda amended and
38 approved. So we have an agenda.

39
40 Item No. 6, election of officers. Eva,
41 where are we at with that?

42
43 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
44 members of the Council. So the Council holds election
45 of officers once every year. Tomorrow is the time when
46 we do that. Currently you are the current Chair and
47 Wanda Kippi is our Vice Chair and Steve Oomittuk as
48 Secretary. And I.....

49
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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So.....

2

3 MS. PATTON:will begin the call
4 for the election of officers and once our -- once our
5 Chair is elected then I will turn it over to the Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Election
8 of officers, everybody. Secret ballot. Okay.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Well, it's a little
11 challenging understanding we are over teleconference.
12 So.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

15

16 MS. PATTON:you can do.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we can't collude
19 with the Russians on this.

20

21 MS. PATTON:we can do a roll call
22 vote, however the Council wishes. So again for
23 the.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's put
26 the -- let's start off. We need some nominations for
27 the Chair.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 And so in accordance with the Council charter the
31 Council members elect a Chair, a Vice Chair and a
32 Secretary for a one year term. And I would like to
33 open the floor for the nominations of the Council
34 Chair. The nominations don't need to be seconded for
35 elections, but when nominee's names are called just
36 please repeat so we confirm the nomination. And then
37 we will proceed with the vote.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Madame Coordinator, this
40 is Steve for the record.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Steve.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: I'd like to nominate
45 Gordon Brower for Chair.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Okay. Great. Thank you,
48 Steve. And do we have.....

49

50

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1 MR. WILLIAMS: Madame Coordinator, I'd
2 like to close the nominations on Chair. This is Peter
3 Williams.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Peter. I'll
6 just double check if there are no other nominations for
7 Chair.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Madame Chair, I'd close
10 the nomination.

11
12 MS. PATTON: Okay. So we close the
13 nominations. We have one nominee, Gordon Brower for
14 Chair. All those in favor say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 MS. PATTON: All those opposed say nay.

19
20 (No opposing votes)

21
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Okay. Gordon
23 Brower is Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So do I
26 take it from here, Eva, or.....

27
28 MS. PATTON: Yes, and then you take
29 over from here for the Vice Chair and Secretary.

30
31 And thank you again, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
34 Well, again thank you for your confidence to keeping me
35 on here. You know, it's kind of like these kind of
36 things we work on is -- and when you're an Inupiaq in
37 my view when you use these lands for their intended
38 purpose it's important that, you know, we keep those
39 ties to our customary and traditional uses and that's
40 why there's a C&T process for these things. I just
41 want to thank you for your continued confidence in me
42 as your Chair. Sometimes these are very difficult
43 things to work on, to -- I will do my best.

44
45 At the same time I want to, you know,
46 say I -- I've been on the Council for a long, long
47 time, over 20 years and, you know, watched the times
48 change. And I really want to encourage the younger
49 folks to do the things that we've been doing to protect
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1 what we do. You know, when the caribou decline was
2 going on in 2014 and through those when there was a
3 notable difference in caribou population and we were
4 faced with ADF&G proposing drastic changes to harvest
5 limits and changing rules, it was this Council that
6 started to propose practical, real conservation
7 measures that the Inupiaq people have always -- that
8 always abide by. And they were in fact made into rules
9 and they were just normal, practical things that
10 Inupiaqs did like we don't hunt the bulls when they go
11 into rut so let's make that into a rule, we're going to
12 do that. I just happen to believe traditional
13 knowledge and the way we have managed our own resources
14 before all of this rules and regulations were here
15 allowed us to flourish with our animals because we use
16 them wisely. And like a eco system based management in
17 my view.

18

19 Anyway before I go out on a really long
20 spiel, we better get on with our elections. But I
21 really appreciate all your confidence in me. You know,
22 there's going to be a time sometime in the near future
23 where, you know, I -- you know, I've been thinking
24 about even putting in my own retirement and go live at
25 my cabin like a hermit until I look like a sourdough
26 and start the clicking language to myself. But and
27 that younger people should be very encouraged to take
28 on these roles to protect our community's resources.

29

30 With that I'm going to open the floor
31 for nominations for Vice Chair.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair, I nominate
34 Esther Hugo.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We have.....

37

38 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Mr. Williams.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We have
41 Esther. Any other nominations?

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I ask for
44 unanimous consent and close nominations.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a request to
47 ask for unanimous consent. All those approve signify
48 by saying aye.

49

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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,
9 congratulations, Esther Hugo, for coming back to the
10 Regional Council and landing a spot as the Vice Chair
11 to boot. Congratulations.

12

13 MS. HUGO: (In Native).

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You got a long speech
16 to make?

17

18 MS. HUGO: I wasn't prepared, I'm
19 sorry.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We love you,
24 Esther.

25

26 All right. We now have a Vice Chair,
27 Esther Hugo. Welcome and very awesome for new members
28 to gain a seat immediately too. That's pretty awesome.

29

30 I'll open the floor for nominations for
31 Secretary.

32

33 MS. HUGO: I nominate -- Mr. Chair, I
34 nominate Steve Oomittuk.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Esther,
37 can you nominate.....

38

39 MS. HUGO: Yeah, I would like to
40 nominate Steve Oomittuk with unanimous consent.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
43 nomination on the floor for Steve and asking for
44 unanimous consent. All those in favor of Steve signify
45 by saying aye?

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,

50

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1 same sign.

2

3 (No opposing votes)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, all
6 right. Congratulations, Steve, you are the Secretary.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native) I will do my
9 best to be a Secretary.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We've
14 gone through our elections and reorganized once again.
15 Again I thank you for your confidence in my role here
16 as the Chair.

17

18 And with that I'm going to go down to
19 Item No. 7, review and approve of previous minutes.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 members of the Council. This is Eva Patton, Council
23 coordinator and you can find your previous meeting
24 minutes on tab 3 of your meeting binder. And please
25 rearview and let me know if there are any edits,
26 additions or spelling corrections needed.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the
31 record this is Steve. I make a motion to adopt the
32 meeting minutes of November 3 and 4 of 2021 for
33 discussion purposes.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
36 from Steve Oomittuk to adopt the meeting minutes from
37 November 3 and 4, 2021.

38

39 MS. HUGO: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
42 Was that Esther or was that Wanda?

43

44 MS. HUGO: Esther.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In
47 Native) so Esther Hugo seconded. We're under
48 discussion. So let's discuss your minutes.

49

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0018

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Call for question if
2 there's no discussion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
5 question's been called for. All those in favor of
6 adopting the minutes, signify by saying aye.

7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
11 same sign.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, minutes
16 are adopted, Eva, so they're final.

17
18 We need to go down to Item No. 7A,
19 charter review. Eva, you have the floor.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 members of the Council. So you'll find your Council's
23 2021 charter under tab 15 at the back of your meeting
24 binder.

25
26 And I'll just.....

27
28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted).

30
31 REPORTER: And hey, I'm going to
32 actually ask everybody to mute their phone if they're
33 not talking, please.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. PATTON: And just a quick reminder,
38 hit the mute button on your phone or you can hit star,
39 six.

40
41 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry, which tab was that
42 again?

43
44 MS. PATTON: Tab 15 so at the very back
45 of your meeting book binder.

46
47 And all 10 Subsistence Regional
48 Advisory Councils were chartered under the Federal
49 Advisory Committee Act and the Councils' charters are
50

0019

1 renewed every two years. And last year the Councils
2 reviewed the charters and proposed some changes and the
3 Federal Subsistence Board subsequently supported most
4 of the Councils' recommended changes and forwarded it
5 to the Secretary of Interior and Agriculture for their
6 review and approval.

7
8 Nine Councils had requested carryover
9 terms, that that clause be added to all Council
10 charters to avoid temporary vacancies on the Council
11 that occurs between when seats expire and before new
12 current member terms are appointed by the Secretary of
13 the Interior. And so Council will probably remember we
14 had a circumstance with many of the Regional Advisory
15 Councils across Alaska that the Secretarial
16 appointments were greatly delayed and that ended up
17 leaving Councils with many vacancies and few voting
18 members until the new appointments were made. So the
19 Secretary supported this to provide that carryover term
20 clause and avoid those temporary vacancies. So this is
21 now added to your charter and you'll find it under
22 section 12 under the membership and designation.

23
24 And the added language reads, if
25 appointments for a given year have not been announced a
26 member may continue to serve on the Council following
27 the expiration of his or her term and such appointments
28 have been made. Unless reappointed the Councils'
29 member service ends on the date of announcement of new
30 Council members, even if that member's seat remains
31 unfilled. And so essentially all the Council terms end
32 in the beginning of December and new appointments are
33 supposed to be made at that same time so there isn't a
34 gap. And this carryover term will ensure that if
35 appointments are delayed for any reason that there
36 won't be a gap in membership on the Council.

37
38 And then.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question,
41 Madame Coordinator. This is Gordon.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead. Go ahead,
44 Gordon.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's just say we
47 don't have a representative from Point Lay and there
48 was a last representative from Point Lay and does that --
49 can that bring in the last representative that
50

0020

1 represented out of Point Lay?

2

3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 members of the Council. That's a good question. So
6 the appointments actually have to be made -- applicant
7 has to apply and then be appointed to serve on the
8 Council. And so if we don't get an applicant from
9 Point Lay unfortunately we're not able to fill that
10 seat. So we keep reaching out to Point Lay and
11 encourage applications from that community to ensure
12 representation on the Council, I know it's been a few
13 years since there's been a Point Lay
14 representative.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

MS. PATTON:but it does -- it
does require an application.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva, just for a
second, Eva.

MS. PATTON: Yeah, go ahead.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we understand
that very well. I'm just saying that language I was
just read that the last person that was appointed to
serve until a new appointee is made -- appointment is
made. And we don't have a new appointment. And it
seems to suggest and if logic follows here that the
last person serving in that region could be called upon
and say hey, you're still on -- you're still on the
Board here or on the Council. And maybe that's a legal
question. But I like the language in case, you know,
something happens to the Secretary of Interior and
they're not.....

Anyway I'm going to take a call real
quick. My bad.

MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you for that,
Mr. Chair. Yes, and the carryover terms are for that
year unfortunately so we're not able to reach back, you
know, a couple years, it's just for that year until the
appointments are made.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And there is also another topic that

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1 was supported by the Federal Subsistence Board and the
2 Secretary of the Interior. The North Slope Council had
3 made a recommendation to strike out subsection 4A to 4I
4 of the section of description of duties from all 10
5 Regional Advisory Council charters. And you won't see
6 that description in your new charter because it was
7 removed. And older Council members may recall a few
8 years back there were Secretarial Orders from the
9 previous Administration that were added to all FACA
10 chartered committee charters and in the -- in the case
11 of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils
12 it was not applicable under ANILCA mandates that the
13 Council is chartered under. And so the Board agreed
14 with the Council's opinion that the language in these
15 subsections was irrelevant to the Council's mission and
16 ANILCA mandates. These were inserted in the Councils'
17 charter during the 2017 charter renewal by the previous
18 Administration and the Executive Orders cited in these
19 subsections were either irrelevant or revoked by the
20 new, current Administration Executive Orders.

21
22 So the Secretary's approved this change
23 request and you won't -- you won't see that irrelevant
24 language in your charter any longer moving forward.

25
26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions about
29 that to Eva?

30
31 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, I was just
34 polling the Council if there were any questions
35 regarding the charter.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, if I can get
40 some feedback maybe sometime regarding that question
41 about -- you know, I was -- would like to think this is
42 the Regional Advisory Council meaning I know we can --
43 we can fill all the tables with people from Barrow or --
44 and still function, but when it's the Regional
45 Advisory Council in representing Region 10 I always
46 find it important to hear all the perspectives in the
47 communities throughout the North Slope. And we've had
48 difficulty retaining Wainwright to some degree and
49 Point Lay to some degree and I'd like to see how we can
50

0022

1 reengage and if that language works to allow those
2 folks that were prior appointed, seems to me until
3 somebody else is interested maybe those seats are --
4 could be considered still filled with those -- unless
5 they passed away or something like that.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
8 absolutely very important to have representation from
9 all eight of the North Slope subsistence regions'
10 communities and we've been working with outreach to
11 Wainwright and Point Lay in hopes we would get more
12 interest and applications to serve on the Council. I
13 recognize there's a lot going on especially these past
14 couple years for folks. We'll continue to do that
15 outreach and encourage applications for the next round.

16

17 My understanding of that new clause in
18 the charter is a carryover from one year to the next.
19 And so if appointments were delayed in that given year
20 then the currently seated Council members would be able
21 to retain their seat until appointments were made. So
22 I don't think we have the ability to reach back a
23 couple years. And my understanding is the previous
24 appointee from Point Lay had decided to not reapply, to
25 essentially retire from the Council at that time. So
26 we're reaching out to encourage new applications.

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So I'll
31 continue to reach out to Point Lay and maybe try to get
32 into the Native Village Council and the tribal
33 president to try to reach out to get somebody
34 interested.

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that Earl?

39

40 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Earl.

43

44 MR. WILLIAMS: Hey, I was going to ask
45 you a question here. Back in early '90s when me and
46 Raymond was representing Anaktuvuk and I don't know,
47 but I was -- you was either Chair or Harry. But
48 anyway.....

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Harry was the Chair.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, Harry. Yeah, you
4 were on there at that time, you were representing
5 Barrow. And everybody thought the attention of a bug,
6 having two representatives from one village, how's this
7 -- either misunderstood or what.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
10 Earl. I do recall those kind of dialogues. And, Eva,
11 this is going to have to tweak your memory as well.
12 And that there was some sentiment that there be an
13 alternate for -- and a lot of times we were challenged
14 with a quorum, those kind of things. And the -- did
15 you get Earl's question about that?

16

17 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
18 and members of the Council. And because we do have a
19 10 member Council there is room for more than one
20 representative from each community to serve on the
21 Council. So we have, you know, an additional couple
22 seats for some communities to have more than one
23 representative.

24

25 The previous charter review process,
26 most of the Regional -- all 10 of the Regional Advisory
27 Councils had requested having alternates appointed.
28 And the Secretary of the Interior did support
29 appointing alternates, but the alternate would only
30 have a seat on the Council when the primary person or a
31 vacancy occurred unexpectedly. So unfortunately it
32 doesn't work in time for each individual Council
33 meeting. So if we have a full Council and one
34 representative wasn't able to make it for a particular
35 reason, you know, for a particular person, that
36 alternate wouldn't get appointed to sit in for that
37 meeting. So unfortunately they did -- well,
38 fortunately they did concur with appointing alternates
39 so if we have a full Council, additional highly
40 qualified people are appointed to serve as an alternate
41 in the event that there's an unexpected vacancy. So,
42 you know, someone may move out of the region, someone
43 may decide to retire before their term concludes,
44 someone may pass on unexpectedly and in those events
45 then that alternate would be able to be appointed and
46 serve on the Council for the remainder of that vacancy.
47 But it doesn't work unfortunately of having alternates
48 able to attend the meeting on behalf of the Council
49 without there being a vacancy.

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, it's Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower Frantz. It's your -- you're on.

MR. FRANTZ: So I just had a comment on the particular discussion. The -- especially with a community as small as Point Lay a lot of us must realize though that these people that are appointed often are subject to multiple other entities such as the Planning and Zoning Commissions and things of that nature. You know, the North Slope -- the North Slope Borough has multiple appointments for Point Lay and these people, you know, there's not -- I want to say there's not enough of them in a small community that are around to fill all these positions. So likely more than one of them are filling 10 or -- you know, 10 or 15 roles. And to be added to different advisories such as this one, it seems almost like duplicate efforts and they get burnt out after a while which is what I was seeing at least from Point Lay and they were looking to not be on so many committees.

So that's part of the reasoning behind I think finding difficulty in small location because there are so many of these committees involved in their lives that it makes it difficult to run so many meetings throughout the year. So just keep that in mind, just my comments.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower. Those are pretty good comments and I too get, you know -- you know, I tell my Staff do not disturb me today, I'm on the Council. And it -- those are really important things to recognize is the many different hats individuals wear. And I just don't know how else to put it other than how Brower expressed that. And it's a important thing, but, you know, getting burned out too could be part of that. But there's also there's net working aspect of it is when you're on that Council you might hear something at the Planning Commission, you might hear something at the Assembly, you might hear something from -- if you're on the Search and Rescue Committee or something like that that

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1 you can bring some of these things to the Council when
2 they are the purview of the Council. That's a
3 different aspect of it, but I certainly agree with
4 those sentiments.

5

6 Thank you, Brower.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
9 for the record, I just have a comment myself.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve from
12 Point Hope.

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I thank you. You
15 know, being on the North Slope Subsistence Regional
16 Advisory Council for many years, you know, it's a
17 volunteer thing, you know, you don't get a stipend or
18 anything for meetings and they can be lengthy. And,
19 you know, when other people wear other hats that are on
20 these Advisory Councils, you know, they tend to choose
21 meetings that -- where they do get a stipend and they
22 do get paid for it. And, you know -- you know,
23 subsistence is very vital to our communities and it
24 should be a priority for people. But, you know, living
25 in the low income community a lot of people choose
26 stipends.

27

28 But, you know, I thank you for bringing
29 that out, Brower Frantz, and but, you know, we are here
30 to ensure that our way of life continues to the next
31 generation, the animals that we depend on, they're
32 vital to our communities and assuring that they are
33 protected.

34

35 And then the one thing that, you know
36 -- you know, like jurisdiction on this North Slope
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, you know, we
38 don't -- doesn't go there, you know, even though we
39 have concerns with our -- with our animals that live in
40 the ocean, our fish, our seals, our walrus, our polar
41 bears, our whale, you know, they have other commissions
42 that have the authority, you know, the Walrus
43 Commission, the Whale Commission, the Walrus
44 Commission, so, you know, we're -- you know, sometimes
45 we have no -- you know, we're an Advisory Council and
46 we can advise, but, you know, sometimes we're
47 overpowered by the Federal Subsistence Advisory and
48 we're known to do things and, you know, just to let
49 some of our newcomers know that, you know, sometimes
50

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1 it's very hard to be on -- you know, even though the
2 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
3 sounds like, you know, is very broad, but we're limited
4 to our jurisdiction of, you know, what we actually can
5 do.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
8 Any other comments before we move on?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Eva, this wasn't
13 an action item, but just an update, right?

14
15 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
16 and members of the Council. Just an update for the
17 Council on your new charter and those changes and
18 excellent comments yes, and very much understood that
19 so many of you wear many hats and are leaders in your
20 community taking care of so many things. So we really
21 appreciate your time and as Steve noted serving as
22 volunteers for your communities on subsistence across
23 the region.

24
25 So (in Native).

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva. And
28 just for your information I've just been emailing back
29 and forth with Sophie in Point Lay and she works for
30 the Tribal Council and sent me some resolutions on
31 different things and just chatting with her about
32 trying to get somebody interested in submitting a
33 application from that area.

34
35 Anyway interesting comments and I think
36 they're on the mark here.

37
38 So with that I know we've already acted
39 on the minutes. I think, Eva, the update on the
40 charter is complete and we provided comments on that.
41 So I think we can move down to the next agenda item is
42 reports. And during the Council members report this is
43 what you want to say, how was your subsistence and what
44 you hear from others and other things like that. And
45 it brings a lot to the line managers, it brings to the
46 rule makers and for us as a whole how our region is
47 doing. So we're going to start off with -- let's go to
48 Atqasuk, to Wanda, Council members report.

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1 Wanda, you have the floor.

2

3 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair and the Council. For the record my name is
5 Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk subsistence.

6

7 Our caribou have been just about the
8 same as falltime. In August there was a small herd in
9 -- scattered, scattered around. And in September we
10 finally see a herd, like by the thousands around the
11 camping grounds that hasn't been seen for many, many,
12 many years and it was good to hear that they were
13 finally coming through that area or it has been for
14 quite a while. And I noticed that during falltime
15 there was quite a bit of caribou in our area which was
16 nice to have.

17

18 The freeze up around our area was slow
19 in September, it was slushy in October and just
20 recently I noticed like a couple weeks ago along the
21 river, river's edge, there was water on top which is
22 nearby our town.

23

24 Geese hunting was great. There has
25 been sightings of wolf and wolverine around our area
26 close by. And during the fall the -- I didn't see much
27 or heard of much bear around the area, but there was
28 some sightings of them.

29

30 And the fishing was good once it froze
31 up, ice fishing time. The -- after freeze up they put
32 out nets, they were -- they were catching some fish,
33 but not as much as they normally do.

34

35 And the berries were good, good
36 picking, when you get to go pick they were there.

37

38 I don't have anything much besides on
39 my last report, on the last Council report on the
40 second paragraph, where the caribous stayed across the
41 river from Nuiqsut a few days, it's supposed to say
42 Atqasuk.

43

44 And that's all for my report, Mr.
45 Chair.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. (In
50

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1 Native), Wanda. Any questions for Wanda on her report?

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.....

6

7

MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, this is Brower.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower.

10

11

MR. FRANTZ: So I just had a question.

12

I know they had muskox issues over the last few years,
13 but I wanted to ask if they had any reports of muskox
14 over the last year since the previous year when you had
15 muskox reported at Atqasuk?

16

17

MS. KIPPI: Thank you, Brower. I think
18 they might have seen one. I don't think they -- they
19 might have seen one during the summer I think.

20

21

MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Now I'm just trying
22 to document any sightings from this year. There was a
23 high amount around the camp so I just wanted to see if
24 it was reflected in Atqasuk as well.

25

26

MS. KIPPI: Yeah, we didn't -- they
27 probably seen one far -- quite a ways away from town.
28 It was maybe when somebody was riding out there they
29 might have seen one from afar.

30

31

MR. FRANTZ: Thank you.

32

33

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Is that
34 it, Wanda?

35

36

MS. KIPPI: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

37

38

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I just want to
39 thank you, Wanda, for serving as our Vice Chair in the
40 -- on the previous season and it's always good to work
41 with you and you do a good job as well.

42

43

So with that I'm going to go to
44 Kaktovik. Eddie.

45

46

MR. REXFORD: Yes, good morning,
47 everybody. We've been having another successful year,
48 folks have been -- there are caribou nearby and folks
49 that do go up to the mountains do bring back some

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1 sheep.

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Other than that I don't have much to report from our neck of the woods, but our yearly moose season and quota which is delegated to the Refuge manager, hopefully we'll be hearing something soon from Nathan on that. So our community would be able to harvest a moose this year is possible. I know we didn't harvest any last year.

There's been a few polar bear problems in the community, breaking down garages and stuff like that. Other than that it's been quiet, everybody's doing okay.

That's all I have for now.

Quyanaq.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaq, Eddie. Any questions for Eddie from the Council?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, be safe out there. Boy, polar bears getting into garages. That sounds like it's a little out of hand there, Eddie.

So I'm going to go all the way across the.....

MR. REXFORD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:North Slope to Point Hope, Steve Oomittuk.

MR. OOMITTUK: (In Native). Good morning. Can you guys hear me okay?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. (In Native). It's been a good year. You know, the tuttu have been around practically all year and there's a lot of young hunters catching their first ones, you know. It's always their first animal is given away to someone in need or elderly. There's been a lot of tuttu around and not too many predators it seem like they're

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1 catching as much as the past previous years. They
2 caught the abundance of caribou that stuck around and
3 just, you know, a few miles out of town and they've
4 been around all year long.

5
6 A lot of nanuqs. You know, we had a
7 very cold -- very cold winter. The ice stuck around.
8 A lot of nanuqs were caught coming into the community
9 so we had to increase polar bear patrol to 24 hours.
10 And but the abundance of polar bears this year is the
11 most I've ever seen or heard about in years especially
12 just on the outskirts of Point Hope or in the old
13 village around Point Hope itself, around the outskirts
14 of Point Hope. Just, you know, a couple hundred yards
15 out, you know, they've seen a lot of tracks where polar
16 bears are circling around the community, you know,
17 waiting for that right moment to -- you know, they're
18 predators so, you know, we're very concerned of that
19 especially during the dark months and the cold months.

20
21 The weather's been real cold, you know,
22 since October, September, October, November, December,
23 January, February, then the later part of February we
24 finally got above zero in March, you know, first week
25 of March. But the temperature's been very cold.

26
27 We have a lot of ice on the north side.
28 Seem like for this year a lot of -- abundance of seals.
29 People catching a lot of seals.

30
31 Tomcods, usually we get them in January
32 and we had no tomcods this year. There's not too many
33 people -- you have to look for them sometimes. You
34 know, there's an abundance of seals, there should be an
35 abundance of tomcods and but sometimes they're in
36 different areas.

37
38 The (in Native) which -- you know, the
39 winter ducks are still here. Their population has gone
40 down quite a bit, the ones that don't fly south. And a
41 lot of them freeze because they need open water to
42 survive. It's been such a cold winter, you know, we
43 didn't have much open water this year so we saw the
44 winter ducks flying around especially in December and
45 January when it's really cold out there.

46
47 And but other than that it's been a
48 good year for our subsistence life with the animals
49 that we depend on especially the caribou, their
50

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1 abundance. And especially after seeing the report of
2 the population of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd at
3 180,000, that's, you know, about 30 -- half of what it
4 normally is. And, you know, getting these reports late
5 from our wildlife people, you know, it's -- you know,
6 and we have to deal with sporthunters and nonresident
7 hunters and even though as an Advisory Council, you
8 know, when we make advice it gets shot down, you know,
9 because we're concerned about the animals that we
10 depend on. You know, we want to ensure that the people
11 that depend on them year round have that opportunity to
12 harvest. You know, we live -- we live in the north and
13 we have a very low income community and a lot of our
14 food sources are our way of life, the animals that we
15 depend on. And when the population drops, you know,
16 we're very fortunate that the caribou have been around
17 for a while, all year, they never went away this year.

18
19 But thank you and (in Native),
20 everybody.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. And
23 just checking in, did we lose our Chair, Gordon Brower?

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And any questions for
30 Steve on his Council member report?

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Very
35 good. We're going to go to Brower Frantz from
36 Utqiagvik.

37
38 MR. FRANTZ: All right. Good morning.
39 So as far as subsistence, caribou have been plentiful,
40 grateful for that. Everybody's been able to have their
41 share of caribou. They are close to the community, it
42 seems like they've been staying around Barrow year
43 round in high numbers, sparse -- I mean, not sparse,
44 but kind of scattered around, but they are definitely
45 here and abundant. So we're grateful for that.

46
47 Whaling has been great this year
48 compared to what it was before. There was no whales a
49 year or two ago to where we were able to get to them
50

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1 and I think we only harvested one falltime a few years
2 ago, but that was not the case this year. And whales
3 have been abundant, we had a good season. The
4 community's happy with that.

5
6 Fish have been plentiful, at least in
7 the Inaru. I know there's a certain couple guys that
8 came home with an abundant amount of whitefish and
9 completely fed the community throughout the
10 Thanksgiving and Christmas season to where, you know,
11 everybody was able to have some aanaakliq and that was
12 very good. Chipp has been I think a little slower than
13 usual, but they seem like they had a high amount coming
14 out of the Inaru, but all in all there was plenty of
15 fish to go around. Salmon, an influx I think of the
16 humpies and pinks. So it seems like those numbers are
17 a little higher than usual, but great all in all to
18 have salmon come into Barrow. I didn't catch too many
19 other types, but it seems like there's a high number
20 coming in of pinks, humpies, coming in throughout the
21 summer season.

22
23 I did catch a moose this year. So
24 moose it seems like are hopefully on the rise, but I
25 can't say so much about on the rise because it was the
26 only one we saw, but we did catch a moose this year.

27
28 And what else. Muskox. So muskox in
29 the Kavik. There was three of them reported in one day
30 in different areas on the Ikpikpuk. So WC2 I know saw
31 one, CHP1 also saw one and I was also all the way down
32 by Chipp 13 going towards (in Native) and I was next to
33 one and all three of them were reported within an hour.
34 So I know there was at least three of them in different
35 locations on the Ikpikpuk in a span of about 30 miles.
36 Well, no, maybe 50 miles actually. So it seems like
37 there's an abundant amount of muskox in at least our
38 area. And once I'd gotten home there was muskox
39 reported at Wainwright and Nuiqsut as well. So I just
40 want to point out that within a span of two days there
41 was at least three villages that were reporting
42 multiple muskox within their area.

43
44 So just to point that out. So
45 hopefully they can get the numbers of muskox at some
46 point figured out because it seems like there's an
47 abundance of them, sightings are high in the last year
48 so hopefully they can get the counts accurate and try
49 to establish a hunt at some point. So I just wanted to
50

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1 mention that and make sure it's written down.

2

3

4 All in all a great year for Barrow. No
5 real concerns. This year the ice is sticking, we're
6 happy about that and it looks like we might have some,
7 you know, some (in Native) to hunt some good whales on.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native) Brower
11 Frantz. Any questions for Brower on his Councilman's
12 report?

13

14 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen
15 from Fish and Game. I'd like to ask Brower some
16 questions.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carmen.

19

20 MS. DAGGETT: Brower, thanks for your
21 report. I know you spend a lot of time out on the
22 landscape and it's always good to hear what you have to
23 say.

24

25 So we are working on -- actually I'm
26 waiting to go do a muskox survey at the moment. I'm
27 supposed to leave this afternoon to go to Kotzebue to
28 work on a survey so that's definitely been in the works
29 for a bit here. And even though I'll be working out of
30 Kotzebue we're going to cover a good portion of the
31 North Slope. So we're definitely working on that and
32 as you can see there's a muskox survey or a muskox
33 proposal in this agenda and there's also one that's
34 being taken up at the Board of Game in the next couple
35 of days to open a muskox hunt in this area. So we're
36 aware that the numbers are higher and we're trying to
37 get those hunts open so that people in at least western
38 26A can have a chance at harvesting some of them.

39

40 I'm curious about the timing that you
41 saw the -- and the timing of the reports that you're
42 getting of those ox. Can you give me some rough dates
43 or months perhaps that -- when those were observed.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I've actually got
46 video of the muskox by 13. WC2 was sighting some and
47 also CHP1. I do have photographs and none of them are
48 taken so I just want to point that out as far as
49 muskox, but the sightings were abundant this year.

50

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1 MS. DAGGETT: Do you have an idea of
2 timing though, like was it in August, September, was it
3 in March, like what was the time frame?
4

5 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. It was -- I believe
6 it was late August. I don't think we went any further.
7

8 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Thanks. Yeah,
9 the.....
10

11 MR. FRANTZ: I'll get.....
12

13 MS. DAGGETT:reason why I was
14 asking is just thinking about season dates and making
15 sure that the time periods that people are seeing those
16 ox align with the dates that the seasons are open.
17 That's all I was thinking about and it sounds like it
18 should be covered in the time frames that you're
19 talking about.
20

21 So I think -- I appreciate your
22 knowledge and sharing that, Brower, and hopefully we
23 can get something going good for you guys out there.
24

25 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. If I were to throw
26 any recommendation out, I mean, just my personal
27 opinion, it should reflect around the same dates as
28 moose hunting.
29

30 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. I would suggest
31 that if you want to recommend those dates that maybe
32 the Council wants to consider that when they're talking
33 about the muskox proposal you guys have going and then
34 you may also want to submit your comments now actually
35 to the Board of Game. And I can send you the link to
36 submit comments to them for discussion purpose because
37 like I said they will be considering a proposal to open
38 a hunt sometime this week. So I will forward you that
39 link so that you can do that if you choose to do so as
40 a Council or as an individual, Brower, okay.
41

42 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you. That sounds
43 great.
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.
46 Any other questions for Brower Frantz on his
47 Councilman's report?
48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Gordon, this is Steve
50

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1 for the record.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

4

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I just have a
7 comment. You know, I -- you know, it's -- on Facebook
8 you see all the photos of caribous which are in most
9 of all our villages along the coast from Point Hope to
10 Point Lay to Wainwright to Barrow where the caribous
11 are right within the city limits, you know. And we,
12 you know, in Point Hope, you know, we're not allowed to
13 shoot any animals near the boundary lines of three
14 miles. And I'm just wondering if that goes for Barrow,
15 you know, not shooting any animals within the city
16 limits. And three miles is a -- you know, you've got
17 Browerville, you've got Barrow. I see them crossing
18 the roads and the bridge, I'm just wondering if
19 anybody's catching them. I thought I saw some people
20 catching caribou within the city limits, but I'm not
21 sure. That was on Facebook though. But I -- I'm just
22 wondering if there's any strict regulations on hunting
23 within the city limits. I know we've got a lot of
24 agencies online, you know, if there's penalties or
25 anything that might come up -- we might come across.

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You know, muskox, I know one time we
had some muskox come into our city limits that had
porcupine quills, but we couldn't kill it inside our
community even though it was chasing people and we're
dealing with a life and death situation. And then you
have no choice, you know, muskox were on the endangered
species list. And when it comes to life and death
matters that's when, you know, different predator --
animals that are within the city limits.

But thank you.

MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair, Brower. I was
just seeing if I could respond to Mr. Oomittuk.

(No comments)

MR. FRANTZ: Still there?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm still here.
Go ahead, Brower, and -- if you're going to respond. I
was just tied up in another phone call.

MR. FRANTZ: Okay. So all right. No,

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1 good questions, very good observations there, Steve.
2 As part of Wildlife that's, you know, where I work, but
3 just want to -- I'm not speaking on behalf of them, but
4 just from observations from what I saw they actually
5 had to go out and take a look at a few of those because
6 they were reported to Wildlife, but they were out. A
7 lot of that happens --some of it does happen close to
8 the roads, but outside of city limits. Some of our
9 roads go, you know, 17 miles out of town. So there are
10 roads to where, you know, they are outside of city
11 limits. But generally if it's outside of a city and
12 around freshwater lake you might see that or Nunavak
13 which goes well out of town and Gaswell Road, there
14 are, you know, multiple areas to where people have
15 hunted near the road. And we did send out memos as,
16 you know, the department's big concerns, you know, at
17 least salvaging the caribou.

18
19 So you're right though, there have been
20 instances to where people are hunting from the road,
21 but they are outside of city limits. And I haven't
22 heard of anything close to town or by residences, but
23 we do have roads that are well outside city limits that
24 people hunt on.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Very
27 good.

28
29 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
32 for Brower Frantz on his report?

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Brower,
37 you're off the hook on your report.

38
39 We're going to go to Earl Williams in
40 AKP. Earl.

41
42 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello, Mr. Chairman.
43 This is Earl Williams in Anaktuvuk. Thank you.

44
45 And glad to hear people are doing okay
46 on their hunting, lot of good hunting this year,
47 there's no sickness on the caribous that we hunt. So
48 far some young kids from age 12 to 16 are going out
49 hunting for elders and the city and this organizations
50

0037

1 helped out with fuel and shells so that was a pretty
2 good idea and very helpful to the young kids to learn
3 more. There wasn't much here, but caribou just came
4 through here and everything's doing pretty good and
5 people are getting a couple caribous, thankful for
6 that. There's been caribous hanging out around here
7 for a while, but they all disappeared up north. There
8 should be more coming I heard, but we just keep our
9 fingers crossed.

10

11 And it's been cold weather and we been
12 having snowplane problems for a while, but that turn
13 out good so thank the lord. Just want to tell
14 everybody to keep our hopes up and keep working
15 together.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Earl. A
20 good report. And while we're at AKP I'm going to ask
21 Esther to go ahead and do her report as well and then
22 we'll ask for questions after Esther completes the AKP
23 round.

24

25 MS. HUGO: (In Native), Mr. Chair.
26 Good morning. Esther Hugo, AKP for the record.

27

28 Like Earl said caribou have been
29 abundant, a abundance of caribou. Before I went to
30 Nuiqsut for the regionals last week and about a day
31 before we left we seen like thousands of caribou
32 heading north. Kind of curious why they're traveling
33 north when they travel north in April. All these years
34 they travel north in April, but we seen these thousands
35 of caribou (in Native) got our attention because we
36 haven't seen them all in line in a long time. Just
37 wondered if maybe due to climate change or (in Native)
38 the animals know the weather and everything and I
39 believe that. But like Earl said we are thankful for
40 our young folks, we're training them to go get caribou,
41 support them with shells, gas, snowmachine, through the
42 tribe or the city and they've been going out. Luckily
43 the main herd came before -- like about a week before
44 rutting season. And I tell you we were out there,
45 haven't seen so many happy people in a long time and we
46 got what we needed and then after rutting season they
47 still go out and catch (in Native) and they're really
48 healthy (in Native) the cows had a lot of fat in them.
49 And that's good. We're grateful, we're happy.

50

0038

1 And after that we had wolves that were
2 around the village and they keep going to my porch. I
3 was out. I think they caught the wolf, it was a black
4 wolf. We're just looking out for the white -- big
5 white wolf out there somewhere probably, looking for
6 his companion.

7

8 No sightings of lynx this year, this
9 new year.

10

11 And I've noticed that (in Native) are
12 coming out and those (in Native) are supposed to be
13 coming out in maybe May. But we've got some (in
14 Native) flying around in our homes. And we sight some
15 (in Native) and we don't see them until snow start
16 melting. So I don't know what's going on with that.

17

18 The berries are abundant, but it takes
19 a long ways for us to drive our argos, sometime we
20 breakdown and it takes longer to get home. But they
21 grew with their limited time here. So when the snow
22 melts I usually go up the hill -- foothills like right
23 before July 4th and see if the berries are budding and
24 it's usually a good sign when you see a little bud of
25 blueberry or blackberry. Berries were growing like I
26 say with the short time that we have for the summer.

27

28 Right now it's ice fishing time. I
29 don't know if they break trail to Chandler yet. We
30 usually go to Chandler for the month of March and ice
31 fish for Arctic char and lakera. So hopefully soon
32 somebody break trail and we all can start heading that
33 way as soon as the weather warms up.

34

35 I just want to say a shout out to
36 Nuiqsut and the mayor of -- Mayor Brower, they send
37 muktuk, (in Native) to us for Thanksgiving, Christmas
38 and the New Year's festivals. That really helps us out
39 because there's a lot of -- I notice there's a lot of
40 our young people that just crave for muktuk. And we
41 got ours here and we shared it during the feast and
42 we're just grateful for that, we're happy that people
43 that -- from out there know that we don't catch these
44 animals and they send us a nice -- I don't know how to
45 explain it, but that's a -- something that we look
46 forward to because we know somebody will send.

47

48 Thank you so much.

49

50

1 And right now as I speak there's still
2 some caribou just across the airstrip here I just seen
3 through the window. So some headed north, I know that
4 whole bunch, but there's still a few hanging around, a
5 very good sight to see, they were across my house just
6 up on the hill towards the church. And but we don't
7 bother with those, we don't catch them, we leave them
8 alone and we go out further out there in the country to
9 skin and catch caribou. I rarely see anybody bring any
10 caribou home to butcher because we were taught we have
11 to collect them out there and glad the young folks are
12 learning that.

13
14 (In Native) were okay, our girls are
15 going to regionals, we seem to have a tough battle with
16 Wainwright as usual every year with 1A. But that's
17 good everyone was happy, we chartered two planes, it
18 cost us a arm and a leg, but all the mothers, the
19 grandmothers, raise at least 32,000 for both planes.
20 But I guess we're getting ready to go to regionals to
21 represent -- the girls represent the North Slope
22 Borough School District. And it's good -- that's good
23 for our students and we're looking forward to go there
24 even though it will cost us quite a bit. But we're
25 going this for our kids. We hope they continue for all
26 our students every year.

27
28 I think that's about it. We're looking
29 forward for ice fishing so hopefully there's an
30 abundance of lakers and Arctic chars will be there.

31
32 (In Native) good morning. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
35 (In Native) it's always a good report to hear how you
36 guys are doing up that way.

37
38 Any questions to Esther or to Earl on
39 your -- on their reports from AKP?

40
41 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower.

44
45 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I do have actually.
46 How has the activities this year as far as fly-ins or
47 disturbances for the caribou, I know you've had a good
48 caribou year it sounds like and I'm grateful for that,
49 but have there been any real disturbances or activities
50

0040

1 this year even with the good caribou march?

2

3 MS. HUGO: Thank you for that question.
4 I think a lot of -- Esther Hugo for the record.

5

6 After we had meetings in the city with
7 the tribes -- through the tribe, we had asked that they
8 no longer stop here for fuel and have them pick up
9 hunters with Wright's Air or Everts Air. So it's been
10 pretty quiet and I guess they stop at Coldfoot or
11 Bettles so they've got the pressure we've been having
12 for years and years. So I can hear Jack Reakoff when
13 he talks about his observation on sporthunters and I
14 told him see what we've been dealing with and been so
15 mad and angry and hollering and, you know. So we had --
16 it's been quiet there, but a lot of times the private
17 planes will head up north, we don't know where they go,
18 land probably in the sandbar somewhere up north.
19 That's the people we want to keep an eye on, but can't
20 say much about that.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah. No, I just
25 had a question on -- because I know back when I was
26 working for a different department on inspections, but
27 I know there was groups that were just on the north
28 side of Gunsight and they were putting camps out right
29 in the valley before it goes to AKP and I'm hoping that
30 was stopped. But they were just outside the boundary
31 so it was legal on the State part, but, you know, I'm
32 not -- I'm not sure if banning them from blocking
33 valleys like that would be discussed because
34 essentially that's what they were doing a few years
35 ago. But I'm glad to hear that you got your caribou
36 and just need to keep an eye out on those boundaries
37 just outside of AKP because there is a State boundary
38 that's pretty close on the north side that does block a
39 valley where the entrance of the caribou would go
40 through.

41

42 MS. HUGO: Thank you. Esther Hugo, for
43 the record. We do have that concern because, you know,
44 NPR-A, the State land is very wide, I mean, we can't
45 keep track of the private planes, but yes, we have
46 heard about the hunters right outside the boundary,
47 right by, you know, you're right about that. So like I
48 say it's just a vast country out there, past the
49 mountains here and, you know, we never know, maybe they
50

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1 -- we never know.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Any other questions for Esther?

7

8

9

MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, this is Carmen from Fish and Game. I have a few questions for Esther if I may.

10

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13

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Carmen.

14

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MS. DAGGETT: So, Esther, I'm really intrigued to hear observations about seeing caribou moving north and flies kind of hatching early and lemmings seen running. Do you think that these might be signs of early spring? I feel like maybe that's what you were indicating, but I wanted to make sure I was interpreting what you were suggesting or maybe that's taboo to talk about, I don't know, I hope it's not. But I'm, curious what you -- what your thoughts are about that and I'm glad that AKP got some caribou this year and that they've been around. I'd be curious also to know about body condition for caribou as well. So.....

28

29

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38

MS. HUGO: Yes, thank you. Esther Hugo for the record. Carmen, the caribou were healthy, haven't been reported any sick ones. And I think it's global warming because, you know, I've been here 60 plus years, I'm not as old as the old folks -- older folks, but I looked at the whole line, over a thousand in a long line and them going. It's just March, why are they traveling north when they travel north in April. That's when we catch the caribou too in April before they head north. So that's what we seen.

39

40

41

42

43

44

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46

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48

MS. DAGGETT: I know this is a little crazy, but I have one more question for you, Esther. Have you guys had quite a bit of snow or even maybe -- I know this is a crazy question, but a lot of other parts of the State have been experiencing a little bit of rain. Have you been experiencing a lot of snow or a little bit of rain maybe south of the range or anything like that, have you heard about that?

49

50

MS. HUGO: Yes, we have. Last month I

0042

1 think we had rain and snow, but then afterwards just
2 more snow, but there was raindrops and we were pretty
3 amazed on that part.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: All right. Thank you,
6 Esther. Yeah, I think, you know, certainly I've been
7 hearing about that in other parts of the State and
8 other parts of the State getting hit really hard with
9 big snowstorms this year and it's really impacting a
10 lot of wildlife. So I wonder if those might be linked
11 to each other somehow. But I'm not sure, just trying
12 to get some observations.

13

14 Thank you for your knowledge and
15 sharing your information with us. Really appreciate it
16 as always.

17

18 (In Native).

19

20 MS. HUGO: Thank you, Carmen. Mr.
21 Chair, I just wanted to add to Carmen that we observe
22 our mountains, we hardly have any snow and it seems
23 like we have a lot of snow, but to us as soon as we see
24 our mountains and, you know, they blow lots of -- snow
25 blows away up there, but I think it's going to be an
26 early spring. It feels like it's going to be, hardly
27 any snow in our mountains, like when I was growing up.
28 So been observing that and there's hardly any snow up
29 in the foothills and it's easier for the caribou to dig
30 down what he needs to feed himself on.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Esther. This
35 is Carmen.

36

37 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

38

39 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower, I have a
40 question for Esther.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to go to
43 Earl first. It sounded like Earl wanted to respond.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Okay.

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'll bring up to
48 attention that -- what Eva said about alternates. My
49 suggestion to solve it is that I should be an alternate
50

0043

1 and Esther will be a keynote. I really appreciate it
2 if Eva could get into that.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
5 Council members.

6

7 MR. WILLIAMS: The reason why I said
8 that is we got two persons on the Board and I think,
9 you know, one should represent.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, if I
14 may.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brower.

17

18 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Yeah. No, I just
19 had a question in general about muskox in AKP. I
20 haven't really heard anything much from AKP, but I just
21 wanted to question if they've seen any recently or in
22 the last few years in the area. I know the big concern
23 is caribou over there, but have there been any general
24 sightings in that area?

25

26 MS. HUGO: Yes, this is Esther Hugo for
27 the record. Last time we sighted picking berries was
28 not last summer, but the summer before and he was
29 really close. And we tried to get permission to shoot
30 it and our Andy said just leave him alone. So we just
31 left it at that. We just make sure they don't attack
32 or come attacking. In previous years when I was young
33 I hear about from my in-laws or from my uncles that
34 muskox have a lot of -- not interference, but they
35 scare the caribou and I believe that when they tell us
36 that, they seen it. And due to the fact that there are
37 more muskox than ever. It's just that I think the
38 muskox -- to me anyway, to us, that they should be sent
39 back where they were sent from. This is caribou
40 country, they scare them caribou. We hear that from
41 our old folks.

42

43 Okay. Thank you.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: All right. So it sounds
46 like there was sightings within the last few years at
47 least so I just want to make sure. It's good to
48 document those especially if hunters go out and see
49 them. I know you guys' main concern is caribou and as
50

0044

1 it should be, but, you know, small things like that in
2 particular would at least help the rest of the group on
3 the North Slope. So I just wanted to reach out and ask
4 because with all your work -- we're trying to work with
5 the muskox portion of that and I haven't heard much,
6 but it's good to know that at least there were some
7 sightings there that we could at least document.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead. Is that
14 Earl?

15

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. We were -- I just
17 want to put this on the record. Anyway I was nine
18 years old and I was hunting out with him around Kanuik
19 (ph) one time in '89, we seen about four muskox there
20 and I asked him about it, do they come around here. He
21 said rarely, but that's why caribous don't both with it
22 because they smell he said. I was just kind of curious
23 about that too.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
26 observations from -- it's good to hear those old -- you
27 know, those old encounters in the '80s and what those
28 guys saw and what they -- sounds like they were smelly.

29

30 Anyway, Carmen, you had your -- you
31 wanted to comment.....

32

33 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER:or was it Eva.
36 Go ahead.

37

38 MS. DAGGETT: I just -- I think that
39 there's definitely some -- I was looking at the old
40 management plans years ago and -- from 1976, I was
41 reading it a couple days ago and they certainly
42 mentioned concern even then about interactions between
43 muskox and caribou. And I thought about trying to get
44 our muskox researcher to take a look at that and maybe
45 try to actually, you know, get some data to see what
46 they think about that. I don't know if people are
47 interested in that sort of information and I'd be
48 curious to know what the Council thinks about that.
49 And then just documenting interactions between muskox
50

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1 and caribou through survey work too and incorporating
2 the TEK in that. I don't know if that's something you
3 would be interested in having.

4

5 And then, you know, I guess the other
6 thing is too that there was an agenda change request
7 that the North Slope Borough had submitted to try to
8 have a muskox hunt opened on the eastern side of 26A as
9 well. And so I don't know if that's something you want
10 to keep pushing and that agenda change request wasn't
11 accepted and so it's not going to be taken up at this
12 Board of Game meeting, but if that hunt is something
13 people want to think about opening up on the eastern
14 side of 26A, I'm still willing to work with the people
15 at the North Slope to try to get that proposal in front
16 of the Board. And the next Board meeting for the Board
17 of Game is actually going to be in Barrow too in a
18 couple of years so, you know, that gives us an
19 opportunity to get people participating in
20 conversation.

21

22 So if that -- if those two things are
23 of interest to people I'm happy to work with people on
24 them. That is all.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.
31 Sorry, I was on mute. Sorry, my bad.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
34 members of the Council. I just wanted to touch base.
35 I know we have our Chair's report coming up still for
36 the Council and these Council member reports are a
37 central and essential part of the Council's discussion
38 and engagement. I did want to touch base though, the
39 Council did want to receive the Western Arctic Caribou
40 Herd report. There are some important updates on the
41 caribou census, information for the Council to
42 consider. And Alex Hanson was unavailable this morning
43 before the first half of the day. So just wanted to
44 touch base with the Council if you would consider
45 wanting to suspend rules and we'll take up the Chair's
46 report after the Western Arctic Caribou Herd report so
47 that the Council has that opportunity to get that
48 latest caribou census data and ask any questions of
49 Alex while he's available.

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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So it --
4 when that time comes under which -- is that under the
5 agency reports and then we'll kindly maybe suspend the
6 rules to allow the new census data to occur?

7

8

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, that was
9 actually the discussion that we had on changing the
10 agenda for today. But.....

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. PATTON:Alex is only avail --
Alex Hanson, the wildlife biologist for the.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah.

MS. PATTON:Western Arctic
Caribou Herd, he's only available this morning and so
if the Council wishes to hear his report this would be
the opportunity now before we hit noon.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. What's
the wish of the Council to allow for Alex Hanson to go
ahead and do that report now prior to the Chair's
report since he's only available this morning?

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair, I.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I say we suspend the
rules. All those in favor of suspending the rules
signify by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
rules are suspended.

Alex, you have the floor.

MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

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1 members of the Council.

2

3 Eva, do you want to guide the group to
4 this presentation so that we can get started?

5

6 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Alex. So
7 members of the Council you will find the ADF&G Western
8 Arctic Caribou Herd overview under tab 5 of your
9 meeting binders. And the first up under tab five is
10 actually the analysis for the wildlife special action
11 21-01 and then you'll find a hard stock yellow paper
12 insert and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.....

13

14 REPORTER: Sorry, Eva. But can
15 everybody put their phone on mute who's not speaking
16 because it's really difficult to hear.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yeah, folks are shuffling
21 through their binders right now to look for that.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 So it's behind the first yellow hard
26 stock inserted after the analysis. And you'll see it's
27 kind of -- it's got a gray heading, WAH caribou
28 overview and a nice photograph of mountains and caribou
29 on the plain.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
32 Council and thank you so much, Alex.

33

34 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Eva. And we'll
35 go ahead and get started. I appreciate making this
36 accommodation. So much of what we do is weather
37 dependent.

38

39 If you jump to the next slide, it says
40 WAH or WAH abundance for the Western Arctic Herd. And
41 here I'll present the most recent census information
42 which was unavailable at our last meeting.

43

44 So 2021 photo census results were
45 188,000. And probably a lot of folks are aware of this
46 information already, but that was the count that was
47 done this summer, this past summer. As you can see
48 going down there on the page in 2020 we did not conduct
49 a census. 2019 which is our last or previous count was

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1 244,000. So we've come down a fair number of caribou
2 in those two years. 2018, no census; 2017, 259; and
3 2016 was kind of what we saw as the bottoming out of
4 this long decline and then it kind of tipped up a
5 little bit for a few years, leveled off, and now we've
6 dipped back down again to 188.

7

8 A little concern, however, you know,
9 188,000 caribou is still an awful lot of caribou. We
10 have hopes to be able to conduct another census this
11 coming summer so we're planning on that assuming
12 weather, caribou and everything cooperates. So we'll
13 be looking forward to report that after that next count
14 hopefully.

15

16 Moving down to the next page -- I'm
17 sorry, there aren't page numbers on this at least in my
18 presentation here, but this is the graph of the
19 historical abundance of the Western Arctic Herd. Since
20 we began counting about 1970 this is what information
21 we have, you know, throughout these years of
22 management. So as you can see the low population was
23 about 1976 and that was about 75,000 caribou. And you
24 see the increase over, you know, a number of years
25 through about, you know, 2000 or 1993 there, early
26 1990s, little bit of a dip and then a high on record
27 was 2003 at 490,000. So this caribou herd has the
28 ability to grow very rapidly, however we're kind of at
29 the bottom end of a 18 year decline so to speak with
30 just a little uptick in the most recent years.

31

32 So we'll continue on to the next slide,
33 this is titled calving. I'll just walk you through a
34 few metrics here. These are some other things we do
35 aside from the census or the counts.

36

37 So calving is another thing we look at
38 very closely with this herd and this takes part the
39 first part of June when calves are dropping up in
40 Utukok Uplands on the North Slope and our patrician
41 rates are on this graph here. So we saw a period
42 between 2015 and 2019 of very high parturition rates
43 although the average, the long term average is 70
44 percent. So we were in the high 70s, mid to low 80s
45 for that period of five years. The past couple of
46 years, '20 and '21, we've come down a little bit to the
47 high 60s. So just slightly below the long term
48 average. But we're continuing to monitor that and
49 looking into that. No major alarms here, but we're
50

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1 continuing to keep an eye on things.

2

3 The next survey that we'll talk about
4 is recruitment. We call this.....

5

6 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry, I didn't know if we
7 were -- sorry, it's Brower. I didn't know if we're
8 doing questions as we're going or at the end of it, but
9 I do have a question.

10

11 MR. HANSON: Anything works for me. Up
12 to the Chair I suppose.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll allow
15 questions, Brower, go ahead. That way their fresh on
16 the top of their minds when -- instead of waiting.

17

18 MR. FRANTZ: Sure. I didn't move to
19 far from the graph. So thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 So on the abundance graph that's a long
22 time to be doing surveys. So have there been any
23 recent, let's say within the last 20 years or so of the
24 method of the count?

25

26 MR. HANSON: Yeah, that's a very good
27 question, good thought there, Brower. So as you're
28 probably aware we changed our methodology in 2017.
29 Actually we didn't change the methodology, we just
30 changed some equipment, but we upgraded from black and
31 white photograph system that, you know, was -- we use
32 to photograph these caribou from the aircraft and so we
33 got a new updated, you know, state of the art digital
34 system in 2017. So that was a change there. Going way
35 back in time, you know, there were other methods
36 employed, but in the recent past, you know, going back
37 into at least the '70s we were using the aerial photo
38 direct count. So for photographing the caribou during
39 aggregation or post calving as they get together and
40 then actually counting each individual caribou
41 throughout that -- through those series of photographs.

42

43 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. Thank you. Looks
44 like around that time when the method was changed that
45 the numbers jumped a little bit within those years. So
46 just wanted to, you know, at least make it known
47 because, you know, we are looking at graphs through
48 multiple lifetimes here really. So just wanted to
49 document any real changes in the methods that you're
50

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1 utilizing to show us this graph.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. HANSON: Thank you, Brower. And to speak very briefly on that we've, you know, discussed this at meetings in the past, but it's good that you brought it up for any new members present. Those changes, you know, were uncertain what that exactly -- what the implications of that exactly are. So we weren't able to shoot, you know, simultaneously in the same census year with the two different camera systems. That would have been the ideal method to compare those, but it just wasn't feasible. So we sensed that we probably increased the detection in calves specifically, but we don't know by how much that might have influenced that change in detection probability.

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MR. FRANTZ: Thank you.

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The next item I want to talk about is adult survival. And this is something that we track very closely. And, you know, as you can imagine the adult female survival is really the driver of this population or any population. And what we've been seeing the past few years is the low adult female survival rate and this is based on our collared individuals out there as we detect mortalities in the collared samples we retrieve those collars and do our best to determine, you know, survival rate. So for the

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1 past four years the survival rate has been at 73
2 percent which is below the long term average. The long
3 term average there being 81 percent. But if we expect
4 to see growth in a population we're going to need to
5 see something above 80 percent at least, probably
6 closer to 85 percent. So at this point in time with a
7 low survival rate we can expect to see a bit of a
8 decline. As you can see the higher survival rates, you
9 know, between '13 and '16, between '85 -- '83, '90, so
10 mid '80s up to '90 we saw a period of growth there that
11 is reflected within that census survey as well.

12

13 So looking at that very closely, we
14 continue to monitor that, you know, very important that
15 we put those collars out there so that we continue to
16 track survival.

17

18 Moving on to the next slide we have
19 bull to cow ratios. So this is something we do not
20 every year, but we do it every three to five years
21 roughly. This was conducted this fall and it was a
22 fall composition survey. This happens, you know,
23 during the rut when the bulls and cows are all mixed
24 together for breeding. And our bull to cow ratio is
25 detected at 47 bulls to 100 cows. And if you recall or
26 maybe I should just explain our management objective is
27 bull to cow ratio through the Western Arctic Herd
28 Working Group plan is to maintain 30 bulls to 100 cows
29 or above. But we are above that objective and I would
30 also report that, you know, while out doing this survey
31 was very obvious to me that there was a good mix of all
32 age class bulls. So, you know, the previous survey
33 that we did in 2017, there was a larger component of
34 smaller bulls and it seemed as though, you know, a lot
35 of those older bulls had died out of the population
36 that was coming out of that big decline that we saw in
37 around 2016. That kind of turned there for a moment.

38

39 So no major concerns here, we seem to
40 have healthy bull to cow population or ratios. And
41 with this population I would like to continue to
42 monitor this especially as we are, you know, now at a
43 lower population level so that we manage things so as
44 not to over-harvest, you know, the bulls or any other
45 component of this population.

46

47 Next slide we'll look at causes of
48 mortality. And I will just offer a disclaimer, this is
49 -- this is pretty challenging to parse out simply

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1 because of the vast area in which this herd occupies.
2 And, you know, our opportunities to actually be out
3 there picking up these collars are somewhat limited,
4 it's quite challenging to decipher what happened to an
5 individual, you know, a few months after it dies, but
6 we do our best.

7

8 So I just have three kind of broad
9 categories here. The blue there predator predation.
10 So these are pretty clean cut, we can tell that, you
11 know, the -- a wolf had you know, killed this animal or
12 perhaps, you know, a bear had killed it and, you know,
13 stashed it in the tundra or whatever, and then the
14 unknown. So these are questionable mortalities, we're
15 not quite certain what happened and then hunter
16 harvest. So anyway when folks harvest animals and we
17 get those collars back or we see that they're dead in
18 the village then we can attribute that to hunter
19 harvest.

20

21 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

22

23 MR. HANSON: Did you have a question
24 there?

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

27

28 MR. FRANTZ: I do. This is Brower.
29 Okay. So -- all right. So.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead
32 Brower.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did we lose you,
37 Brower?

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Until we get
42 Brower back maybe you can go ahead and proceed.

43

44 MR. HANSON: Sure thing. Thank you,
45 Chair. So we'll continue on the next slide and happy
46 to jump back to Brower's question when he returns.

47

48 So population trend is the next slide.
49 It's got a lot of study on here.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, what slide are
2 you on?

3
4 MR. HANSON: It says population trend
5 at the top. So it's got some green bars and red bars.
6 I'm not sure if your packets are in color or not, but
7 it says calf recruitment versus cow mortality.

8
9 So these are the two, you know, biggest
10 items that we look at when we're considering the
11 potential trajectory, the growth or decline of this
12 population. And so when we put those together on the
13 far left starting in 1985 we see all the bars are going
14 up or green bars for growth because we have good
15 recruitment and we have high survival or low cow mortality.

16
17 As we continue.....

18
19 MR. FRANTZ: Hi.

20
21 MR. HANSON: Are you back, Brower?

22
23 MR. FRANTZ: I'm back. Yeah, I got
24 disconnected. Sorry. Are we in a good spot for my
25 question?

26
27 MR. HANSON: Sure. I was going through
28 the next slide, but I can jump back.

29
30 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry. Okay. I got.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brower.

33
34 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 Brower Frantz for the record. So I see a big jump here
36 in the few years, '13 through '15, maybe '16 and you
37 said it's pretty obvious for, you know, what attributed
38 to this. So I want to ask, it says 100 percentage, 37
39 through 38 percent at the highest and one of them says
40 39 percent unknown. But you said, you know, it was
41 pretty obvious from what you were saying. Where were
42 these caribou when these high mortality crates
43 happened?

44
45 MR. HANSON: Sorry. Are you -- so
46 these are -- you're looking at the cause of mortality
47 slide there, Brower?

48
49 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, cause of mortality
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1 and right in the middle CY12 through 16.

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MR. HANSON: Uh-huh.

4

5

MR. FRANTZ: And you mention that it would -- it would be easy to recognize I think what you said where -- you know, what happened to them. So where were these caribou in these particular years migrating through when this high mortality happened and is that something that you might be able to talk about because, you know, if there's a high mortality rate and we know where it came from we can definitely talk about -- you know, that. That's a big impact to the caribou. We can definitely put something in -- into discussion there to lessen the impact at least for cows.

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MR. HANSON: Gotcha. No, that's a good question. So what we're seeing here on this cause of mortality slide is basically a breakdown of cause of mortality. So the blue ones are predation, gray is unknown and the red is hunter harvest.

So if we go back a couple slides to the one that says adult survival, actually that period between '13 and '16 were -- you know, it was a period of high survival. So the mortality was considerably lower in those four years.

I'm probably throwing too many charts out there, I hope I don't confuse folks, but your question is very important. We try to look at, you know, the location and timing of these mortality events, you know, certainly we could talk about mass mortality events that might have occurred, you know, along the western coast there if there was a rain or snow even for instance. But what we see typically is -- and I'll get to it in a minute, is the Western Arctic Herd distribution during the winter is, you know, it varies widely from year to year, can vary widely, but it has been more -- quite a bit of change in the last few years. So we certainly look at those events, you know, and mortalities that take place when caribou are in specific locations as compared to other locations.

I hope I'm not losing you there, but.....

MR. FRANTZ: No, it's pretty vague. I'm just asking where were they, was it close to the

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1 Haul Road, close to Barrow, close to more western
2 because if we -- if we can figure out where the high
3 mortality of the hunters were we can -- we can
4 definitely see what's happening.

5

6 MR. HANSON: Yeah, for sure. I'd have
7 to go back and look, but we're going to come up on
8 another set of slides here that'll talk about winter
9 location for the Western Arctic Herd and, you know,
10 winter obviously is a very long period of time here in
11 northwest Alaska. So it'll kind of define better where
12 the winter range was during each of those years. But
13 we-- I would have to kind of go into that and look at --
14 you know, I would have specific mortality events that
15 I could go back and look at and understand where that
16 excess or higher -- I guess it's not excess, but higher
17 harvest rates took place. I don't have that
18 information in front of me right now.

19

20 MR. FRANTZ: Gotcha. I'm just trying
21 to see the relation between the special actions and
22 mortality, that's all.

23

24 MR. HANSON: Yep. No, I think really
25 what you see and you guys know this better than I do,
26 in years when caribou are more available to villages,
27 more harvest occurs, that's just a given. And we heard
28 Mr. Oomittuk's report that they had, you know, caribou
29 year round. So it stands to reason that more caribou
30 we harvested in that area. And then maybe next year
31 it'll be different and the harvest will go down.

32

33 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you.

34

35 MR. HANSON: So I'm jumping back here
36 to the slide population trend. We've kind of gone
37 through that, but on the far left you'll see that the
38 bars are going up in that period because during that
39 period of time our calf recruitment was high and our
40 calf mortality was low or another way of saying that is
41 our survival was high for the cows. As we go through
42 we had a period of stability, you know, up to about
43 2004 and then we started to go into the declining phase
44 about 2005 through 2015. We saw a little bit of a
45 turnaround 2016, 2017, and then things have kind of
46 started to go back down hill again there, but the bars
47 in the red going down hill.

48

49 So these are just comparing these two

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1 specific metrics which are pretty important drivers of
2 the population, the recruitment and of course the adult
3 female survival.

4
5 The next one is management level
6 overview, it's a table, a very colorful table here.
7 This is pulled out of the Western Arctic Herd
8 Management Plan. As you can see there's a circle --
9 two circles in there so one is the conservative
10 declining in orange. Hopefully your sheets there are
11 in color. And that was our previous management level,
12 but with the new census estimate and current trajectory
13 of the population the Western Arctic Herd Working Group
14 selected a preservative management level also in the
15 declining column there.

16
17 And I'll just go down to the next
18 slide, I'll talk about some potential implications of
19 that. These are the recommendations, the top one being
20 the conservative or orange level, top set of five. And
21 then the next set of four there, the preservative
22 management level and I'll just go through those. And
23 I'll mention here that these are recommendations from
24 the plan, they're not binding necessarily. These, you
25 know, conform suggestions so that recommendations or
26 proposals can go forward toward the Board of Game or
27 Federal Subsistence Board for management changes. The
28 number 1 would be no harvest of calves may be
29 recommended or limit harvest of cows by residential
30 permit hunts and/or village quotas; limit subsistence
31 harvest of bulls to maintain at least 30 bulls to a
32 hundred cows. As I mentioned we're above that
33 currently and I'd like to continue monitoring that.
34 And harvest restricted to residents only. According to
35 State and Federal law closure of some Federal public
36 lands may be necessary. So those are the potential
37 management recommendations from the Working Group.

38
39 Now when we met -- I'll give just a
40 brief recap on that group, but when we met this
41 December there was quite a bit of discussion about
42 reduction in cow harvest. So currently the regulations
43 have not changed for the Western Arctic Herd, things
44 are as they were. But there's quite a bit of
45 discussion amongst the members of the group to look at
46 ways to reduce cow harvest so that we can potentially
47 do something to help, you know, slow this decline and
48 hopefully turn it around. Obviously there's a lot more
49 involved at this level than just our voluntary
50

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1 reduction in harvest, you know, a lot to do with
2 weather and predation and everything else that could
3 come into play. But, you know, the folks on the group
4 are interested in, you know, having that discussion and
5 I expect it will move forward.

6
7 But as Carmen mentioned the next
8 opportunity for a Board of Game meeting in our region
9 would be 2024 which will take place in Barrow as she
10 mentioned. So it's possible based on what we see that
11 new regulations may come out at that time. So if folks
12 are interested in proposals, you know, that would be
13 the timeline moving forward at least on the State side.

14
15 And I'll jump down to the next one.
16 This is WAH management. So I'll just briefly walk you
17 through a couple of these numbers and I'll not too
18 caught up on them, but a C&T finding is positive so,
19 you know, this is -- this is a subsistence herd and
20 that's of eight to 12,000 and that's a combined A&S
21 with Western Arctic and Teshekpuk. And we estimate our
22 annual harvest at 12,000 give or take which may include
23 up to 3,600 cows. So we have potentially an
24 opportunity to, you know, voluntarily reduce cow
25 harvest and, you know, currently under the bull to cow
26 ratios that we've estimated harvest bulls in lieu of
27 cows cautiously which will hold for a bit anyway.

28
29 Our intensive management objective is a
30 population of 200,000 or less. So we have dipped below
31 that. And so that doesn't necessarily trigger
32 anything, but it causes us to stop and think about what
33 we can do to bring that population back above 200,000,
34 if there's anything we can do.

35
36 So that leaves us a harvestable surplus
37 of approximately 11,300 caribou and that's, you know,
38 based on a 6 percent harvest rate. That's bull and cow
39 combined.

40
41 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, Alex, what page are
42 you on?

43
44 MR. HANSON: Eva, do you mind calling
45 out the page number, I'm on management level or WAH
46 management.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted
2 to discuss a little bit about the -- I think I'm on
3 that page, management level overview and looking at the
4 liberal, conservative, preservative.....

5
6 MR. REXFORD: Yep.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: and critical
9 management. And when you're on preserve --
10 preservation like not necessarily things are going to
11 change, but you're -- it's on your mind is what I'm
12 hearing?

13
14 MR. HANSON: That's correct. As far as
15 the regulations, you know, nothing automatically
16 changes, but it's time to start talking about what we
17 can do, you know, as users of the -- of the resource
18 and as managers of the resource to reduce harvest, you
19 know, in the cow component in the future if, you know,
20 things continue to go down.

21
22 One of the things I'll talk about.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So but that leads me
25 to a question though. Is -- on the population trend,
26 does that mean we're still seeing either declining or
27 that -- that's set or is it just maintaining a number
28 or is it on a downward trend again?

29
30 MR. HANSON: Yeah, that's a good
31 question. Thanks for asking that. So I guess, you
32 know, we feel like we're potentially in a declining
33 trend. Our last count was 244 in 2019 and then the
34 most recent one was 2021, this past summer of 188. So
35 we saw a decline of oh, roughly 11 and a half percent
36 for those two years which is fairly significant, but
37 it's not unprecedented. I would say that we're in a
38 declining trend right now. So hopefully we can get out
39 this summer and get another dot on the map so to speak
40 so we can understand where that trend's going.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
43 for the record. I have a question.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

46
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I did get
48 disconnected for a few minutes -- well, more than a few
49 minutes and I got back on and I've been listening. But
50

0059

1 I'm just curious, I was looking through the agenda, you
2 know, and also, you know, in our packet we got no page
3 numbers. And I know Gordon was asking what page number
4 you're on in, you know, this presentation. Can you
5 state your name again, I missed that portion and you're
6 doing a report on the muskox and the Western Arctic
7 Caribou Herd in unit 23A and 26A with the moose, is
8 that what's.....

9
10 MR. HANSON: Yeah, for Mr. Oomittuk's
11 clarification this is Alex Hanson, Alaska Department of
12 Fish and Game. I manage the Western Arctic Caribou
13 Herd out of Kotzebue. And just talking specifically
14 about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

15
16 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. You
17 know, the concerns and I know they just had a public
18 hearing, you know, dealing with the Western Arctic
19 Caribou Herd and also the moose, 26A for -- but, you
20 know, I just recently -- you know, we've been asking
21 for the population of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
22 for several years now and we just finally got this, our
23 population, just a month ago of what actually is out
24 there, you know. The Fish and Game stated that they
25 couldn't get an accurate count because of the weather,
26 they do photo counting and stuff like that and the fog,
27 but now I see that the population is at -- I think I
28 saw 180. You mentioned 188,000 and, you know, in the
29 highest peak of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd was up
30 at 500,000. So we're well below half of what it used
31 to be in the past and it's declining more and more.

32
33 And, you know, we as a Advisory
34 Council, you know, we supported the North West Arctic
35 Subsistence Advisory Council several times and also,
36 you know, the North Slope and trying to keep
37 nonresidents and sporthunters from hunting on Federal
38 land during the time of the migration. But we were
39 always overpowered by the Federal Subsistence Advisory
40 Council which denied those, you know. And they just
41 recently had a public hearing on that and even though
42 with all the public hearing and concerns of the
43 community within the Northwest Arctic Borough and North
44 Slope area, you know, particularly Point Hope that
45 deals with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and seen the
46 decline and the nonresident and sporthunters being
47 wrapped up in some of the migration routes in Federal
48 lands. And that's always been a concern. And they
49 couldn't -- and they still went ahead with it even not
50

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1 knowing that actual count and here we just got the
2 count and the Federal Subsistence Board denied those
3 recommendations of closure, you know, even though they
4 didn't have the count of the populations and it's just
5 been on a decline for 10 years now. And it just
6 doesn't seem right sometimes, you know, we're the ones
7 that depend on the food, our way of life, our very low
8 income communities.

9

10 But I want to thank you for.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK:I just wanted to
15 see where we were at with the Western Arctic Caribou
16 Herd.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in light -- in the
19 same line of those kind of questions it was -- you
20 know, seems like we've been dealing with this for a
21 long time. And I -- the -- and I just want to maybe
22 verify or make some things that we talked about earlier
23 about traditional knowledge and using what we've done
24 in the past as conservative managers. And are the
25 rules still on the books that during rutting season,
26 like October -- I think it's October 10 or October 5 or
27 somewhere until about December 5, bulls are off limits
28 and then there's some other rules that were embraced
29 that were just merely traditional knowledge,
30 conservative practices that we do that will turn into
31 rules like that. Are those still in play and, you
32 know, when you're starting to think about new rules on
33 harvest levels or selecting what animals that we should
34 be harvesting, it's important for us at the Federal
35 level to see what the State side might be wanting to
36 do. And sometimes it's good and sometimes we try to
37 protect ourselves.

38

39 And with that I'll return it back to
40 you.

41

42 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
43 Yeah. So briefly as I mentioned regulations in the reg
44 book haven't changed. That would take, you know,
45 proposals to come through. So there's still -- as you
46 mentioned there's still a close on bulls in 26A October
47 14th through the end of March. In 23 at the last Board
48 Game meeting.....

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hold on. Hold on.
2 On bulls to the end of March, I think it's to the first
3 week in December.

4
5 MR. HANSON: Stand by. That's 26A,
6 Colville River drainage, upstream to Anaktuvuk River.
7 That is July 1st through.....

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this is caribou,
10 right?

11
12 MR. HANSON: This is caribou bulls
13 specifically. October 14th that closes, during that
14 rut period that you mentioned. And then it opens up
15 February 1st. But in as I mentioned 23, unit 23, folks
16 have suggested that they want to harvest younger bulls
17 in lieu of cows so there's a year round season on bulls
18 in 23. But that hasn't changed since -- for a few
19 years.

20
21 So yeah, if you look at the reg
22 book.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

25
26 MR. HANSON:it's all the same.
27 Short answer.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we just got to
30 be reminded of certain things that we may have worked
31 with to change based on the recommendations from
32 biologists and stuff.

33
34 MR. HANSON: For sure. Yeah, we work
35 through the process.....

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted).

39
40 MR. HANSON: Sorry. Go ahead.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll go
43 ahead and -- yeah, who was it, it sounded like somebody
44 wanted to say something.

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

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Go ahead and
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1 continue.

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MR. HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So we are on a slide, it says WAH management challenges.

Eva, do you have a page number to get us all back on track?

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the Council. Actually I don't have any page numbers on the Powerpoint slide. So it might be helpful maybe you could just describe the headings as you get to the next page.

Thank you.

MR. HANSON: That'll be WAH management challenges. It's just a few lines of text there. It starts with RC907/800. So as you know the RC907 is the caribou harvest permit that we use within 26A and 23. And one of the struggles that we're dealing with right now is we think about crafting, you know, new management decisions or regulations is we don't understand harvest very well because the participation in this permit system is pretty low. We're working on that and certainly the challenges with covid, not being able to travel to villages, has hampered us there, but we continue to work with the folks to get that information back. We had historically used the harvest model and I'll show you a slide of what that looks like. The problem with that is we just don't have enough good information to put into that model to get enough finite information to bound judgments or management decision when our population is as low as this. But we need to continue to work to understand harvest within this population better.

Our next slide says harvest model and it has a light background with some bars, it's a bar graph here. And this is harvest through the WAH over time. You can see the top portion is different, it's red in my graph. And this is harvest by nonresident hunters, nonlocal hunters, folks.....

(Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt. Can everybody please check their phones and put them on

0063

1 mute if you're not speaking.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. HANSON: So that harvest is very accurate, we -- you know, we get a very good understanding of what that harvest is. The underlying bars, the gray bars there, is an estimate based on household harvest surveys and population and our best guess as to availability of caribou to those villages. As Steve pointed out when there's a lot of caribou around Point Hope quite a bit of harvest happens. You know, in years for instance when perhaps this year down south in the Seward Peninsula the harvest is going to be quite low because the caribou just aren't nearby. So we guesstimate that our harvest is, you know, close to 12,000 by local residents from this herd each year. I suspect that has probably gone down because availability has been down a little bit for a lot of the villages, but we don't know for sure until we get, you know, good participation in this permit system or frankly find another way to collect good harvest data.

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On the next slide just to drive this point home a little bit more is what we get reported. So this is from our harvesting reporting. You can see the little bar, the short, squat bar there, 2017 through 2020. That is the reports we have, you know, under 2,000, you know, 1,500 to a thousand, somewhere around there. And our guesstimated harvest for local users is about 12,000. So we're missing a large component of that data and to really understand the affects of harvest on a population we have to understand what the harvest is.

So if folks have ideas please let us know how we can better improve that.

And the next slide, I'm not moving too fast, but I alluded to this when I was fielding Brower's question of annual variation. So this is kind of a crazy patchwork of slides here, but this is a breakdown of where this herd, Western Arctic Herd, wintered in these specific areas from '91 to 2020. You can see on the right-hand side there's color coded boxes, the first one being Coastal Plains or North Slope at the top all the way down to Nulato Hills there at eight. So we can see the distribution based on collars through the years of the Western Arctic Herd on

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1 the winter range. As you can see in some years, the
2 early '90s for instance, the Nulato Hills was very
3 important, you know, 70 plus percent of the caribou are
4 over in that area in '93. And then if we jump over to
5 '13, '14, '15, in that area, nearly 80 percent of the
6 caribou were on the Seward Peninsula. However more
7 recently things have changed to favor the Central
8 Brooks Range and also a fair number of caribou staying
9 on the North Slope.

10

11 And to further drive that -- clarify
12 that point, if we look at the next slide there's two
13 maps, and it says availability. So this is the winter
14 of 2019 on the left and the winter of 2020 on the
15 right. So these are -- this is a depiction of caribou
16 concentrations during the winter. And you see the
17 darker, more dense areas is the areas that were
18 occupied by the greatest number of these collared
19 individuals and moving out to the group. So in 2019,
20 2020, we can see a lot of individuals were on the North
21 Slope and then we jump over or sorry, down, so I'm kind
22 of in the head of the Buckland, you know, pushing down
23 into the Nulato Hills a few, of course over Kiana Hills
24 and all that country up into the upper Kobuk.

25

26 If we jump over to 2021, last winter,
27 the majority of the caribou were down in the Central
28 Brooks Range, down from you folks and then of course
29 quite a few up near Wainwright, up on the Slope. So
30 quite a bit of variation between these two years. And
31 so we've seen a departure of what people have come to
32 expect with, you know, a majority of the caribou in the
33 past number of years going on the Seward Peninsula. So
34 it's just not something we've really seen since about
35 2017 or so.

36

37 And moving on to the next slide, I'd
38 just like to kind of close out and summarize what we've
39 talked about here, but, you know, our biggest
40 biological concerns as we are close to these critical
41 thresholds, you know, dip below the high end management
42 level is that our short -- sorry. Our short yearly
43 recruitment is average, calving is a little bit below
44 average, but our biggest concern is about cow survival,
45 it's down. So we'll continue to monitor that. And as
46 I pointed out and it's very important that we get
47 harvest data so that we can understand, you know, where
48 to go with these regulations if regulation changes need
49 to take place and what the influence of harvest might

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1 be on this population.

2

3 So with that I'm happy to take any
4 questions, any further questions. And I'd like to say
5 I appreciate the opportunity to present to you today
6 and also appreciate your hard work on this subject.

7

8 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you. Mr. Chair,
9 it's Brower.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
12 Brower.

13

14 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. So a lot of data, I
15 like it, but I want to question the ability over the
16 last few years because everyone in the world, at least
17 on -- in the United States, has been hampered by covid-
18 19. I want to know if any changes were made to your
19 availability or to at least the counts and your
20 accuracy over the last few years because it seems like
21 the numbers have dropped and it almost seems like you
22 want to make some not dramatic changes, but changes to
23 the caribou here and the numbers. But I want to know
24 if there was any change made to the availability and,
25 you know, your capacity to make accurate counts over
26 the last two years during covid and are we subject to
27 that because of any changes due to covid-19?

28

29 MR. HANSON: Thank you, Brower,
30 appreciate that question. Through the Chair. No,
31 actually as far as our surveys went we continued our
32 surveys on schedule and, you know, working with a
33 fairly tight group of individuals, not too many
34 involved with this project, it just takes a lot of man
35 hours and a lot of time to, you know, photograph and to
36 count these caribou. But no, we continued on as
37 scheduled. The one thing as I mentioned that really
38 kind of hamstrung us from covid was, you know, to get
39 out and do the village outreach is something that we
40 struggled with and missed that opportunity to interact
41 with folks out in the villages in the region.

42

43 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you. Okay. No,
44 that's a -- you know, a big question, definitely wasn't
45 talked about. So, you know, if it was the same survey
46 and no changes were made really due to what was
47 happening the last few years, you know, it's just a
48 lingering question in my head.

49

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HANSON: Good. For sure appreciate
4 that. No, we operate out in the -- kind of the
5 wilderness there so it's pretty easy to just continue
6 doing work at usual at least out and about.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
9 thanks. Any other questions to Alex?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
14 thank you very much for the update and we always
15 appreciate these kinds of dialogue and especially when
16 we start to look at population trends and things like
17 that. And sometimes we get argumentative about it too.

18

19 With that it's 12:00 noon, what's the
20 wish of the Council?

21

22 MS. HUGO: Break for lunch.

23

24 MR. REXFORD: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. There's a
27 motion on the floor to recess for lunch until 1:15 or
28 1:30?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

31

32 MS. HUGO: 1:30, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
35 going to recess until 1:30. That's the motion and wish
36 of the Council.

37

38 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We'll
45 dial back in. I'm going to take care of other matters
46 real quick. Bye-bye.

47

48 MS. PATTON: All right. Recess until
49 1:30.

50

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1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair.

6 This is Wanda from Atqasuk.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
11 was able to connect with Eddie, he was trying to call
12 in.

13

14 And do we have Brower Frantz on?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MS. PATTON: Okay. So well, we do have
19 five of our Council members and while we're waiting for
20 the others to join we can reconvene the meeting here.

21

22 We did have for the Council's awareness
23 as we discussed on the agenda this morning, we had a
24 couple of wildlife reports to get before the Council
25 before Brianna just needed to fly their survey. So
26 glad we were able to get in Alex on the Western Arctic
27 Caribou Herd report. Carmen Daggett, the area
28 management biologist for unit 26 is also on. And we
29 hope to get the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd report, the
30 moose report and also muskox report for the Council for
31 your consideration on the upcoming wildlife special
32 action request. So Carmen did indicate she has a
33 flight she has to go catch at 2:45 so we would just
34 want to make sure we get to her wildlife report for the
35 Council by 2:00 o'clock or 2:15 at the latest.

36

37 And as the wish of the Chair and
38 Council if you wanted to take up that wildlife report
39 now and then resume with the Chair's report and
40 opportunity for public comment or if you wanted to
41 resume with the Chair's report and then public comment
42 and then get to the wildlife report prior to the
43 special actions on the agenda.

44

45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
48 Coordinator. And what's the wish of the Council. I
49 think.....

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1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
6 for the record. We're having a whale's tail feast
7 that's starting at 2:00 so if there's any action items
8 that needs to be taking place, but I should be done by
9 4:00. But I'll be here until a little bit after 2:00.
10 So.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
13 Steve. And we'll -- having said that I'm going to call
14 for we suspend the rules again and have Carmen go ahead
15 and do her report before we -- and she's got to catch a
16 plane too.

17

18 Carmen, I think the -- there's a couple
19 of things going on here. Steve has (in Native) to
20 attend to and so we will yield to you since you got to
21 catch an airplane. So you have the floor, Carmen.

22

23 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 Council. This is Carmen Daggett from Alaska Department
25 of Fish and Game here in Utqiagvik. Can you all hear
26 me okay?

27

28 MS. PATTON: Loud and clear. Thank
29 you.

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. Great. So I'm
32 just going to give a brief overview of where we're at
33 with the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd right now and then talk
34 about where we're at with muskox and then give you a
35 brief schedule of what we have planned for this year
36 for surveys so that you guys are aware that when you
37 see airplanes around what they're up to and what we're
38 getting accomplished.

39

40 So but there's some foremost numbers of
41 the Teshekpuk Herd in this census estimate. Again this
42 is done in 2017. We do not have a new number for you
43 guys unfortunately, but the most recent estimate that
44 we have for them is around 55,000 animals and we will
45 be working diligently to try to get a new number for
46 you this summer. So stay tuned for that, that survey
47 will be happening usually somewhere between the
48 beginning and the middle of July. So if you see
49 airplanes around during that time period it may very
50

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1 well be that we're trying to get a photo census.

2

3 All right. We did short yearling
4 surveys last April and we saw about 15 and a half
5 percent were yearlings which is about a moderate level
6 for this -- for the Teshekpuk Herd that's pretty
7 average.

8

9 We worked on summer calving surveyed in
10 June, at the beginning of June and we'll be doing that
11 again this June. And usually we do that between the
12 4th and the 10th of June to ensure we are doing it
13 consistently each year. Last year our numbers were
14 kind of low. The average -- the 10 year average for
15 this herd is around 68 percent and what we saw this
16 last summer was around 53 percent. So about 53 percent
17 of the animals had signs of being pregnant which is
18 kind of low. So that's the number we're going to keep
19 our eyes on and hopefully we can get a photo census to
20 see where we're at population-wise.

21

22 Again we're going to have some
23 collaring this next summer and we did this last summer,
24 we collared 35 caribou and we're looking to collar a
25 few more this summer. Actually I think we're going to
26 probably end up doing around 45 animals this next
27 summer.

28

29 We're going to try to collect a little
30 bit more information on body condition using a new
31 technique that has been recently published.

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted).

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: And that technique is
37 utilizing ultrasound to measure.....

38

39 REPORTER: I'm sorry to interrupt you,
40 but can everybody please check your phones and make
41 sure that you're on mute if you're not speaking.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you. Let me know
46 if I need to repeat anything, if people are having a
47 hard time hearing me I'm happy to do so.

48

49 So we'll be collaring about 45 caribou

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1 this next summer, at least that's what's tentatively
2 planned. And we'll be utilizing an ultrasound to
3 measure body fat on these caribou and try to get a
4 better assessment.....

5

6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted).

8

9 MS. DAGGETT:of body condition
10 during the summer. It shouldn't take very long to do
11 and it's pretty noninvasive for the caribou so it's a
12 good way to get body condition measurements with the
13 caribou. So we're looking forward to doing that.
14 We're also going to take samples while we have the
15 animals in hand and see how they're doing in other ways
16 too. So if you -- people in Nuiqsut may see us out
17 possibly doing this work, otherwise we're usually
18 closer to Teshekpuk Lake area when we're doing
19 collaring and stuff.

20

21 So we're also going to try to do some
22 fall composition work this next fall. Usually -- we
23 haven't really been doing that much and this is just to
24 assess the portion of bulls to cows and calves to cows
25 in the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and then we'll probably
26 also try to do that for moose this next fall. But it's
27 highly weather dependent and as you guys know we --
28 well, fall weather can be kind of challenging here, you
29 know, even just trying to get the communities in the
30 surrounding area in the falltime because of fog and
31 weather at the time.

32

33 We're still tracking adult female
34 mortality in this herd. It's relatively low currently,
35 however, you know, I'm sure many of you have been
36 looking at the caribou around your communities lately
37 and I've been talking to a lot of hunters about the
38 body condition on animals that they are seeing. And I
39 know we got a caribou a couple months ago and it was a
40 bull, maybe not a couple months ago, it was a little
41 bit sooner than that, but anyway it was not in
42 particularly good condition.

43

44 So I would be interested to hear what
45 people have to say about caribou body condition, but
46 that's what I have for the caribou report. If anybody
47 has any questions about caribou otherwise I will move
48 on.

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1 (No comments)

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MS. DAGGETT: Okay. If people need a little bit more time and can't unmute their phones fast enough that's fine, feel free to bring those questions up later too if I'm jumping in too early.

I know that you guys are going to talk about moose a little bit in the special action too so I'm going to give you that report quick. It's pretty easy here.

So last spring we did a minimum count so we looked at the larger Colville River drainage area and the good news is is that we've seen a steady increase of moose in the last couple of years. We're at about 438 total moose that we saw in comparison to what it's been in the past. The last minimum count that we had was 339 in 2017 so it was good to see that population grow by about a hundred between that time frame. So still not a huge population of animals, but growing again which is good.

Okay. Muskox. We have a muskox proposal coming up obviously and I had mentioned before that there's one before the Board of Game in the next couple of days. The reason for that is that we've seen a pretty large increase in the population. The last time we did a survey was in 2020 and we saw the muskox population in 26A rise to 455 animals on the western side. So basically that would be largely west of the Topagoruk, we're talking about that portion between the Topagoruk and the west coast of 26A.

So that's where we're at with muskox. The population has increased from 253 since 2016 so it's risen by about 200 animals in four years. So that's why we're interested in opening a muskox hunt in 26A for you guys.

And beyond that I wanted to give you a little bit of an overview of what we're planning to do for surveys. I kind of tried to do that somewhat along the way here, but like I said before we're currently conducting a muskox survey, it's in process already and I'm flying down to help with it starting tomorrow in the Kotzebue area. So if people in Wainwright and Point Hope and Point Lay happen to see airplanes around right now, it is likely that we are out there counting

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1 muskox and trying to get more information so that we
2 can get this hunt open and have good evaluation numbers
3 to work with there.

4

5 In April just about the 4th through the
6 8th we'll be doing the moose and caribou spring surveys
7 as I usually do and so therefore people in Anaktuvuk
8 Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow and Nuiqsut might see airplanes
9 during that time period. And so don't be alarmed. And
10 I try to send out flyers to the communities too during
11 that time period so that people aren't surprised that
12 these surveys are happening.

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And I kind of mentioned the capture work in June, at the end of June we try to do that and you might see us around Nuiqsut and Atqasuk during that time frame.

And calving surveys June 4th through the 10th and those would be around Atqasuk, Nuiqsut and Wainwright potentially and then again the photo census coming up in July.

So if people have any questions I'm happy to entertain them. I'm sorry that I'm kind of crunched for time during this meeting, I usually try to make sure that I have plenty of time to talk to you guys, but unfortunately my survey got delayed by quite some time due to weather so here I am. So I apologize for any tightness of timing here, but I'm happy to answer any questions that you guys might have for me.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank you, Carmen. Any questions for Carmen?

MR. WILLIAMS: Chair, Peter Williams, Anaktuvuk.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You've got the floor, Peter.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Carmen, I was going to ask you a question. About over a year ago I reported a plane that's been flying around low, some people seen it at Anaktuvuk River. I brought that issue up and nothing was responded about that. But I just want to clarify this about people usually go out on argos and stuff and they seen these little planes flying around, like they said that they were just

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1 flying low towards the caribou and they scattered them.
2 But the point that I have is I brought that up before
3 and I just want to bring this attention up again since
4 you brought up flying area of aircraft.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, thank you for that
9 comment, Peter.

10
11 MR. WILLIAMS: I think they're coming
12 from Cold.....

13
14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants note muted).

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS:I think they're
18 coming from Coldfoot, that's what I heard.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: Oh, okay. What time of
21 year was that, Peter, was it falltime?

22
23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yep. Around between
24 August and September, you know, sunshine out.

25
26 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh. Yeah. So if
27 people are concerned that their hunts are being
28 disrupted, they are some regulations against disturbing
29 hunters and that can be reported to the wildlife
30 troopers, however they need to get some information
31 that you guys can help collect. And that information
32 is usually either a picture of the airplane with the
33 tail numbers visible or a description of the airplane
34 and a tail number can be helpful, but without that
35 information it's really difficult to pursue anything.
36 So I really encourage people if they feel like they're
37 being harassed and they feel like the caribou are being
38 chased with airplanes, that they gather that
39 information as effectively as they can. I know it's
40 kind of challenging sometimes because airplanes can be
41 far away, but if you can at all get that information
42 it's really helpful and you should contact the troopers
43 with that information. Also if you're not comfortable
44 talking to the troopers you can contact me and I can
45 help put you in touch with them as well.

46
47 So normally when we're doing surveys we
48 wouldn't be doing surveys around Anaktuvuk Pass proper.
49 Sometimes we fly over Anaktuvuk Pass to get to where we
50

0074

1 need to go because we often work out of Umiat and we're
2 usually flying from Fairbanks to Umiat. So sometimes
3 we've gone over on Anaktuvuk Pass, but we wouldn't be
4 chasing caribou and we certainly haven't been doing
5 surveys in recent times in the fall. So I would say
6 that it's not likely that it was at least people from
7 our office doing work during that time period, but, you
8 know, in the springtime we are looking for moose and
9 usually when we're doing caribou work in the springtime
10 we would be doing it up around Teshekpuk Lake area and
11 westward, more recently kind of towards Anaktuvuk Pass.
12 Or sorry, not Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk. So but it's
13 possible that you might see airplanes looking at moose
14 in April. But other than that, you know, we're not out
15 there chasing down animals and we're certainly not
16 trying to chase them away from hunters. In fact, if I
17 see a hunter or snowmachine tracks I usually try to
18 divert away from where that hunter is and give them
19 peace to do what they want to do. So we're not
20 interested in disrupting people's hunts when we're
21 doing surveys at all, in fact we're trying to avoid
22 them.

23

24 So I hope that addresses your concerns
25 here.

26

27 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. And it was a
28 little white Piper plane, he said it flew by a few
29 times and he kind of recognized in the distance.

30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Okay.

32

33 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much,
34 Carmen.

35

36 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Peter. Any
37 other questions?

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
40 Steve.....

41

42 MS. KIPPI: This is Wanda.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK:for the record.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to go ahead
47 and recognize Steve first.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I just out of

50

0075

1 curiosity, you know, the state troopers or the game
2 wardens, do they fly a certain type of plane that is
3 suitable.....

4

5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted).

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK:that we would know
9 that it would be the state troopers flying around out
10 there or the Fish and Game or game wardens compared to
11 a private aircraft with either sporthunters or people
12 that get hired to fly around and drop them off at
13 certain areas. Is there a type of plane because the
14 numbers are very hard to see sometimes, they're not --
15 they're different colors or worn out. And you're
16 deciding to let the local hunters take pictures of the
17 plane or the tail with the numbers or on the side of
18 the plane, but they're very hard to see sometimes.

19

20 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Steve. I
21 really appreciate your question, it's a good question.
22 So first of all, you know, I know that some of the
23 trooper planes are marked and are pretty obvious and
24 are usually like blue and yellow and I think the ones
25 that I've seen have been Super Cubs. However they
26 probably have other ones too that might fly from
27 Fairbanks or whatever. And I'm not super confident
28 about all of the descriptions of all of the planes that
29 the wildlife troopers have, but I know I've seen one
30 that looks like I just described.

31

32 As far as the planes that we utilize in
33 the department, we use a variety of different options
34 for getting survey work done. There's sort of a
35 limited number of pilots available throughout the State
36 so oftentimes we end up contracting different
37 companies, different pilots to do survey work with us.
38 And so, you know, it could be a variety of different
39 options, what those planes might look like. For the
40 surveys that we're doing for muskox we're contracting
41 Arctic Backcountry and Golden Eagle Outfitters. And
42 then we also have a State's plane that's flying on the
43 survey too. So I -- you know, there is -- the two that
44 we're using from Arctic Backcountry and Golden Eagle,
45 actually we have three 206s that we're going to utilize
46 because we have such a huge area to cover for the North
47 Slope surveys for muskox. So if you see a 206 around
48 it's probably us. And then, you know, within this
49 March 6 to 30th sort of time frame, you know, I would

50

0076

1 say if you see any airplanes in Point Hope that in that
2 time frame, you know, can still feel free to call the
3 Fish and Game office and see if we're working in your
4 area during that time period. I know in the last
5 couple of days we certainly had several aircraft
6 working in your area so if people have been seeing a
7 Super Cub or a 206 around it probably was us.

8
9 But as far as like generally knowing
10 exactly which planes, it's easier to take it survey by
11 survey, Steve. So if you had a specific time frame
12 that you were concerned it would be narrow down if it's
13 us working there or somebody else.

14
15 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
16 response.

17
18 MS. DAGGETT: You're welcome.

19
20 MS. ITTA: This is Wanda, Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.
23 Sorry, I keep putting it on mute so I won't bother the
24 conversation with paper shuffling. But go ahead,
25 Wanda.

26
27 MS. ITTA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
28 just pertaining to Earl's comments about that red plane
29 that was flying around their area, in -- a few years
30 ago I had mentioned about the same kind of plane, maybe
31 a small plane like that, like you said, a Piper, that
32 comes straight, low -- straight towards where we were
33 sitting down after we (in Native) at my camp. It flew
34 real low and came straight to me and my kids and flew
35 right over us. So he might be talking about that same
36 plane. I wouldn't mind to find out whose plane was
37 that.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Okay.
42 Sounds like we've got some things to report here. Go
43 ahead there, Carmen.

44
45 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, it's sort of
46 tricky, there's a lot of airplanes with red on them
47 flying around Alaska. So without more information it --
48 that would be pretty hard to suss out who that was. I
49 guess what I would say is try to get as much
50

0077

1 information as you can, recording dates that you see
2 them, recording, you know, more information about
3 colors and locations and all that sort of stuff and the
4 tail number especially is really helpful. And I
5 recognize -- I completely recognize that it can be
6 difficult to get all that information, but that's the
7 best way that we can really track who's who with
8 things. And again if people are harassing you and it's
9 happening more than once and like -- well, I mean, I
10 recognize that one time is even annoying. So if you
11 have those experiences try to get as much information
12 as you can and getting that to us sooner than later
13 makes it probably more feasible to figure out. So but
14 I can understand why that would be frustrating for you
15 to have someone fly right over camp and bother you when
16 you're trying to be out there and have peace and
17 success hunting and all those sorts of things. So I'm
18 sorry that happened.

19

20 MS. ITTA: Carmen, I remember that year
21 I had given out the plane description, the date and the
22 time and it was flying from the east coming -- flying
23 from the east going west, but that was one of the
24 things I had in the report.

25

26 MS. DAGGETT: And who did you report it
27 to, Wanda, did you report it to me? I can't quite
28 remember, I'm sorry, that was a while ago.

29

30 MS. ITTA: I think I reported to you
31 and when we had this meeting that year and I'm sure
32 with the North Slope Borough too.

33

34 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. All right. Well,
35 I would have forwarded that information to the troopers
36 if I would have gotten it. So all -- I can try to
37 follow up with that and see if I can find the contact
38 information that you sent or the details that you sent
39 during that time period and try to follow-up with that
40 and see if anything can be done about it.

41

42 But thank you for sharing that, Wanda.

43

44 MS. ITTA: Okay. Thank you, Carmen. I
45 probably have it written down in my notes at camp in my
46 camping log. I would have to look back, go to camp and
47 take a look at it. But yeah, I remember reporting it.

48

49 Thank you.

50

0078

1 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Wanda.
2 Appreciate it.

3
4 MS. ITTA: And thank you, Earl, thank
5 you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
8 questions for Carmen. And let me just see if Brower
9 Frantz has rejoined us?

10
11 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, I'm here. Yes, I do
12 (indiscernible - distortion).....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or Eddie?

15
16 MR. FRANTZ: (Indiscernible -
17 distortion).....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All
20 right. Thanks, Brower. How about Eddie, did you join
21 us back?

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any other
26 questions for Carmen? We had to let Carmen go ahead of
27 the line too because she's got to catch an airplane.

28
29 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for being
30 accommodating, Mr. Chair and Council.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
33 Eddie.

34
35 MS. HUGO: This isn't Eddie, but this
36 is Esther, Mr. Chair. I've got a question or a comment
37 for Carmen.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I
40 apologize there, Esther. Go ahead, you have the floor.

41
42
43 MS. HUGO: Yes, I was just sitting here
44 thinking. Carmen, would it help someday in the future
45 if we had GP or some trackers. Just recently going to
46 regionals we did use our trackers and we were at the
47 airport when the plane landed. And there sure are a
48 lot of planes just flying all over. I wonder if that
49 would help, it would really help us on our end I would
50

0079

1 assume to track these. Doesn't matter if it's you
2 doing your surveys then we'll know it's you. Maybe we
3 got a Piper Cub with the -- that's just a private
4 plane. I just threw that in because maybe in the
5 future we need to look more closely since technology is
6 already here upon us and maybe that's a short cut or a
7 way to track these people.

8
9 MS. DAGGETT: That's an interesting
10 idea, Esther. Thank you for your thoughts and I can
11 ask if that might be something we can consider. We
12 certainly -- I usually do have a GPS tracker with me
13 when I'm doing survey work as a safety precaution. I
14 don't know, there's probably a SAA authority thing as
15 far as requiring those sorts of things for all
16 airplanes. I know that now every airplane is required
17 to have those and I don't -- I don't know if the Board
18 would have jurisdiction to require hunters to do that
19 or not. But that might be something interesting that
20 you could try to discuss with the Board of Game to put
21 in a proposal to try to suggest something like that to
22 get the discussion going on it. But it's certainly an
23 interesting idea and at a minimum I try to definitely
24 keep communication open about when we're doing surveys
25 and when you're going to see us in your area so that at
26 least you know that it's us working for you guys out
27 there and not somebody that you have to worry about
28 competing with.

29
30 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. Carmen, thank
31 you. I just thought that maybe in the future we can
32 discuss this and it might eliminate of I don't know,
33 because during end of August or beginning of August and
34 September that's when we see a lot of Piper Cubs and
35 maybe they go from Galvis or from Tulake or going west
36 from them. And I'm sure, you know, it's something that
37 we can download our ourselves and then we'll see these
38 planes within the North
39 Slope area, the vast from Point Hope to Fire Island.

40
41 Okay. Thank you.

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

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I just have
47 one question.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.
50

0080

1 MR. OOMITTUK: When it deals with, you
2 know, ANW-R and the borderline of Canada and Alaska, is
3 it -- is that -- does the trooper monitor that or is it
4 being watched with, you know, Canadians coming into
5 airspace and hunting out there or do they know. You
6 know, I -- we -- do have -- we don't have too many --
7 the State don't have very many employees for the North
8 Slope Borough and, you know, we have 90,000 square
9 miles, you know. You know, that's a lot of airspace to
10 monitor.

11
12 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair, I can try to
13 address that a little bit if you like.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

16
17 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Steve, for
18 your question. And, you know, the troopers'
19 jurisdiction would be the State of Alaska, the entire
20 State of Alaska is where they would be looking for and
21 watching over things that are happening. As far as how
22 often or how frequently they're over there in that area
23 that you're talking about, I'm not really sure. I also
24 know that there probably are some Federal law
25 enforcement people that might be covering that area and
26 maybe others on the phone call that are tied with ANW-R
27 could address that a little bit better because I'm not
28 really sure how often they're over in ANW-R area.

29
30 And also just so you're kind of aware,
31 the North Slope is split into three game management
32 units and I manage the 26A portion which is the most
33 western portion. But there's 26B and C and those are
34 further east and those are managed actually by a
35 biologist out of the Fairbanks office. So from a Fish
36 and Game sort of perspective, you're right, there's not
37 a lot of people up here. There are a few, more than
38 just me on the entire North Slope, but as far as law
39 enforcement goes I would say, you know, it's -- we rely
40 on the troopers to do the law enforcement side of
41 things.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

44
45 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your
46 question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any other
49 questions for Carmen before we let her go? I think
50

0081

1 she's running out of time to catch the plane.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
6 none, thank you, Carmen.

7

8 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Gordon and
9 members of the Council. I appreciate your time and
10 attention.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
13 right, Madame Coordinator, if you could reorient where
14 we're at.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
17 members of the Council. This is Eva. And we did
18 suspend the rules to hear the wildlife reports earlier
19 today and we left off with your report as Chair under
20 Council member reports and then public and tribal
21 comments on nonagenda items. So we left off with the
22 final Council member report which is your report, Mr.
23 Chair.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right.
28 Well, I encourage all Council members to be always
29 looking out for each of your respective villages and
30 report on what your City Council's might say or your
31 Tribal Council and being the voice for the Regional
32 Subsistence Advisory Council is always important. And
33 I'm going to go ahead and talk about some of the things
34 that I'm -- that I've conducted over the season.

35

36 And I had a good opportunity to get to
37 my cabin, I didn't go there traditionally because I'm
38 not really fond of big waves and pounding my back so I
39 had to find alternative means of getting up there.

40

41 And it was important for me to get
42 ready for fall fishing. Fall fishing could have been
43 so fantastic all right. And I think I need to make
44 time to talk with maybe search and rescue folks or
45 someday to talk to our subsistence users on the rivers.
46 You know, it's always important to look at how rivers
47 support communities, not just an individual subsistence
48 user for hundreds and hundreds and years and there's
49 lots of documentation about Ikpikpuk. And I read

50

1 literature from traditional land use inventory to
2 listening to elders that are living on Ikpikpuk and how
3 that cycle is, you know, when it starts to freeze up
4 and there's -- ice is laying down, the first ice and
5 it's like it's coveted, take care of that ice once it
6 starts to form. And I do that, I literally do that. I
7 look at the ice and try not to let it be broken up and
8 try to let it get all the way across the river when it
9 starts forming and I actually get excited about that.
10 And I've heard from elders before about this and I'm --
11 because it's an important period of subsistence is to
12 let that ice form. And sometimes, you know, we'd be
13 straightforward if there's people upriver and those
14 around your area and talk about wow, the ice is
15 forming, it's not going to be long now.

16
17 And I think there needs to be more of
18 this traditional kind of talk especially when -- you
19 know, when it's difficult to make ice nowadays and --
20 because the weather sometimes is challenging and
21 encourage those if you're going to be fishing up there
22 take care of your ice, if you're not it might be time
23 to come downriver and let them know ice is forming.
24 And the ice was forming where we're at around September
25 23, 22 and it actually made it about three-quarters of
26 the way to the other side, but we had several late
27 boaters that came down and, you know, maybe I should
28 have said something, don't make a wake or come by it
29 real slow so the ice won't dislodge and go. Those are
30 important details about fishing especially if you're
31 going to fish for the community, you know, a lot of
32 fish. And it's easy for me to put nets under the ice
33 when the ice is formed. And the river run of (in
34 Native) is like very timed, very timed. You know,
35 it'll probably start around September 15 and end about
36 October 10, literally end, you know. I'll have nets
37 under the ice on September 8th and get 200 a day on one
38 net. Then the next day you're going to drop off to
39 five fish. That's how dramatic the change is when the
40 fish drop.

41
42 Anyway I encourage, you know, even the
43 -- you know, talk about traditional knowledge and how
44 these are done. So when my ice floated away and broke
45 off in the boat's wake it didn't reform the entire time
46 that I was fishing last fall. So I went about two
47 miles downriver to a little tributary called (in
48 Native) which I've fished (in Native) since I was a
49 little boy and have fond memories of that one there.
50

0083

1 And I managed to find the (in Native) in there, the
2 deep part, and I fished with two nets. And that little
3 creek is -- little river is very productive when the
4 Ikpikpuk chip is high. And I managed to make 25
5 stacks. And those were shared with communities, I
6 think a few sacks went to Anaktuvuk, a few sacks went
7 to Point Lay, a few sacks went to Atqasuk. And the
8 rest were distributed in the churches around here.
9 That was a very good blessing for the community. But I
10 think it was a good subsistence season, we had caribou,
11 fat ones and I love to eat fat caribou and healthy
12 caribou so it's -- I really enjoyed that and that was
13 blessed with my son able to get some caribou for me.

14

15 And other than that, I just listen to
16 others wherever they're hunting and it seems to me it
17 was a pretty good season, even the lake fishing was
18 pretty good. We used to see (in Native) struggle even
19 when I was kind of a young guy (in Native) was still a
20 problematic lake. From the time when my dad was alive
21 he would talk about they actually did seismic on that
22 lake with dynamite and then when the summertime came
23 (in Native) Lake had 1 billion dead fish. And we're
24 glad we're still able to fish that lake and sometimes
25 it's a -- sometimes I think it struggles.

26

27 That would be my Chair's report and I
28 think it's -- I was right to just start off with a
29 little traditional knowledge along with it.

30

31 With that, are there any questions on
32 the Chair's report before we move on to public and
33 tribal comments, I'll -- we'll open the mic to all
34 questions.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing no questions
39 unless you're talking on mute, I'm going to move on to
40 Item No. 9, public and tribal comments on nonagenda
41 items. That's available each morning and we'll extend
42 that to any tribal representative now if that -- I know
43 we heard ICS earlier and sometimes the tribes like to
44 make comments on nonagenda items. So you have the
45 floor for public and tribal comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And again this will

50

0084

1 be open each morning for public and -- public comments
2 on nonagenda items and we'll just keep that open.

3

4 So we'll move on to old business.

5

6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Jack
7 Reakoff.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Jack. It's
10 good to hear you by the way.

11

12 MR. REAKOFF: Yeah, good to hear you.
13 I just listened to your report there. The YRAC took --
14 is making a wildlife special action request to close
15 sheep hunting for subsistence and nonsubsistence in
16 unit 24A and 26B west of the Sagavanirktok all the way
17 over to the Aichilik River at the 26B boundary because
18 there's -- the sheep have declined so much here and
19 there's a lot of sporthunting that they're going to
20 wipe out the rest of the rams. And so I wanted to
21 bring that to your attention.

22

23 And I -- did you put that -- is that on
24 your agenda or have you heard about that.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
27 Jack. Let me just double check with our Madame
28 Coordinator, Eva, and by the way I haven't heard about
29 that just yet.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
32 members of the Council. That has been added to your
33 meeting agenda. That was under old -- we were taking
34 it up right after addressing the wildlife special
35 action 21-01. So it was just added to your agenda
36 because it was just submitted to the Federal
37 Subsistence Board. And I did email the wildlife
38 special action request to the Council and it has also
39 been posted to the OSM webpage. So when that comes up
40 on the agenda there will be -- OSM Staff will be
41 providing an overview and asking if the Council would
42 like to take action on that.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

47

48 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50

0085

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that 22-01 and
2 22-02?

3
4 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct.

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: So I'll stand by for when
7 we bring that up.

8
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
12 you, Jack, and very good to have you this afternoon.

13
14 Okay. Back to old business, a., update
15 and review of proposal WP22-55 muskox, Unit 26A, to
16 establish a hunt. And was there somebody to present
17 that, Eva?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
20 members of the Council. Yes, initially we were going
21 to take up WSA21-01 next, but because we did as Steve
22 noted we just lost Steve for the next hour and a half
23 here. So wondering if the Council would like to
24 proceed with 22-55 because that's addressing Unit 26A
25 and we could take up the other special action
26 addressing Unit 26A and B and review back to special
27 action 21-01 since that is predominantly Unit 26 or
28 Unit 23 affecting Point Hope and Unit 26A at the wish
29 of the Council.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Eva, I just
32 got a question here real quick. You know when we meet
33 in person we got all these little cheat sheets and
34 guidance and it goes through a laundry list of -- on
35 proposals and things like that for their comments and
36 do I have that somewhere in my packet here?

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
39 had emailed kind of the latest updated agenda with
40 details because we did have quite a few special action
41 requests that were submitted after the original -- the
42 original agenda and meeting materials went out. So
43 that was the latest email last night and again
44 apologies for rearranging the agenda, but trying to
45 make sure we accommodate the information for the
46 Council and also the Council members. So the latest
47 agenda was in your email last night with these new
48 special actions that have come in just recently.

49
50

0086

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. I'm just --
5 you know, when there's proposals and things like that
6 we give an opportunity to hear from InterAgency Staff
7 Committee then you go down the list and then I just
8 don't see my little cheat sheet I usually have.....

8

9

10 MS. PATTON: Oh, thank.....

10

11

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25 This is a proposal that the Council had
26 already deliberated and make a recommendation on at
27 your previous meeting, but new information on the best
28 strategy for how to issue those muskox permits came up
29 later and so that's why it's back for your review is to
30 make a recommendation on how the permits are issued.

32 And then for the special action request
33 it's a little bit different. We -- because this is
34 coming before the Council before the public has had an
35 opportunity to make recommendations on the special
36 action request those don't necessarily follow that same
37 step by step agency process. But at the call of the
38 Chair we can take public and tribal comments or agency
39 comments on the special action request too.

41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. We
44 just haven't met in person for a super long time and
45 I'm almost, you know, faintly remembering the process
46 and we're always so meticulous in person of how we
47 coordinate these things.

49 With that I'll go ahead and yield to

0087

1 whoever's going to do the update on the review proposal
2 for WP22-55. Is there a page that we need to turn
3 down.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
6 members of the Council. We have Kendra Holman online
7 and we're just rearranging -- you know, Staff was kind
8 of rearranging the order here too as we go. And you
9 will find -- let me find -- your report in your meeting
10 books is under tab 4 you'll find WP22-55.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Kendra.

13

14 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
15 Holman. Eva, I just wanted to clarify, 22-01B helps
16 give some context to the changes to 22-55. So I just
17 want to make sure we're all right if I cover that one
18 first?

19

20 MS. PATTON: Yes, sure. That would be
21 fine. They're kind of connected for the Council's
22 information. There was a special action request
23 regarding permitting in Unit 22 and 23 for moose hunts
24 and that's kind of what triggered change to WP22-55.

25

26 So 22-55 is in your meeting book binder
27 under tab 4. And then because the special action
28 request was submitted later you'll find that in your
29 supplemental materials packet. And Kendra will provide
30 an overview for both the special action and the
31 revisiting proposal 22-55.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. You have the
36 floor, Kendra.

37

38 MS. HOLMAN: Hello, Mr. Chairman,
39 members of the Council. My name is Kendra Holman and
40 I'm a wildlife biologist with the Office of Subsistence
41 Management. I will be presenting the request for
42 temporary wildlife special action WSA22-01B which
43 pertains to the Cape Thompson muskox population in
44 northern Unit 23. WSA22-01A concerns the Seward
45 Peninsula muskox population and does not affect the
46 North Slope count.

47

48 This special action request was emailed
49 to the Council members and can also be found on the OSM

50

0088

1 website for the North Slope meeting material were
2 emailed and can be found on the website.

3

4 Temporary special action WSA22-01B
5 submitted by the National Park Service and the Bureau
6 of Land Management request the Federal Subsistence
7 Board change the Federal muskox permit in Unit 23 from
8 a registration permit to a drawing permit system for
9 the 2022 through 2024 regulatory cycle. This is a
10 housekeeping request as this is how the permits have
11 been distributed for years. The proponents also
12 request to standardize the language in the delegation
13 of authority letters.

14

15 The Cape Thompson population of muskox
16 are managed under a shared quota system with the State
17 of Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has
18 issued permits under a tier two restriction and Federal
19 permits are issued using the drawing system.

20

21 Federal in-season managers use the
22 drawing system to distribute the permits because
23 unclear language in the delegation of authority letters
24 led them to believe that they could. The Federal in-
25 season managers consider a drawing permit hunt to be
26 the best management strategy for conserving natural and
27 healthy populations while still allowing for a
28 subsistence use by Federally-qualified subsistence
29 users. If this request is approved there will be no
30 change to the process of awarding Federal permits since
31 the draw system has been used for years. The only
32 change will be the standardization of language in the
33 delegation of authority letters.

34

35 The Office of Subsistence Management
36 will be holding a public hearing regarding WSA22-01B on
37 March 15, 2022. The Seward Peninsula and Northwest
38 Arctic Regional Advisory Councils have both acted on
39 the special action and supported it at their winter
40 meetings. The Federal Subsistence Board will be acting
41 on this proposal at their April, 2022 meeting.

42

43 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
44 Council. I'll be happy to answer any questions. And
45 I'm not sure if anyone from the Park Service or BLM is
46 on here. I hope they may be able to help answer
47 questions regarding this as well.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kendra, was this

50

0089

1 material in the supplemental that was sent to us?

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, it was.
4 It was emailed.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I mean, in my
7 packet I had one coming through the mail, the big book,
8 and then a smaller packet that it seems to have this
9 stuff in, that supplemental material. And it was
10 special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board
11 from Jeannete Koelsch, superintendent and Bruce Seppi,
12 subsistence biologist. Is that the one?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct, Mr.
15 Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And Unit 22B,
18 I'm trying to look at the map, is that because we have
19 C&T over in 22 through AKP?

20

21 MS. HOLMAN:: So, Mr. Chair, this one
22 is for Unit 23. So it affects just that corner of the
23 North Slope for Unit 23, but.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For Point Hope?

26

27 MS. PATTON: Yes, correct. So because
28 Point Hope is in Unit 23 this is as we discussed with
29 the Council in our premeeting yesterday. It's kind of
30 a crossover proposal and because Point Hope is affected
31 within Unit 23 that's why it's coming before the
32 Council.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, for
37 making that clarification.

38

39 And, Steve, this is in your neck of the
40 woods and I think just from listening they're wanting
41 to get some sort of recommendation if I'm getting this
42 right in terms of how the permit or to be allowed to
43 hunt that muskox in that area should it be in your area
44 either by drawing or by registration. I'm not too sure
45 how the two are different, but it sounds like their
46 preferred is by drawing, a very controlled way of
47 getting your approval and it's like the luck of the
48 draw, you know. You never know who's going to get.....

49

50

0090

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

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
5 Steve.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, you know -- you
8 know, we eat muskox, you know, we've eaten them in the
9 past when their numbers were low and they were
10 reintroduced into our neck of the woods in the '70s or
11 so. And the population is quite high now and they want
12 to, you know -- you know, we're subsistence hunters and
13 some people like muskox and now they want to open it to
14 a lottery, even nonresidents can be -- their names can
15 be put through a permit in there and be picked and our
16 own people might not even be picked from this lottery.
17 I mean, you know.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we can ask
20 those questions.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, that's what I'm
23 trying to ask, is this lottery -- I think it was my
24 understanding in the past meetings that's what they
25 were going to do. And, you know, I can't get a clear
26 answer reading this proposal. But can you clarify
27 that?

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we might want
30 to make a.....

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: I mean, is the lottery
33 for (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER:recommendation
36 on how they do that drawing.

37
38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
39 Lisa.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Lisa. And
42 who are you affiliated with?

43
44 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thanks. For the
45 record this is Lisa Grediagin, supervisor with OSM.
46 And in response to Steve's question, this hunt would
47 only be open to Federally-qualified subsistence users.
48 So only people in Unit 23, you know, that have the
49 customary and traditional use determination for muskox
50

0091

1 would be receiving the permits and would be eligible to
2 receive the Federal permits for hunting muskox. But
3 the main change between a registration permit and a
4 drawing permit is how they're distributed. And a
5 drawing permit is a random drawing whereas a
6 registration permit you can limit the number of
7 permits, but they have to be distributed on a first
8 come, first serve basis. And so the Federal managers
9 in Unit 23 have been administering these muskox hunts
10 as drawing permits for years and then it came to the
11 attention of OSM that technically they don't have the
12 authority to administer them as drawing permit hunts
13 because per current regulations they're registration
14 hunts. And so they submitted this special action to
15 fix that in regulation.

16

17 And so if this special action is
18 approved there actually will be no change in how the
19 Federal muskox hunts are being administered, but if
20 it's not adopted then instead of doing a drawing for
21 that muskox hunt it would have to be first come, first
22 serve. And the Federal managers don't see that as
23 equitable become some Federal subsistence users might
24 be able to, you know, go immediately and get their
25 permit whereas others just don't have that flexibility
26 to, you know, stand in line and get that permit right
27 away so that drawing is a way to just randomize it and
28 make it a bit more equitable across to receive a
29 permit.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question on
34 that. Yeah, this is Gordon, the Chair. And same --
35 like the concerns of the distinguished Council member
36 from Point Hope there, in terms of allocation of those
37 permits, like there might be a quota or just a amount
38 that can be distributed. Now is there a -- a process
39 by which Point Hope has to register or be part of that
40 drawing locally or do they -- is that administered in
41 Kotzebue area and that drawing -- because it's cross
42 borders it seems like, it's a crossover on this herd,
43 on the number of animals in these areas. So can you
44 distinguish how Point Hope would effectively land any
45 of those permits versus folks that might be in Noatak
46 and those areas in Unit 22 and 23?

47

48 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sure, Mr. Chair. This
49 is Lisa for the record. And the Park Service, the
50

0092

1 superintendent for the Western Arctic National
2 Parklands has authority to administer these hunts in
3 Unit 23 for which Point Hope residents are eligible.
4 And my understanding is they do the drawing in July
5 because the hunt starts in August. So I don't know of
6 anyone from -- there's probably not because this is
7 North Slope and not Northwest Arctic, but I think they
8 put a press release out announcing these permits, you
9 know, are available in June and then people can apply
10 for the permit, put their name in the hat so to speak.
11 And then the Park Service draws, you know, names out of
12 the hat in July and then notifies people who are drawn
13 for the permits in July for that August muskox hunt.
14 And so I'd have to contact the Park Service in Unit 23
15 to get specific details on exactly the timing of when
16 they put that notice out to apply for the permits, but
17 that's generally the idea on how these permits are
18 given out.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it's
21 interesting, I think it's just worth talking about and
22 looking at how it's structured. You know, when we're
23 dealing with Kaktovik for instance and there is a
24 drawing just dedicated for the community of Kaktovik
25 and we're dealing with maybe one or three moose. And
26 because of the preservation management of moose in that
27 area and I don't know if you see what I'm getting at
28 here, should allow for these types of resources to be
29 enjoyed in these villages. If there were 10 permits
30 for a drawing.....

31

32 (Teleconference inference -
33 participants not muted).

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and
36 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....

37

38 REPORTER: Hey, I'm sorry, but can
39 everybody make sure their phone's on mute.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Sorry to interrupt,
44 Gordon.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're getting some
47 feedback here.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Yeah, sorry. to interrupt,

50

0093

1 Gordon. For everybody on teleconference somebody just
2 told us all to call our mom. So if whoever that was if
3 you could please mute your phone. Everybody -- and you
4 should call your mom. Everybody take a look and mute
5 your phones on the mute button or star, six to mute.

6
7 Thanks so much.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Go ahead, Mr. Chair.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you, Eva
14 and thank you, everybody.

15
16 Yeah, I think it's just an important
17 detail and because I've tasted musk ox, it's really,
18 really good. And it's really good that's how come they
19 were extinguished, you know, because we ate them all,
20 you know, back in them days. And it's important to --
21 I think important and make a recommendation that unit
22 23 which Point Hope is in, at least have -- you know,
23 if there's going to be 10 permits and you look at the
24 community of where those permits are to be distributed
25 and the luck of the draw should be based on maybe a
26 divvy up per village, that could benefit from a muskox
27 for food on the table. It could be two for Point Hope
28 and then the luck of the draw goes in Point Hope for
29 those two. If it's Noatak or Kivalina or some other
30 place and they got two for those communities the luck
31 of the draw for those two should be in those
32 communities and so on and so forth. Just because of --
33 I still think the muskox is still in preservation mode
34 and it's not a liberal hunt to any degree, it's not a
35 conservation hunt in any degree, this is more like it's
36 still under intensive management, but just barely
37 enough to start for a small Federally-qualified hunt.

38
39 That's all I was trying to get at. And
40 I think those might be the types of concerns or
41 questions that could be construed out of Point Hope is
42 about who has the opportunity to get in the drawing.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
45 for the record. I just want to make a comment on that.
46 And, you know, I agree with you, you know. You knew we
47 are in Unit 22 and you deal with the NANA area with 11
48 other villages and Point Hope being one on the North
49 Slope on the Unit 23 area. And, you know, I'm
50

0094

1 wondering, you know, the number of drawings that will
2 be done. You know, that's a population of the herd of
3 the muskox has gone up by more than triple, it's up
4 over 800 muskox now, you know. And they tend to be a
5 nuisance at times to the caribou herd. And, you know,
6 we never had that problem before, you know, and then we
7 need to keep that number -- you know, they're not an
8 endangered species or anything. I know they were put
9 on there at one time, but their numbers have grown
10 since the '70s and here we can't even get one muskox in
11 Point Hope. If we do get one, but we would get in
12 trouble for it. And, you know, they are -- you know,
13 we ate them in the older days, they're good eating.

14
15 But, you know, I like what Gordon said.
16 I -- you know, when we do the luck of the drawing, you
17 know, and we have Point Hope in Unit 23 and then you
18 got 26A or the NANA area which has 11 other villages.
19 And, you know, I was just wondering because it says
20 right there on the thing, it's one drawing or one
21 muskox, but what's the total number of muskox for the
22 unit.

23
24 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
25 Lisa.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Lisa.

28
29 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Thank you. I'd
30 clarify for the Council that setting the harvest quota
31 as well as the number of permits issued each year is
32 delegated to the Federal manager. So in this case it
33 would be the superintendent of the Western Arctic
34 Parklands that would be setting that harvest quota
35 every year as well as how many permits are issued each
36 year to harvest a muskox. So, I mean, you're correct
37 that there is some harvestable surplus, but it's pretty
38 low, it's a very low number of muskox that can
39 sustainably be harvested each year from this
40 population. So I think it's, you know, maybe around
41 three to five permits are issued each year and then
42 harvest is one to two muskox. So it's very low, but
43 again that is decided by the Federal manager every
44 year.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Thank
49 you. And if you are the luck of the draw on a -- on a
50

0095

1 permit how long does that permit last, a year or could
2 you hold onto it for 15 years?

3

4 MS. GREDIAGIN: So yeah, it's every
5 year so it would just be for that season that you would
6 have that permit. And then you'd have to reapply next
7 year another permit.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Just out of curiosity,
12 Mr. Chair, do they have a lottery for nonresidents or
13 non-Federally, you know, recognized people or do they
14 have a lottery for the -- for hunting muskox for.....

15

16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted).

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think so.

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Not at all?

22

23 MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa. And so
24 all the nonresident harvest is managed under State
25 regulations. So this special action request would have
26 nothing to do with nonresident harvest. But currently
27 the State regulations for muskox in Unit 23 is all
28 under tier two permit. And so again, I mean, that's a
29 pretty limited number of permits and harvest quotas by
30 the State and currently there's no nonresident
31 opportunity to harvest muskox in Unit 23.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Have -- this is
36 another question (indiscernible - simultaneous
37 speech).....

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: So when you say -- when
40 you say non (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) are
41 -- is that they can be out of state people as well that
42 can be put in this lottery?

43

44 MS. GREDIAGIN: No, only the Federally-
45 qualified subsistence users are eligible for this
46 drawing permit under Federal regulations and then again
47 under State regulations they have a resident only tier
48 two permit.

49

50

0096

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I
6 did have a question, but I'm getting so old that I
7 forgot it in three minutes, but in any event so this
8 update -- you're seeking a recommendation in terms of
9 drawing or for registration?

10

11 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
12 Holman. Yes, we're seeking the recommendation for the
13 drawing, changing those regulations temporarily for
14 that 2022 through 2024 regulation -- regulatory cycle
15 so that the regulations reflect how they've been
16 issuing the permits as a drawing.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. One other
19 question in relation to this is let's say somebody has
20 a secured and won a drawing and they live in Point Hope
21 and there's a muskox and I could see State land,
22 Federal land, private land, let's just say you got a
23 Federal permit and you kill that thing on the State
24 land what will happen, are we good?

25

26 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, these permits
27 are only for the -- the Federal permits are only for
28 the Federal land. So the -- to.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

31

32 MS. HOLMAN:harvest a muskox on
33 the State land you would need a State permit.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, just one
38 question. I -- you know, I know you asked a question
39 and she didn't get to answer, you know, how long does
40 this permit last, you know, if we don't catch it within
41 that year on Federal lands do -- are you able to go
42 after their deadline on this permit or do we have a
43 certain time limit within a -- from August to October
44 or, you know, is it just for that one year and are
45 these permits -- you know, do we pay -- do we have to
46 pay -- pay for these permits, to put our name in a hat
47 or is it a free permit for our Federally-qualified
48 users?

49

50

0097

1 MS. HOLMAN: So this is Kendra again
2 for the record. The permits are good for the one year
3 and you would have to put your name in every year to
4 have the opportunity to be drawn for that permit.

5
6 I think there was another part to your
7 question, if you could restate that I'd appreciate it.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: I asked if there was a
10 fee that we had to pay to put our hat -- put our names
11 in this lottery, the fee as you say?

12
13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is Lisa
14 for the record. I think there's a fee, but I also
15 wanted to invite Raime Fronstin from the Park Service,
16 he is online now and can provide more specific details
17 of the Unit 23 hunt to the Council because he's part of
18 the in-season manager who administers this hunt.

19
20 MR. FRONSTIN: Hi, this is Raime. So I
21 -- I'm the park biologist with Western Arctic. No,
22 there's no fee -- to answer your question there's no
23 fee to put your name in for the lottery and usually
24 we'll ask people to start entering -- they can start
25 entering the drawing in July generally, June, July,
26 around then. The hunt is from -- the season is open
27 from August 1st to March 15th so that's when you hunt --
28 you can hunt the animal. And the permit is only good
29 for the one season. But like Lisa said you can -- this
30 is something that you can put your name in every year
31 for. We do to try to spread the wealth though we do
32 if you've received a permit one year, the next year
33 you're ineligible, you, just someone doesn't get it
34 twice in a row.

35
36 Is there other questions on this?

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That seems to be the
39 questions there.

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But I was thinking
44 maybe there was an unanswered question from earlier too
45 about if there are only five permits out of this herd
46 because it's preservation management and there's a
47 little harvestable surplus kind of looking like we
48 could roast one of those things, maybe we should put
49 the communities that are eligible like Point Hope,
50

0098

1 Noatak, Kivalina, Kotzebue, put those names of the
2 villages in a hat first and -- or something like that
3 and do the drawing in those communities or something
4 like that, who knows. It just seems like it would be
5 important to find a way to -- as fair as possible
6 because we're hungry for these long lost resources and
7 to my understanding the last muskox alive before they
8 were extinct was about 1870 or 1880 and that the yankee
9 whalers loved to eat these muskox so much that they
10 killed them all off.

11

12 MR. FRONSTIN: Like you're -- so we do
13 -- it's only eligible villages are allowed to obtain
14 permits. So for the permit in Noatak, that's Point
15 Hope, Kivalina, Noatak, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Kiana,
16 Selawik, Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak. And for the Cape
17 Krusenstern population it would be Kivalina, Noatak,
18 basically everything but Point Hope for the Cape
19 Krusenstern population, all of the villages I mentioned
20 before. And we do -- we try -- correct. So last year
21 five permits were given and they were split with the
22 State. I've been in contact with the State and
23 coordination with the State and we are looking to
24 likely -- I'm not making any promises, but we're
25 looking to likely increase the number of permits and
26 particularly if the population grows we'll definitely
27 be able to increase the number of permits.

28

29 I completely understand, you know, the
30 ability to hunt muskox. And I hope their -- the
31 population grows and everyone has the ability, you
32 know, getting more than five permits. So -- but it's a
33 completely random drawing and.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
36 right. Maybe -- I think we've kind of debated here and
37 talked about it and kind of understand what's going on
38 here. And this was an update, but with the caveat that
39 you want a recommendation from the regional RAC on how
40 best to distribute those permits either by drawing or
41 by permit registration. Is that -- is that what the
42 deal is?

43

44 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chairman, we are
45 looking for your action on this regarding actually
46 changing these regulations for a drawing.

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Mr. Chair, I just
49 had one more question. Now they mention this is --

50

0099

1 this is permit is to -- for to do the hunt on Federal
2 land and, you know, Federal lands vary within our area.
3 But, you know, the corporation land was sold to the
4 Native village in the North Slope Borough, the Native
5 Village of Point Hope which is now Federal lands. Was
6 the -- changed the status and probably in the -- it's
7 not contiguous Federal land, but it's under the
8 Borough, the North -- or the Native Village of Point
9 Hope now which is, you know, 100,000 acres that --
10 where the muskox are, right in that area that once
11 belonged to the corporation which is now Federal land.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. Is
14 there any feedback on that, I mean, I do understand
15 that over the course of time I think Tikigaq
16 Corporation had either -- put their lands in trust to
17 the tribe. And how would that be viewed in terms of
18 this trust relationship between tribes and the Federal
19 government and would that land -- and it seems to me it
20 would need to have maybe a determination made by maybe
21 the Interior Secretary, I don't know, whoever deals
22 with land and reclassification when somebody else owns
23 it, like a for profit corporation and now to what
24 Tikigaq is saying, deed it over to the tribe.

25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: I think I heard BLM on
27 their earlier that when they -- would BLM be able to
28 answer that?

29

30 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, this is
31 Kendra. To my knowledge it would have to be that
32 Federal land. So as far as.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Well.....

35

36 MS. HOLMAN:tribal or corporation
37 land, maybe somebody else can answer that, but that I
38 know.

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, this is
43 Gordon. And just for the interest of time and things
44 like that I think that is a very huge question to be
45 asked and it might be out of the purview of the
46 biologists and tough to answer a profound question as
47 to land status. And it -- right now if we -- the
48 current discussion on changing the regulation for --
49 I'm not even sure which -- what is the -- is it WP22-
50

0100

1 55, that we're -- no, that's not it.

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's this crossover
6 regulation.....

7

8 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, WP -- wildlife
9 special action.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to turn it into
12 a -- yeah, special action.

13

14 Steve, if that's okay can -- maybe
15 there's.....

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER:some -- talking
20 lot of issues.....

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, if we can do a
25 parking lot of issues for that kind of question might
26 be important.

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah.

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.....

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: I.....

33

34 MS. GREDIAGIN:this is Lisa.

35 And.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Lisa.

38

39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Sorry, I missed
40 Steve's question initially, but Staff has since
41 clarified it for me. And yeah, the tribal and
42 corporation land is not considered Federal land. So
43 those are under State regulations for the purposes of
44 harvesting fish and wildlife.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Sounds good.

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
49 clarification, but, you know, the corporation was

50

0101

1 turned over to the Native Village in 1988, 34 years the
2 Federal government has considered the Native Village's
3 land. That's why I was asking that. And we're still
4 trying to get with BLM and deal with surface rights,
5 subsurface right and how does that change, did it
6 change anything from a corporation land to a Federal
7 agency, now that's a totally recognized tribe. And,
8 you know, because our Federal lands are further out to
9 the north and it's a long way to get these muskox on
10 Federal lands that are way out there. Muskox are right
11 in our area, just five, 10 miles out and that's on
12 Native Village land.

13

14 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
15 Lisa.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Lisa.

18

19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, thank you. And
20 to Steve's concern, I'm guessing Point Hope mostly
21 hunts muskox under the State tier two permit hunts
22 because as he pointed out Point Hope is primarily
23 surrounded by State managed land. So that might be one
24 reason Point Hope hasn't participated as much in this
25 Federal muskox hunt because those Federal lands are
26 further away from Point Hope, but certainly applying
27 for a tier two permit to hunt muskox on the State lands
28 around Point Hope is one option for Point Hope
29 residents to harvest muskox closer to their community.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for that
34 response.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, it's --
37 seems like some of the land managers should have
38 workshops in some of our communities to let the
39 community understand better under what rule or
40 regulation they might need to be hunting on. If it's
41 11 miles out it seems like the tier two hunt if it's
42 going on in Unit 23 it needs to be considered of (no
43 audio) Point Hope this particular special action on
44 Federal public lands on Unit 23 is doing the right
45 thing and taking some recommendations as Point Hope has
46 C&T and -- on this crossover regulation and we need a
47 recommendation now to officially request an amendment
48 to make it into a drawing.

49

50

0102

1 And is there a -- all I -- in the
2 special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board
3 I'm trying to see if there is a number associated with
4 it?

5
6 MS. HOLMAN:: Mr. Chair, this is Kendra
7 Holman. So the number for this one is WSA22-01B as in
8 bravo.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. WSA22-01A?

11
12 MS. HOLMAN:: B as in bravo, Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. This is a
15 special action request to the Federal Subsistence Board
16 for a hunt of muskox.

17
18 MS. HOLMAN:: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
19 Kendra for the record.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So to -- yeah, go
22 ahead, Kendra.

23
24 MS. HOLMAN:: Oh. So regarding your
25 question earlier for kind of what we're looking for,
26 this -- we're looking for action from the Council
27 regarding support or modification.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Of the entire
30 proposal or just the areas that we've been discussing,
31 drawing versus permit or registration?

32
33 MS. HOLMAN:: For the change in
34 language to be a drawing permit within Unit 23, muskox.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All
37 right. Maybe if everybody's done with the discussion
38 portion of this, I think we kind of understand.
39 Frankly I haven't really read the W2-01B, but listening
40 to it I think we in my humble opinion would support it
41 with modifications to turn into a drawing. Is that the
42 kind of response is adequate for bringing it to the
43 attention of the North Slope RAC?

44
45 MS. HOLMAN:: So, Mr. Chair, this is
46 Kendra. So to be a drawing that's what we're proposing
47 it be. So for that action you'd be in support of this
48 proposal -- of this special action.

49
50

0103

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So we don't
2 need to have any other language, we just -- somebody
3 makes a motion, WS22-01B, a motion to support that
4 special action request, that -- that's it?

5
6 MS. HOLMAN: Correct, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
9 further discussion on WSA22-01B?

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, what's
14 the wish of the Council?

15
16 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.
17 This is Steve.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
20 the floor from Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope in
21 support of WSA22-01B. What say ye? Motion on the
22 floor.

23
24 MR. FRANTZ: Second the motion.

25
26 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion, Mr.
27 Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Brower
30 Frantz from Utqiagvik.

31
32 Wanda, was that you?

33
34 MR. OOMITTUK: Question's called.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Yes, it was.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
39 called for. All right. The question's been called
40 for. All those in support of WSA22-01B, a special
41 action request, to the Federal Subsistence Board,
42 signify by saying aye.

43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
47 same sign.

48
49 (No opposing votes)

50

0104

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
2 ayes have it. WSA passes in support by the Regional
3 Subsistence Advisory Council.

4
5 Thank you Kendra.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
8 Council members. This is Eva. If I may, again when we
9 have a recommendation from the Council it's always very
10 helpful for the Board to have at least a few words of
11 justification supporting the Council's vote.

12
13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
16 I believe that after the debate and listening to that
17 is that the drawing in -- would be more inclusive I
18 think, more randomly and that would be much more fair
19 than those that just have immediate access to go
20 register and get those permits from first come, first
21 serve basis, that a drawing would allow you that
22 fairness to maybe otherwise a area far away from the
23 permitting station to compete effectively to get a
24 permit would be our justification in my view.

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

28
29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. We're
31 under Item No. 10, old business. I know we've been
32 going off script here and there, Eva, and suspend the
33 rules a couple times, but can you reorient where we
34 should be right now?

35
36 MS. PATTON: Sure. Thank you, Mr.
37 Chair and Council members. So we -- we're going to
38 take up under old business wildlife proposal WP22-55.
39 And that's revisiting the muskox proposal from Unit 26A
40 to establish a muskox hunt that was submitted by this
41 Council. And again this is coming back before the
42 Council because the discussion that you just had on
43 this special action request consideration for the
44 Federal land manager on how best to issue the permits
45 if the Board does adopt a Federal subsistence muskox
46 hunt for Unit 26A. And so it'll be a similar
47 discussion

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And who's
50

0105

1 the presenter?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, we
4 have Kendra up again.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Kendra.
7 You're on the hot seat again.

8

9 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
10 the record this is Kendra Holman, I'm a wildlife
11 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

12

13 This Council's already considered this
14 proposal in the fall, but is being asked to revisit it
15 based on updated information and because OSM has
16 changed its conclusion.

17

18 Wildlife proposal WP22-55 was submitted
19 by the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory
20 Council and can be found under tab 4 of your meeting
21 book. This proposal is to establish a muskox hunt
22 within the western portion of Unit 26A. So the
23 proponent states that the muskox population in Unit 26A
24 has grown substantially -- to substantially harvestable
25 levels and fully supports providing hunting
26 opportunity. North Slope communities are seeing the
27 muskox close to hunting cabin. Through local and
28 traditional knowledge it is known that caribou may
29 deflect from areas based on the smell of muskox.
30 Caribou are critically important as a subsistence
31 resource. The opportunity to harvest muskox would help
32 support the reduction in deflection of migrating
33 caribou and provide an additional source of meat for
34 Federally-qualified subsistence users. The council
35 recommends that the proposed hunt area boundary be
36 based on landscape features essentially easily
37 recognizable to the local people because it is
38 sufficiently distanced from Unit 26B to avoid
39 potentially -- potential harvest from that unit's --
40 subunit's muskox population.

41

42 So this proposal would establish the
43 Federal subsistence season and harvest permit for
44 muskox in the portion of Unit 26A west of the eastern
45 shore of Admiralty Bay where the Alaktak River enters,
46 following the Alaktak River south to 155 west longitude
47 south to the Unit 26 border. This proposed change
48 would allow any Federally-qualified subsistence user to
49 harvest one muskox within the new hunt area of unit
50

0106

1 26A. The modified hunt descriptor completes the hunt
2 area without leaving any gaps or ambiguous areas.

3

4

5 Establishing a Federal drawing permit
6 hunt rather than the registration for muskox in Unit
7 26A ensures the harvest remains within sustainable
8 levels and responds to both the changing hunt and herd
9 conditions. Federal in-season managers use the draw
10 system to distribute permits for muskox in Unit 22 and
11 23 because of unclear language in the delegation of
12 authority letters. The Federal in-season managers
13 consider the draw permit hunt to be the best management
14 strategy for conserving natural and healthy populations
15 while still allowing for subsistence by Federally-
16 qualified users. Standardization across the Federal
17 muskox hunt in Units 22, 23 and 26A would also help
18 prevent user confusion.

18

19

20 So the OSM preliminary conclusion is to
21 support WP22-55 with a modification to revise the hunt
22 area descriptor as read above, require a Federal
23 drawing permit and delegate authority to the BLM Arctic
24 District Office Manager to close the season, announce
25 the harvest quota and the number of permits to be
26 issued via delegation of authority letter.

26

27

28 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
29 Council. I'll be happy to address any questions.

29

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
32 Kendra on WP22-55 as read?

32

33

34

35 (No comments)

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this -- by
37 supporting this you're saying that there's some
38 modifications here and by the way I like OSM's support
39 on this because it's always important when we make good
40 justification to do so. And OSM is always key to kind
41 of get Office of Subsistence Management to have our
42 back on this. And I think it's important and the
43 change here is reflected in a -- in the methodology of
44 how those permits are given out. It seems like same
45 issue, let's do it with a drawing. And if that.....

45

46

47

48 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

49

50

51 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is that Brower
52 Frantz?

0107

1 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, Brower Frantz.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You have
4 the floor, Brower.

5

6 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, just some comments
7 on it. You know, I think it's great that there -- they
8 are looking to at least establish a hunt whether it be
9 registration or drawing. If I could have, you know, my
10 way because it's such a particular hunt if it was open,
11 the only way to get to them would be by going to a
12 couple locations that are pretty far from Barrow, at
13 least for up in 26A, but I guess it's not the same for
14 every other location. But it seems that the type of
15 permits that are going to be given out would be I guess
16 different for each -- well, the same for each location,
17 but I wouldn't prefer this method, but at least they
18 are looking to open a hunt so that's a benefit.

19

20 But -- well, I guess getting our foot
21 in the door would be the first way to do it and then
22 modify from there hopefully later. So I would be in
23 support of this, but, you know, it's just not
24 particularly what I would do if I could have my way.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower
27 Frantz. Well, we have support of OSM and it's our
28 opportunity to hear the things that you're talking
29 about and if you want it your way let's hear how that
30 kind of permit could be issued and just by the mere
31 reasons that you say, you know, some villages, they're
32 right in their backyard, but for Barrow these things
33 are a hundred miles out. And we've going to have to go
34 out there like -- you know, like you said. And maybe
35 there's -- I think it would be prudent to hear
36 something -- what the local residents in the area might
37 prefer even though if it sounds like it's just your
38 way.

39

40 MR. FRANTZ: I guess one more question
41 I have would be for maybe Carmen. So once this -- if
42 it's established and accepted and put into play is
43 there still the option to fill out for an emergency
44 type deal similar to what Atqasuk had done in the past
45 if there were an abundance of muskox in the way of some
46 caribou, would that still be available?

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Car -- I don't think
49 Carmen's on, but we need to -- if there's an area

50

0108

1 biologist other than Carmen that might be able to
2 address that. I think Carmen had to catch a plane.

3

4 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
5 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mark.

8

9 MR. BURCH: Yeah, in general the State
10 has some opportunity to liberalize, we would need to go
11 through the Board of Game. Honestly I don't see it
12 happening right away with muskox in this area. I think
13 the normal cycle is likely to allow us time to be able
14 to adjust harvest quotas in the -- during the normal
15 wildlife regulatory cycle State side. Of course we are
16 establishing a hunt on the -- that matches on the State
17 side as well or we're in the process of doing that, I
18 would expect it to go through.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure about
23 what you were looking for, Brower, but that was the
24 response from Mark.

25

26 MR. FRANTZ: Kind of. It's a -- you
27 know, up here with muskox in one location, but, you
28 know, somebody pulled the drawing somewhere else, I
29 guess now so be it, that's where my issue is with this.
30 But if they are recognizing and establishing a hunt I
31 guess that's progress.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
34 Lisa.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Lisa.

37

38 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Grediagin
39 for the record. And I just wanted to clarify this is a
40 Federal hunt and, you know, this dual management of
41 wildlife in Alaska's really confusing. So it sounds
42 like you're getting a little -- confounding the State
43 harvest system with the Federal permit system. And
44 they're managed pretty, you know, separately like of
45 course you can never accumulate harvest limits, you
46 know, you'd only be able to harvest one permit. But my
47 understanding is with the other muskox hunt in like
48 Unit 23, the State tier two permits are distributed
49 first and then the Federal permits are distributed
50

0109

1 after that. And so if someone already received a State
2 tier two permit there's not really any benefit for them
3 receiving a Federal permit because they can already
4 harvest muskox on the State lands or Federal lands
5 under that State tier two permit. And so basically
6 this Federal permit for the Unit 26A muskox hunt, you
7 know, under the Federal system you're probably only
8 eligible to harvest muskox in that portion of Unit 26A,
9 but from the State side I would imagine that Federal
10 managers and State managers would work together to make
11 sure people don't receive both permits because they are
12 very limited in number. So you want to increase and
13 maximize that opportunity, not give one person kind of
14 duplicates.

15

16 So hopefully that helps and again, I
17 mean, I understand this dual management with both State
18 and Federal regulations is pretty confusing most of the
19 time.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that Lisa?

24

25 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, that was
26 Lisa.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Here's a
29 very quick question or observation here. How come a
30 State tier two hunt could be hunted on State land and
31 you can jump over the property line and continue to use
32 that State permit on Federal land and you can't do that
33 with a Federal permit? Seems to me there's apples and
34 oranges here. Is it a matter of going to the State
35 Board of Game to remember all those discussions, I
36 don't know if you'll remember, I don't know who was
37 around, I've been doing this for 20 years, but all
38 those requests to align State and Federal regulations
39 so it wasn't very much difference between which side of
40 lands you were on, does that kind of go against that
41 mentality when the Federal permit is not good on State
42 land, but the State permit is good on Federal land and
43 anyway it's just my observation.

44

45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
46 Lisa. And that is not just for this Federal muskox
47 permit hunt, that's how the regulations are across the
48 entire State of Alaska work is that you can hunt
49 wildlife on Federal lands under State regulations, but
50

0110

1 you cannot hunt wildlife on State lands under Federal
2 regulations. And, you know, I think you -- we'd
3 probably need a workshop to understand the whole
4 history of, you know, ANILCA and the law and
5 regulations to fully understand that, but that's the
6 case in general and the exception is when Federal
7 public lands are close to non-Federally-qualified
8 users. And so in that case the Federal lands are
9 closed and people cannot hunt on State lands under --
10 on Federal lands under State regulations. So you can
11 quickly, you know, maybe go down the rabbit hole on
12 this, but in general that's the case is that.....

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted).

16

17 MS. GREDIAGIN:you can hunt
18 wildlife under State regulations on Federal public
19 lands unless they're closed. That's just statewide how
20 it works.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark
25 Burch.

26

27 (Teleconference interference -
28 participants not muted)

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mark.

31

32 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I of course agree
33 with what Lisa just said and I understand it can be
34 confusing. I would also say that your point about
35 trying to make the regulations consistent across the
36 State and Federal lands as much as possible is one of
37 the reasons that the State participates in this process
38 among many. But we do strive to simplify the situation
39 as much as we can by matching up the State and the
40 Federal regulations because we do understand it's
41 confusing. And I agree with Lisa, beyond that it would
42 probably be necessary to have a workshop or something
43 to talk about some of the intricacies. But we do make
44 an effort to try to make it as simple as we can given
45 the management systems that we operate under.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Mark. And
48 that might have to be a constitutional convention to do
49 that probably.

50

0111

1 So any additional questions on the Unit
2 26 muskox proposal and maybe just some guidance from
3 Kendra a little bit in terms of an action item here is
4 to merely accept WP22-55 as modified by OSM, is that
5 what it is?

6
7 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair. So we're
8 looking for that adoption of or that support of WP22-55
9 with -- as modified by OSM as modified -- if the
10 Council would like to modify it separately you could.
11 So.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Does that include the
14 boundary that we said before?

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, it does, Mr. Chair.
17 So that's.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We got that -- you
20 know, we had argued.....

21
22 MS. HOLMAN:that's.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER:over west 156 on
25 rules for eons and eons and it appeared that there was
26 going to be a similar delineation so that we're not
27 impacting the eastern Unit 25C population of muskox
28 that might meander over near -- across the Colville and
29 come by the Teshekpuk Lake and then on to the Chipp and
30 commit suicide over there because they're super far.

31
32 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, this
33 is.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we argued -- yeah,
36 go ahead.

37
38 MS. HOLMAN: Oh. So what we had worked
39 through in the fall with this proposal was that west of
40 the eastern shore of the Admiralty Bay where the
41 Alaktak River comes in so everything west of that point
42 where that enters following the Alaktak River down to
43 155 west longitude and that would continue all the way
44 down to the Unit 26A border. That.....

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

47
48 MS. HOLMAN:map can be found in
49 the proposal under tab 4. So that was what we had
50

0112

1 worked through and the RAC had recommended.....

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

4

5

6

MS. HOLMAN:in the fall for their.....

7

8

9

10

11

12

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you see how that -- yeah, I see it, it meanders around the Alaktak River and then to its terminus as it reaches the Ikpikpuk and then it follows 155 west all the way to the border of Unit 26A.

13

14

15

16

MS. HOLMAN: Yes, Mr. Chair, that was what we had worked through and was recommended by the RAC in the fall so that is part of this.....

17

18

19

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

20

21

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

22

23

MS. HOLMAN:but the primary.....

24

25

CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, it would have been.....

26

27

MS. PATTON:but a drawing permit.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. You know, it would be -- you know, if we had looked at it a little further like the following the meand -- west of the -- let's say west of the Smith Bay following the meander of the western channel of the Ikpikpuk and meander to its terminus and then looks like west 154. That would have included all of Ikpikpuk there and all of its meanders. But I think this is a good starting point, west of the Admiralty Bay and following the meander of the Alaktak River to its terminus at the junction of Ikpikpuk, Chipp and Alaktak and then go one -- west 155 to the border of Unit 26A.

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

And we've -- you know, we've argued for many years about these kind of boundaries and -- but in any event this is our argument that we are making to try to be a little bit more inclusive of those users that might be on Ikpikpuk and Alaktak and Chipp, that there is a area defined. But like Brower if I had absolutely my way it would have been west of the Smith Bay following the western Ikpikpuk River and through

0113

1 its meander until it's to its terminus and then go 154
2 to the border of Unit 26A.

3

4 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I would move it
7 about like four miles. Yeah, go ahead.

8

9 MR. FRANTZ: So yeah. No, I think
10 you're right on that and I just -- I'm looking at my
11 GPS and my locations where I was experiencing muskox,
12 where I -- you know, I had sent messages right at the
13 (in Native) and so if this were to go through where I
14 was experiencing muskox it says on here at least, it
15 says 155 following the Alaktak, but 155 further south.
16 So where I was experiencing muskox was at 154 -- well,
17 154 degrees, 40.5212. So I would be illegal where I
18 was experiencing muskox this year which is definitely
19 not in my favor. It is upriver, I guess, but like
20 you're saying if I could have my way it would be just a
21 hair more to the east to where we were actually seeing
22 them and I'm looking at it right now and 154.40 is
23 where I was at when I ran into all the muskox. So even
24 with this if I pulled a permit I wouldn't be able to
25 shoot the muskox where I'm hunting.

26

27

Thank you.

28

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower.
31 And, you know, we, you know, as a Council deliberated
32 on this, we were dealing before this creation of west
33 156, that was just a straight line to protect moose
34 because moose was a very argued situation especially
35 its drop and decline and come back and things like
36 that. And this -- I was never happy with the west 156
37 creation of that, but it's what it is and it's what was
38 justified by maybe ADF&G back then has to be at least
39 15 or 20 year old delineation of where to -- where --
40 and was designed to protect the moose in their little
41 oasis around the valley of the willows over there.
42 And.....

42

43

MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair.

44

45

46

CHAIRMAN BROWER:I just feel like
-- yeah, go ahead.

47

48

49

50

MS. GREDIAGIN: This is Lisa for the
record. And I just wanted to emphasize that the

0114

1 Council already considered and acted on this proposal
2 in the fall. And the only change right now that OSM,
3 you know, is proposing from your actions in the fall is
4 this drawing permit. So everything else in the OSM
5 conclusion and the Council's recommendation is the
6 same, including the modification to the hunt area
7 boundary. The only thing OSM wanted to bring up to the
8 Council is changing the hunt to a drawing permit
9 instead of a registration permit.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And we
14 did deliberate on this and I suspect once we actually
15 get approved to do a hunt there's going to come a time
16 when we're going to revisit that boundary in my view.
17 But right now we don't have a hunt so I would think
18 that this body, once we get out of discussion here,
19 would elect to support WP22-55 as modified by OSM and
20 leave it at that for now.

21

22 There's some analysis here about the
23 drawing and the questions about a special hunt in --
24 not a special hunt, an emergency hunt. I would still
25 think that you could get a justification like that even
26 probably for funerals and customary things that you can
27 go out and do these things for ceremonial events. Am I
28 right still there?

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: Mr. Chair, this is
31 Lisa. And on the Federal side there's opportunities
32 for things like the cultural and educational permits
33 and special actions for, you know, the short term,
34 temporary, emergency sorts of actions, but again right
35 now for the purposes of, you know, this meeting and
36 this proposal, we're really just focusing on WP22-55
37 and whether or not the North Slope Council agrees with
38 establishing a hunt under a draw permit system instead
39 of a registration permit system.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
44 further discussion on the proposal and its
45 modification?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I need a motion from

50

0115

1 the Council.

2

3 MR. FRANTZ: I make a motion. Brower
4 Frantz.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
7 the floor from Brower Frantz, Utqiagvik, to support
8 WP22-55 as modified by OSM.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Just to clarify -- just to
13 clarify the.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
16 Wanda from Atqasuk. Discussion.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Just to clarify the OSM modification we're talking
20 about here is to establish a drawing permit for that
21 muskox hunt.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, I understood. Thank
26 you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further
29 discussion.

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
34 called for. All those in favor of adopting WP22-55 as
35 modified by OSM signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
40 nay.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it and
45 the WP22-55 as modified has passed the Regional
46 Advisory Council for the North Slope.

47

48 Thank you, Kendra.

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0116

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MS. PATTON: And thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. Again for the record if we could have a few words of justification specifically on this proposal for again adding the drawing permit.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. As the Chair in support of WP22-55 as modified by OSM in promoting a drawing. It's always important I think to have not a first come, first serve type thing. And there may be an abundance of folks that may want to harvest muskox and those should be adequately dealt with in a fair and impartial way and a drawing would do that. At some point we might need to revisit as the population growth occurs specific permits that you could register for and get as you register for them, but being that this population is just at the threshold of being able to support the harvestable surplus and that the justification to amend that and do a drawing is warranted at this time.

Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva. We're on I think Item B deferred, WSA21-01, close moose and caribou hunting to non-Federally-qualified users in Unit 23 and Unit 26A.

OSM.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I just wanted to touch base because Steve Oomittuk had indicated that he was going to be stepping out to attend the whale's tail festivities and would be back at 4:00 p.m. I just want to make sure we have our Council member Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope, Unit 23, available for that deferred special action 21-01.

MR. OOMITTUK: Steve here.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, are you still on?

MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve for the record.

0117

1 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful, Steve.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- my brother went --
4 my brother went there for me and brought my can over
5 there.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Oh, thank you.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: So I stayed home for the
10 meeting. So I've been here.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If you
13 could send me a slice, Steve, that would be good, by
14 dog team.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 MS. PATTON: Okay. Wonderful. Thank
19 you, Steve, and say thank you to your brother too.

20

21 Okay. Well, then yes, it would be good
22 to take up WSA21-01 now. This is our deferred special
23 action regarding closure to moose and caribou hunting
24 to non-Federally-qualified users in Units 23 and 26A.
25 And the Council did receive the relevant wildlife
26 reports prior to taking up this proposal.
27 Unfortunately we don't have our Federal caribou
28 biologist, Kyle Joly, is also out in the field at this
29 time. So the Council has received the relevant reports
30 for these two portions of this special action. And we
31 have OSM Staff online to provide the overview of the
32 analysis.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
37 who's presenting from OSM?

38

39 MR. PLANK: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is Tom
40 Plank.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom Plank. All
43 right. What page in the book are we going to be at?

44

45 MR. PLANK: We'll be on tab 4.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. It's

50

0118

1 under tab 5 in your meeting books and the first portion
2 of the analysis is for caribou. So wildlife special
3 action 21-01.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You have
6 the floor.

7

8 MR. PLANK: All right. Hello, Mr.
9 Chair and members of the Council. My name is Tom
10 Plank, wildlife biologist with the Office of
11 Subsistence Management covering for Hannah Voorhees.
12 And then the wildlife division supervisor, Lisa
13 Grediagin is also on the call today. And I'm here to
14 give you an update on deferred wildlife special action
15 request WSA21-01 and seek your formal recommendation
16 based on revisions to the analysis that were conducted
17 at the request of the Federal Subsistence Board.

18

19 The Northwest Arctic Council submitted
20 temporary wildlife special action, WSA21-01 in February
21 last year. The Council requested closure of Federal
22 public lands in Unit 23 and 26A to caribou and moose
23 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users from August
24 1st to September 30th.

25

26 For clarity and simplicity the analysis
27 has been divided into WSA21-01A for caribou and B for
28 moose. And like we just discussed you can find both of
29 those analyses behind tab 5. And the intent is for
30 your Council to consider both today in turn.

31

32 When the Northwest Arctic Council
33 submitted this request it expressed concerns about the
34 late migration of caribou through Unit 23. The affect
35 that transporters and nonlocal hunters are having on
36 the timing of caribou migration is a particular
37 concern. This request was also supported by this
38 Council.

39

40 In June, 2021 the Board deferred WSA21-
41 01 to the 2022/23 regulatory year and requested that
42 the Office of Subsistence Management seek additional
43 input on concerns related to caribou from multiple
44 entities.

45

46 The update on the outreach process is
47 vast. I can give you the overview of all outreach
48 conducted since deferral, otherwise I will just give
49 you the following highlights.

50

0119

1 Feedback from local subsistence users
2 came from Regional Councils, testimony received during
3 public hearing, correspondence submitted during an
4 earlier written comment period, the Western Arctic
5 Caribou Herd Working Group and Subsistence Resource
6 Commissions in Unit 23. A third round of tribal and
7 ANCSA corporation consultations were held on January
8 27. The first tribal consultations were held in April
9 and May.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted).

13

14 REPORTER: Tom, I'm sorry to interrupt
15 you, but can you just take a moment, everyone, and
16 press star, six or mute your phones. We're getting a
17 lot of background noise.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. PLANK: All right.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, what page are
24 you on right now?

25

26 MR. PLANK: Give me just a second. I
27 know I'm at tab 5 and I'm trying to remember what page.
28 Okay. I apologize, I do not have that handy right
29 quick. Give me just a second.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm on this page
32 called Staff analysis, temporary special action, WSA21-
33 01A, issues, discussions, unless you're reading from a
34 different document.

35

36 MR. PLANK: I am. I'm reading from my
37 -- this is kind of just bringing up the highlights of
38 the outreach that was conducted. And all the outreach
39 is actually in the analysis. I'm just trying to
40 remember exactly what page it's on.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So is the summary of
43 the analysis in this book as well or are you just
44 summarizing all of the analysis and stuff and we don't
45 have a copy of that summary?

46

47 MR. PLANK: Right. This is basically
48 just a summary of the entire analysis and the outreach
49 portions of it. So instead of reading the entire
50

0120

1 analysis I just kind of got the highlights of it. So
2 I'm not going through it word by word, I'm just kind of
3 hitting the highlights on it so we weren't here for
4 four hours trying to read this whole thing.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And it's.....

7

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

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and maybe at
11 some point we should have a copy of that summary.

12

13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
14 members of the Council. So just now Tom was referring
15 to the outreach that was conducted and you'll find that
16 in the analysis under current events and outreach which
17 is on page 55 of the analysis. And that.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

20

21 MS. PATTON:(indiscernible -
22 simultaneous speech) outreach.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I was thinking
25 that he had like a executive summary that's condensed
26 version that he's going through so we don't have to
27 read the entire 100 page of the analysis. And if
28 that's what he's doing do we have a copy of that like
29 an executive summary and will that -- if not will that
30 be provided to us.

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
33 members of the Council. Right now he's reading from
34 talking points. So other than the executive summary
35 that's at the beginning of the analysis that's under
36 the.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

39

40 MS. PATTON:issues and
41 discussion. Yeah, we didn't have a bullets' version
42 unfortunately for the Council at this time.

43

44 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I just
47 wanted to be clear. Go ahead, Tom, proceed.

48

49 MR. PLANK: No problem. The third

50

0121

1 round of -- like I said the third round of the tribal
2 and ANCSA corporation consultations were held on
3 January 27th. The first tribal consultations were held
4 in April and May of 2021 and the results of the 2021
5 consultations are on page 67. Just had to read a
6 little bit further I guess.

7

8 So this is not an analysis. I would
9 mention that you can request a summary of the January
10 27th consultation after this presentation.

11

12 OSM Staff summarized feedback on the
13 closure request and concerns related to the caribou
14 from all these groups and considered it as an essential
15 component of the revised analysis. New data such as an
16 updated population estimate for the Western Arctic
17 Caribou Herd are also included in the analysis. The
18 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group members also
19 gave input and after the December meeting the group
20 voted to oppose WSA21-01 in part due to the fact that
21 the moose and caribou were combined in one special
22 action request. Working group members also noted that
23 they are more concerned about cow harvest at this time.
24 The Board meeting on deferred wildlife special action
25 WSA21-01A and B is scheduled for March 30th at 1:00
26 p.m. via teleconference. The meeting will be open for
27 the public to listen and a news release will announce
28 the call in information.

29

30 And then at this time I'll go ahead and
31 continue presenting the analysis to you and then seek
32 the Council's final recommendation.

33

34 In terms of regulatory context it's
35 worth noting that there are some zones where air
36 traffic related to hunting caribou and moose are
37 already in place in Units 23 and 26A. There is a map
38 of those restricted areas on page 18 of the analysis.
39 Along with all residents, nonresidents of Alaska may
40 currently hunt caribou in both Units 23 and 26A under
41 State regulations.

42

43 The biological background section of
44 the analysis begins on page 20. The Western Arctic
45 Herd peaked near 500,000 caribou in 2003, declined to
46 about 200,000 caribou in 2016. In recent years the
47 herd seemed to be recovering approximately with 244,000
48 caribous in 2019. But the most recent photo census in
49 2021 estimated that the herd population had only
50

0122

1 188,000 caribou. The new estimates came out following
2 the Board's deferral of this request.

3

4

5 The timing of fall migration has become
6 variant in recent years. Since 2017 there has been a
7 substantial delay before caribou cross the Kobuk and
8 Selawik Rivers, but crossing the Noatak River has
9 remained average. The percentage of caribou crossing
10 all three rivers has also declined in recent years.
11 The proportion of caribou using certain migration paths
12 also varies each year. Additionally caribou
13 demonstrated low fidelity to wintering grounds which
14 has shifted over the past decade from the Seward
15 Peninsula to the Brooks Range. Changes in wintering
16 location, herd size, vegetation and weather likely
17 influence these recent changes in herd migration.

18

19 The harvest history section of the
20 analysis begins on page 37. Given the current
21 population estimates of 188,000 caribou the harvest
22 surplus is currently 11,280 caribou. While there's
23 much uncertainty in harvest estimates of the herd,
24 total harvest has generally been estimate at 12,000
25 caribou per year. Historically local hunters account
26 for approximately 95 percent of the total Western
27 Arctic Caribou Herd harvest and local community
28 harvests parallel caribou availability rather than
29 population trends. Between 1998 and 2020 reported
30 harvest by non-Federally-qualified users ranged from
31 131 to 657 caribou per year and 85 to 90 percent of
32 nonlocal harvest occurs between August 25th and October
33 7th. On page 39 of the analysis you'll see details on
34 transporter and guide activities on BLM, Park Service
35 and Fish and Wildlife Service lands in Units 23 and
36 26A.

37

38 And then the current events. The
39 feedback from local subsistence users begins.....

40

41 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What page was that
42 again?

43

44 MR. PLANK: For the.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The map.

47

48 MR. PLANK: Oh, the map.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where the

0123

1 transporters and guides are.

2

3

MR. PLANK: Oh, page 39. I apologize.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Proceed.

6

7

MR. PLANK: No problem. And then the feedback from local subsistence users begins on page 57 of the analysis. And OSM documented input on caribou availability in Unit 23 communities in 2021. In summary the very late migration and lack of local caribou availability has continued to all communities in Unit 23 except Noatak and Point Hope. The situation is particularly critical in the southwestern portion of the unit. There is agreement between traditional ecological knowledge and scientific literature that changes in temperature, wind direction, snow depth and vegetation affect caribou migration. In addition the Red Dog Mine Road appears to delay or deflect migrations for at least a portion of the herd. Whether caused by one or a combination of these factors testimony shows that the reduced availability of caribou in Unit 23 is negatively impacting Federally-qualified subsistence users neutral -- nutritionally, economic, cultural and social well being. In Unit 26A, Utqiagvik, Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik were able to meet their subsistence needs for caribou and caribou were not available, not around -- and I apologize for mispronouncing some of these names, Atqasuk in earlier parts of July when they normally would be seen, but scattered groups appeared later in the month and especially in August.

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The Council members from Nuiqsut expressed some concerns about caribou the past year, although there were a lot of caribou around there were less than the previous year and they were scattered and seemed to be avoiding industrial roads.

The OSM preliminary conclusion is -- following deferral and revised analysis on WSA21-01A is neutral. The analysis outlines two main actions for consideration. One is to approve WSA21-01A with modification to close caribou hunting to non-Federally-qualified users in Noatak National Preserve and BLM managed lands between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers only August 1st through September 30, 2022; or two, reject WSA21-01A resulting in maintenance of the status quo.

1 First I'll give you OSM's points to
2 consider under the approve with modification option.
3 Testimony about lack of local caribou availability in
4 Northwest Arctic converges with recent evidence of
5 Western Arctic Caribou Herd population decline. The
6 most recent population estimate indicates that the herd
7 has declined 24 percent from 2019 to 2021 and the
8 population decline may be contributing to the lack of
9 caribou available in Unit 23. The herd is now being
10 managed at the conservative declining level and under
11 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's
12 management plan, management recommendations at this
13 level include closure to nonresident seasons under
14 State regulation as well as a possible closure of some
15 Federal public lands to non-Federal-qualified users.
16 Furthermore the best available data suggest that the
17 harvestable surplus may be being exceeded. Although
18 the population declines affect the herd throughout its
19 range, closing Noatak National Preserve and BLM managed
20 lands between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers would have
21 the most direct benefit for those communities in Unit
22 23 who have been unable to continue their subsistence
23 hunting for caribou as well as for the herd itself.
24 The delay in caribou migration has primarily occurred
25 between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers. Based on local
26 testimony and GPS collared caribou data,
27 closing lands north of the Noatak River within Noatak
28 National Preserve may be necessary for the conservation
29 of healthy caribou population as this is where much of
30 the nonlocal harvest is concentrated.

31
32 OSM does not support a full closure of
33 Federal public lands in Units 23 and 26A. Non-
34 Federally-qualified users rarely harvest caribou in
35 Federal public lands in other portions of Unit 23. And
36 additionally closing hunting to non-Federally-qualified
37 users on public lands in Unit 26A is not warranted at
38 this time. Testimony gathered through the outreach
39 process shows that Federally-qualified subsistence
40 users in Unit 26A are meeting their subsistence needs
41 for caribou and are not facing the same challenges as
42 those in Unit 23.

43
44 Next I will give you OSM's points to
45 consider under the reject option. Currently it cannot
46 be demonstrated that to request closure alone would
47 result in the desired effects of restoring the
48 historical timing and extent of the Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd migration as other factors are likely at
50

0125

1 play. In Unit 23 and 26 -- if Units 23 and 26A are
2 closed by -- to the harvest of caribou by non-
3 Federally-qualified subsistence users for August and
4 September, 2022, user conflicts and disruption of
5 caribou movement may increase on State lands,
6 particularly on those State lands surrounding upper
7 Kobuk River villages. Additionally non-Federally-
8 qualified users would still be able to access and
9 harvest caribou on gravel bars below the mean high
10 water mark and navigable waters within Federal public
11 lands as these areas fall under State jurisdiction.
12 While the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's
13 management plan recommends possible closure of Federal
14 public lands to non-Federally-qualified users, under
15 the current preservative decline management level the
16 working group did not immediately -- did not think
17 immediate regulation action was necessary in part due
18 to sufficient calf recruitment. Additionally non-
19 Federally-qualified users' harvest account for only 5
20 percent of the total estimated Western Arctic Caribou
21 Herd harvest and they could still harvest caribou on
22 State managed lands if Federal lands were closed.

23

24 And then previous Council actions. On
25 February 14th the Northwest Arctic Council voted to
26 support WSA21-01A as originally submitted. On February
27 16th the Western Interior Council voted to defer to the
28 Northwest Arctic and North Slope Councils on this
29 request. On March 3rd the Seward Peninsula Council
30 voted to support WSA21-01A, the Council agreed with and
31 supported the Northwest Arctic Council.

32

33 And then I will now turn over
34 consideration of WSA21-01A over the Council and I am
35 available to answer any questions.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Very
38 good analysis, good read and all that.

39

40 So questions for Tom before we go into
41 deliberation, any questions for Tom from the Council?

42

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

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Steve.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, the

50

0126

1 numbers that you brought out and the numbers of
2 nonresident people harvesting from the Western Arctic
3 Caribou Herd, you know -- you know, we live in the
4 area, you know, Kotzebue area, a lot of the Northwest
5 Arctic people they see the traffic of the people coming
6 through, you know. You know, the numbers that are
7 being brought out just don't sound right, you know, how
8 accurate are these numbers that you're talking about
9 nonresidents, you know, are they monitored very
10 strictly. You know, you have a lot of sporthunters
11 that use private planes or guides that come from, you
12 know, out of Fairbanks or Anchorage or Nome and then
13 out of Kotzebue and then local people taking people out
14 that are nonresidents. We don't see too much in Point
15 Hope, you know.

16
17 You know, just recently we got the
18 numbers of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd just a few
19 weeks ago, you know, we didn't have the numbers last
20 year because they didn't have it available. They said
21 they was still trying to count it due to the photo
22 census that were taken and, you know, the bad weather,
23 but the decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is
24 by more than half. And, you know, we as subsistence
25 hunters that depend on these animals, you know, we want
26 to ensure that, you know, the -- we want to make sure
27 that the population comes back up. And closure to
28 nonresidents, you know, there needs some -- time is
29 very crucial, we want to see this brings out -- brings
30 back the numbers up higher, you know, the population.
31 And, you know, it was shut down, you know, they had
32 public hearings and even though the North Slope
33 Subsistence Advisory Council supported the Northwest
34 Arctic Borough Subsistence Advisory it was all shot
35 down by the Federal Subsistence Board without even a
36 population number. And here, you know, we just got
37 this population number of 188,000 and here we are at it
38 again.

39
40 Thank you.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

43
44
45 MR. OOMITTUK:for your support.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is that Brower
48 Frantz?

49
50

0127

1 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry, what's that?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, I was wondering
4 if that was you wanting to be recognized.

5

6 MR. FRANTZ: Not me, nope.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, I'm
9 going to go off on a tangent here and talk about it too
10 a little bit.

11

12 You know, when this -- these special
13 actions to close moose and caribou in Unit 26A, Unit
14 23, across the border on the southern side of the
15 Brooks Range and we always, you know, feel a kinship to
16 our neighbor, we're very closely related, we have
17 relatives over there on the other side. And it's hard
18 to imagine to disagree, but we have to look at --
19 because they're not the same lands, they're different
20 and even in the distribution patterns of the resources
21 that we're used to up here. And it's easy to just fold
22 in with the tide and follow that. And I'm going to
23 suggest that we look to ourselves. Each part of the
24 North Slope from Kaktovik to Point Hope and then all
25 the way in between that, you know, when the special
26 action to close Federal public lands to Federally-
27 qualified users only is kind of like where'd the
28 caribou go. That year that these proposals were being
29 entertained and caribou didn't show up and when they
30 did it was way late and in some cases went around a
31 different path. Those have to be understood sometimes
32 to not mean that there's a remedy, just only one way to
33 -- you know, to skin a cat here.

34

35 And I think we're talking about such a
36 time right now where, you know, I think in my area I
37 could safely say I had enough caribou, I watch them
38 from my cabin, I'm watching them from my house. And
39 there's caribou outside my house out here and if I can
40 just put some corn droppings I can let them go in my
41 garage and start eating it or something. They're all
42 around and it's important to recognize that when the
43 resources are here with us. And a community on the
44 other side that proposes these special actions and
45 there's these wide sweeping direct statements that, you
46 know, guides and outfitters are deflecting the herd,
47 maybe it's mother nature. There's a series of
48 different variables that -- predation, the Red Dog Mine
49 Road, you know, I've seen some animation around that

50

0128

1 with caribou going backwards after they encounter that.
2 There's -- and it could be weather too, severe weather
3 that causes delays. So and the automatic concern
4 sometimes is who's doing what and when. And, you know,
5 sometimes I wish I had the amount of aircraft people
6 that are in Kotzebue, at least one or two of them would
7 be in Barrow so I can charter them to my cabin because
8 it's a very extremehardship to get to my cabin. It's --
9 you know, it's 75 miles one way and where we do our
10 harvest.

11

12 So it's important to recognize and
13 listening to the analysis part of this thing and
14 they're asking the right questions, they're talking to
15 each village and things like that. And it turns out
16 that the North Slope at this -- at the time that those
17 Northwest Arctic villages are struggling with the
18 availability of caribou we're not. We didn't have the
19 same -- at least the majority of what I've heard of the
20 communities and it's important to recognize that.

21

22 So I'm in support of maybe 21-01A with
23 modification suggested that it be around the Noatak
24 National Preserve and BLM administered lands within
25 Unit 23. And, you know, I think we should support our
26 neighbors, but not arbitrarily in my view -- we're not
27 under the same -- the same condition. I mean, we pray
28 for these resources to grace all of our communities so
29 that we can have food on the table, we pray for that
30 all the time. And I think we can support them without
31 unduly over-regulating an area that doesn't warrant it.
32 I am very concerned about population decline, you know,
33 I was at least two years ago we were hearing that the
34 Western Arctic Caribou was stable and maybe even with a
35 small uptick, but to hear today that it's 186,000, boy
36 we're eating a lot of caribou, either that or some of
37 these caribous must have visited the Porcupine Herd and
38 left the area or something. I've heard about those
39 kind of events from my dad when he was alive where
40 caribou herds would collide and because there was no
41 pipelines, there was no roads around and they were
42 reindeer herders from the '20, '30 and '40 and I know
43 they saw these things, they lived on the land. So it's
44 not out of the question that, you know, 50, 60,000 of
45 them merge with another herd and find greener pastures
46 somewhere else. I'm not suggesting that they did that,
47 but that's another variable.

48

49 And I think based on the current
50

0129

1 decline and the population trend that was just
2 described about 188,000, would support as a
3 justification to close Federal public lands and modify
4 21-01 as modified as A and would support with
5 modifications that it be directed in Unit 23 around the
6 Noatak National Preserve and the BLM administered lands
7 within Unit 23 if that's what I'm hearing.

8

9 I'll stop there because if I keep going
10 I'll do the same thing as Tom and summarize all of what
11 I just heard.

12

13 Any other discussion?

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did I get cut off or
18 am I still on?

19

20 MS. PATTON: You're still on, Mr.
21 Chair, loud and clear.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. If
26 there's no further discussion this is an action item
27 and I'd like to think that we should support wit
28 modification as OSM has done their analysis and the
29 feedback and their pubic outreach, public hearings that
30 were involved.

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, with that
33 said, so moved.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
36 the floor from Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope, of 21-01A, I
37 think that's a special action, deferred special action
38 with modification from OSM.

39

40 Eva, for that motion is that clearly
41 enough as modified by OSM?

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or Tom?

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you're talking you
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0130

1 might.....

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MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh, Mr. Chair, this is -- oh, this is Lisa Grediagin for the record and Eva unfortunately just got dropped from the call so she's calling back in. But yes, Mr. Chair, your motion is clear and OSM certainly understands your motion.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Is there a second.

MR. FRANTZ: Seconded. Brower Frantz.

MS. KIPPI: Second.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik. Any discussion -- any further discussion on the motion on 21-01A as modified by OSM?

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve for the record. You know, I.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK:you know, we've always supported our neighbors, but yet, you know, we still get shot down by the Federal Subsistence Board that overrides us, you know, even though we put these in we're concerned about, you know, the animals that we depend on, especially the decline and nonresident hunters coming in and being put in front of the migration and changing migration routes. And, you know, even though they say that it's not a high number of them, but they do change our migration routes and they still -- you know, the number's declining and hopefully that the Federal Subsistence Board will support this, you know.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Steve, and maybe a question to Tom, and I appreciate those comments, Steve. I think this is going to carry more weight because it has modifications by OSM. And I'm pretty sure on the original special action request that was created by our Northwest Area Regional Advisory Council they included from their proposal to include 23 and 26A

0131

1 which was all the way to Barrow and all the way up that
2 way to have a Federally-qualified user only to hunt
3 these resources. And it was wide sweeping, well beyond
4 -- well beyond and jumping over to another RAC region.
5 In this one, in the modification I think you're in Unit
6 23 and there are BLM administered lands in there that
7 would be now if it were to pass by the Federal Board of
8 Game -- Federal Subsistence Board, that those BLM
9 administered lands in Unit 23 that may be within Point
10 Hope area would be restricted to Federally-qualified
11 users meaning they will discriminate on those lands on
12 who gets to hunt there if this passes.

13

14 Tom, is that kind of a true statement?

15

16 MR. PLANK: Mr. Chair, for the record
17 this is Tom. That was a lot of statement. So yes,
18 with our modification it would only -- it would narrow
19 it down to -- I'm trying to find the exact verbiage
20 here.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, in Unit
23 23.....

24

25 MR. PLANK: We can probably help --
26 yeah, Mr. Chair, I'll go ahead and let Lisa Grediagin
27 step in on this, she knows the verbiage better than I
28 do.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Go ahead,
31 Lisa, you have the floor.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, this is Lisa.
34 And the OSM modification would be close Noatak National
35 Preserve and the BLM lands between the Kobuk and Noatak
36 Rivers to the non-Federally-qualified users. And at
37 the North Slope meeting in the fall I recall Steve
38 saying they had a lot of caribou around Point Hope
39 recently. And so that factored into OSM's conclusion
40 that, you know, residents in Point Hope and, you know,
41 in Unit 26A, have been able to meet their subsistence
42 needs for caribou and most of the (indiscernible -
43 distortion) and Kobuk Rivers in Unit 23 on the delay in
44 migration and then the villages in, you know, around
45 Kotzebue, Noorvik, Kiana, not being able to harvest
46 caribou during their traditional time.

47

48 So again the OSM modification is all of
49 Noatak National Preserve and then the BLM managed lands

50

0132

1 between the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers.

2

3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the
6 clarification. And, Steve, yeah, this would be
7 basically helping our neighbors. And with the caveat
8 that the analysis shows that the North Slope
9 communities are faring well with our hunt. I'm not
10 complaining, you know, we're getting caribou in our
11 area and there's -- caribou have been staying around
12 all winter around here, in fact they're running around
13 between community -- houses in this town.

14

15 I hope that helps, Steve.

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. We're all
20 in the clear. Any other discussions?

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Question's called for.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
25 called for. All those in favor of 21-01A with
26 modifications by OSM as just discussed, signify by
27 saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
32 same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
37 North Slope Regional Advisory Council passes 21-01A
38 with modifications by OSM.

39

40 Thank you, Tom and Lisa.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
43 members of the Council. And there was a good
44 discussion with the Council that helps to provide that
45 justification for the Council recommendation.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of the
48 Council.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
2 about 20 minutes until 5:00 and I'm pretty sure if
3 we're going to go into further discussions on another
4 special action modification we might have an equal or
5 greater discussion, we'll go probably until -- in my
6 view probably until 6:00 o'clock or something. And
7 what's the -- is there anything quick that we can do
8 and maybe do a -- suspend the rules that we can finish
9 something that might be easier to do that might take.....

10

11 MS. PATTON: (Indiscernible -
12 simultaneous speech).....

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER:us up to the
15 hour?

16

17 MS. PATTON: Sure, Mr. Chair and
18 members of the Council. And I did want to just check
19 in to what would be next up on the agenda and
20 understanding it might take quite a bit of deliberation
21 with the wildlife special action 22-01 which was
22 regarding sheep. And we did have the Western Interior
23 RAC, Jack Reakoff, online and just wanted to check on
24 his availability. I know he wished to address the
25 Council since this proposal is coming from the Western
26 Interior RAC, if he's available tomorrow morning or if
27 he needed to address the Council this evening.

28

29 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

30

31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Jack
32 Reakoff.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Jack.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: I'd be available tomorrow
37 morning if you want to take this up tomorrow or I could
38 do it now, your discretion.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, you know, we
41 sometimes get very long winded and like to hear details
42 from OSM and other biologists and stuff and I'm just
43 thinking what the missus might be cooking, you know, in
44 the -- I don't like to be late for that.

45

46 MR. REAKOFF: Do you start at 8:30
47 tomorrow?

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We should. If we're

50

0134

1 going to quit a little bit early today you guys want to
2 start at 8:30 in the morning tomorrow?

3

4 Eva, first of all can we do that? Out
5 public notices I think are 9:00 a.m.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Yes, my apologies, Mr.
8 Chair, and members of the Council. I did forget we did
9 have the wildlife special action 21-01B which is the
10 moose portion so I got ahead of ourselves here. So if
11 we would take up the B portion because it isn't related
12 with the discussion that the Council just had, that
13 would be very helpful to conclude the remainder of
14 WSA21-01 for the moose portion of it. Then we can
15 resume -- we have on the record for the public 9:00
16 a.m. in the morning, but it would be very helpful if we
17 could.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

20

21 MS. PATTON:conclude with the
22 second half of wildlife special action 21-01 to address
23 the moose portion of it.

24

25 My apologies to the Council, I got
26 ahead of ourselves here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you, Eva,
29 and always for giving us a little guidance here.

30

31 Jack, I think we're going to have to
32 see you in the morning and, Eva, correct me if I'm
33 wrong, that our public notices say 9:00 o'clock and I'm
34 not sure we can deviate on something like that on a
35 public notice meeting.

36

37 MR. REAKOFF: Okay. Yeah, I -- fully
38 understandable. I'll be on the call at 9:00 a.m. and
39 address you at that time. So have a great evening.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thanks,
42 Jack. What's the wish of the Council, we got about 15
43 minutes until 5:00. If we take up the 21-01B depending
44 on if -- is it Tom that would do the presentation again
45 and if he knows how to speak like a squirrel and go
46 full blast?

47

48 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair
49 and members of the Council. Tom Plank is online and he

50

0135

1 says he'll talk fast. And again it's much of the same
2 background, but it's addressing just the moose portion
3 of it. So Tom's.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I recall the
6 special action was caribou and moose and we're
7 dissecting that special action because I think it
8 couldn't be supported the way that it was anyway with
9 both resources.

10
11 So if it's okay with the Council, I
12 want to get your feedback because this will probably go
13 past 5:00 o'clock if Tom can't speak super fast, but
14 maybe it might be a few minutes since we did the
15 majority of that type of analysis with 21-01A.

16
17 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I feel like
18 we should just move forward and keep going and
19 hopefully we'll have enough time tomorrow for the rest
20 of the agenda. We're on item 12 and maybe we can
21 finish up.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We'll finish
24 off with 21-01B moose, if that's okay with the Council
25 we'll have Tom go ahead and present that.

26
27 You have the floor, Tom.

28
29 MR. PLANK: All right. Mr. Chair,
30 members of the Council, thank you. For the record my
31 name is Tom Plank, wildlife biologist with the Office
32 of Subsistence Management covering for Hannah Voorhees
33 and the wildlife division supervisor, Lisa Grediagin is
34 also on the call for questions. And I will be
35 presenting WSA21-01B for your recommendation. This is
36 a portion of WSA21-01 pertaining to moose and that can
37 be found under tab 5 of your meeting material binder.

38
39 The Northwest Arctic Council submitted
40 temporary wildlife special action WSA21-01 in February
41 last year. The Council requested that Federal public
42 lands in Unit 23 and 26A be closed to hunting for moose
43 and caribou by non-Federally-qualified users from
44 August 1st to September 30th due to the declining moose
45 population.

46
47 In June, 2021 the Board deferred WSA21-
48 01 to the 2022/'23 regulatory year. At that time the
49 Board asked OSM to include comparison of moose harvest
50

0136

1 by the survey area within Unit 23 in their analysis.
2 If approved this special action would now apply to the
3 2022 hunting season. The Board meeting on deferred
4 wildlife special action WSA21-01A and B is scheduled
5 for March 30th at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference and the
6 meeting will be open to the public to listen in and a
7 news release will announce the call in information.

8

9 So at this time I'll go ahead and
10 presenting the analysis to you and then seek the
11 Council's final recommendation.

12

13 Changes implemented in both Federal and
14 State subsistence regulations since 2017 have placed
15 restrictions on moose hunting in Unit 23. Under
16 Federal regulations the bull and cow seasons were
17 shortened in 2018 and the cow season was closed in 2019
18 and 2020. The harvest -- in 2020 the harvest limited
19 changed to one antlered bull. Under State regulations
20 the harvest limit changed to one antlered bull in 2017
21 and the nonresident moose season was closed in 2018.
22 Additionally the State's RN880 permit is only locally
23 available in July requiring an extra trip for nonlocal
24 hunters which limits their participation. In Unit 26A
25 there has not been a nonresident moose hunt since 2013.

26

27

28 The Unit 23 moose population has
29 declined substantially from an estimated 7,500 moose in
30 2016 to an estimated 5,600 moose in 2019. Bull/cow
31 ratios have also declined and low calf/cow ratios
32 indicated a declining population.

33

34 In Unit 26A moose population is
35 concentrated along rivers in the southern --
36 southeastern portion of the unit and the population
37 remains low at around 400 animals, but my be
38 rebounding.

39

40 Since 2005 reported moose harvest in
41 Unit 23 has averaged 142 moose. Since 2017 when ADF&G
42 closed the nonresident moose hunt Unit 23 residents
43 have accounted for 76 percent of the reported harvest
44 and nonlocal residents 24 percent. Total harvest
45 estimates for moose in Unit 23 range from about 250 to
46 450 moose per year which likely exceeds the harvestable
47 surplus. However harvest by non-Federally-qualified
48 users has only averaged 27 moose per year since 2017.
49 Most, 86 percent of the reported harvest occurs during
50

1 October and September. The Kobuk River drainage which
2 has the most moose in Unit 23 also experiences the
3 highest harvest pressure in the Unit.

4
5 In Unit 26A total reported moose
6 harvest averages only 3.5 moose per year and the
7 harvest by non-Federally-qualified user averages only
8 one moose per year.

9
10 Since expanding into the Northwest
11 Arctic and then the North Slope Region moose have
12 become an important secondary resource for local
13 residents. Declines in caribou tend to increase
14 reliance on alternative resources including moose. The
15 Board directed OSM to compare moose harvest by survey
16 area. OSM utilizes data to consider whether a partial
17 Federal lands closure would be appropriate. Please see
18 page 27 for this new information.

19
20 Analysis of harvest by local and
21 nonlocal residents by major river drainages in Unit 23
22 reveals that the most moose harvest correlates directly
23 with moose abundance. The Kobuk River drainage
24 contains the highest moose population and harvest
25 levels by both user groups. Given the substantial
26 moose population declines across Unit 23, low cow/calf
27 ratios, declining bull/cow ratios, the relative high
28 harvest pressure within the Kobuk River drainage and
29 the positive correlation between non-Federally
30 qualified harvest and moose abundance, OSM does not
31 consider a partial closure to be an effective
32 alternative. A partial closure would also increase
33 regulatory complexity and user confusion.

34
35 If this request is approved only
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users would be able to
37 harvest moose on Federal public lands in Unit 23 and
38 26A in August and September this year. Approval of
39 this request could aid in recovery of the Unit 23 moose
40 population, by reducing moose harvest by non-Federally
41 qualified users. Closure to non-Federally qualified
42 users during September may also reduce disturbance to
43 mating moose while non-Federally qualified users are
44 limited to bulls only, the bull/cow ratios have
45 declined across most of Unit 23. However non-
46 Federally-qualified users only harvest around 27 moose
47 each year from Unit 23 and it is uncertain whether
48 closure would substantially reduce harvest overall or
49 simply increase it on State managed lands which could
50

0138

1 also increase user conflicts and crowding on State
2 lands, especially those near communities and Native
3 lands.

4

5 If approved people with families
6 connected to Unit 23 who are now residing outside a
7 region would not be able to harvest moose on Federal
8 public lands during August and September as they no
9 longer -- they are no longer Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users.

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OSM's preliminary conclusion is to support WSA 21-01B with modification to close moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified users on Federal public lands in Unit 23 only. This request seeks to reduce moose harvest during the peak of the hunting season by non-Federally-qualified users to protect a declining population that is important to Federally-qualified subsistence users. There are substantial conservation concerns that threaten the viability of the Unit 23 moose population. Surveys indicate that substantial declines in almost every survey area and populations estimates are below State objectives. Composition matrix are also poor as bull/cow ratios have declined and calf/cow ratios are low and are indicative of declining moose population. Additionally the harvestable surplus may be being exceeded. Regulatory changes have been made to reduce moose harvest and promote population recovery in Unit 23 both under Federal and State regulations since 2017. However moose populations have continued to decline and approval of this request could aid in recovery of the Unit 23 moose population by reducing moose harvest by non-Federally-qualified users.

And in Unit 26A currently harvest by nonlocal residents in Unit 26A is very low at an average of only one per year. Therefore approval of this request would probably not contribute to the conservation of the moose population and would be an unnecessary restriction on non-subsistence users. The Unit 26A controlled use area's already closed to the use of aircraft for hunting moose from July 1st to September 30th as well as January 1st to March 31st.

And that concludes my talking points and thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. If you have any questions I'm online.

0139

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Tom. Any
2 questions for Tom on 21-01B moose?

3
4 MR. FRANTZ: This is Brower, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have a question.
7 I'll defer to Brower. You have the floor, Brower.

8
9 MR. FRANTZ: Okay. So as I recall the
10 -- a lot of the area within this, I'm not sure if --
11 well, I know there's a boundary on 156 as far as where
12 any moose as far as the State regulation goes, but in
13 the area that I hunt, you know, it's like I said
14 earlier further to the east around 24 degrees or sorry,
15 154. So I guess that has a lot to do with the take of
16 moose and we have to go pretty far to -- you know, as
17 far as where I have to go from Barrow and I've got, you
18 know, moose over the last few years and we've had to
19 go a long ways to do so.

20
21 But some of the regulations and as far
22 as the numbers saying, you know, only one non-
23 Federally-qualified user has gotten moose, I think
24 those are probably off because I don't know that a lot
25 of the users are reporting especially in the areas of
26 Umiat and that the thing is I'm not sure why they made
27 the boundary to 156, I think they wanted to keep us out
28 and away and only for bulls because they did it on
29 purpose before to keep us out of own garden to catch
30 any moose, but yet, the rest of the Borough or at least
31 26A to the west didn't catch any moose at that point at
32 least under State. So saying that it wouldn't affect
33 anybody by not changing the regulations I think that's
34 not right and wrong.

35
36 So if we're going to enforce these, I
37 think that on my part I would be, you know, for
38 accepting it for only Federally-qualified users for the
39 hunt. And saying that it's like overly excessive, I
40 don't think that is because they're keeping us out of
41 our own garden and saying that, you know, only one non-
42 Federally-qualified user wouldn't hurt us. I think it
43 would because there's only what, two to 400 moose in
44 the area. So I think that part of it is wrong because
45 they're trying to keep us out of our own garden.

46
47 So I would be for accepting this as it
48 is just to make it only for the Federally-qualified
49 users to be hunting in the area in all of 26A.
50

0140

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brower
5 Frantz. And maybe just a question to Tom. In your
6 explanation about Unit 26A I certainly agree that we
7 should defer this special action, 21-01B moose, to Unit
8 23. But we should take into account, you know, the
9 actual population on the North Slope versus those that
10 are on the other side that are struggling and on Unit
11 23. To my understanding North Slope population is
12 maybe only one -- maybe one-tenth of the size of those
13 on the other side. So we're in a very -- you know,
14 should be in a preservation mode where there is no
15 nonres -- maybe just limited to Federally-qualified
16 users in Unit 26A based on the population itself
17 because, you know, when you compare populations on both
18 sides.

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And this thing and I don't know what
this regulation in the books was intended to do because
in Unit 26A that portion west of 156 west longitude and
excluding the Colville River drainage, one moose, it
could be of either sex, but it can't be a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf. And then right under it, the
remainder you could still catch a bull moose. So
there's an opportunity to get a bull moose regardless
of the 156, but I don't know really what Unit 26A, that
portion west of 156 accomplishes in doing that.

So I do have the same concerns and
maybe once and for all we should discuss sometime to
maybe take a look at that portion of the regs to modify
Unit 26A, that portion west of 156 with a better
explanation of -- not a better explanation, maybe why
is it there today now and why does it -- you know, if
you look at west 156 that's -- you know, it's just like
75 feet west of Chipp River or something or Ikpikpuk
River and then it kind of puts you out of range to hunt
under that reg. Anyway it's just observations and I
can't really recall why we created a west 156, had to
be for some conservation measure and trying to keep
that oasis in the valley of the willows a little more
protected for the moose when it was in very, very steep
decline. Then we had a big brucellosis outbreak back
in the '90s and things like that.

Any other discussion on 20-01B moose as
modified by OSM?

0141

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
6 Council members. And I just wanted to remind the
7 Council and I know we have some new members that
8 weren't present at our fall meeting, this proposal
9 right now is addressing whether to close moose harvest
10 to all but Federally-qualified subsistence users. So
11 it's not addressing the hunt boundary. But the Council
12 did submit a proposal, both to the Board of Game and
13 the Federal Subsistence Board requesting to extend that
14 boundary to the east.

15

16 So that is in place and the Federal
17 Subsistence Board will be taking that up at their
18 meeting on April 12th through 15. But the purposes of
19 this proposal, the special action request that
20 Northwest Arctic Council submitted is only addressing
21 whether to close to all but Federally-qualified
22 subsistence users on Federal land.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thank you, Eva.
27 All right. Any other discussions? Otherwise we need a
28 motion for 21-01B.

29

30 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was that?

33

34 MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
37 the floor from Brower Frantz to accept 21-01B moose
38 closure to all but the Federally-qualified users in
39 Unit 23.

40

41 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by
44 Wanda from Atqasuk. Any discussion?

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if
47 I may for clarification? So this proposal is asking
48 for closure.....

49

50

0142

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva,
2 if.....

3
4 MS. PATTON:the proposal is
5 asking for.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva.

8
9 MS. PATTON:closure to hunting on
10 -- to close moose hunting to non-Federally-qualified
11 users on Federal public lands. The proposal that the
12 Northwest Arctic Council submitted includes both Unit
13 23 and 26A. And so just wanted to clarify if the
14 Council was intending to take action on Unit 23 first
15 and then 26A second to separate them or if you wanted
16 to take them up together.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, Eva, I think
21 you're throwing in a wrench here. I'm understanding as
22 modified by OSM that -- because this was a one special
23 action request in the beginning that dealt with moose
24 and caribou and it wasn't palatable that way so it's
25 been broken down into two special action request and
26 one of them being moose on its own, the other one being
27 caribou on its own. And then bringing some public
28 outreach efforts to the analysis and that in fact it
29 would be most beneficial for this closure to be
30 effective in Unit 23 and that Unit 26A is not part of
31 this -- part of this proposal is my understanding.

32
33 Tom, is that what or, Lisa, is that
34 what I'm understanding?

35
36 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
37 is Lisa. And I think we just need to clarify whether
38 the motion was to support the special action as
39 submitted or to support this special action as modified
40 by OSM. And so if you support as submitted that
41 includes both Unit 23 and 26A and then the modification
42 by OSM includes only Unit 23.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to have to
45 go back to the originator of the motion because I think
46 -- I was understanding it was as modified by OSM.

47
48 Brower.

49
50

0143

1 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, I think I was under
2 the same (indiscernible - distortion) Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I think it's
5 under clear that it's as modified by OSM.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you for that
8 clarification, Mr. Chair and Council members.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
11 Always have to be very clear on these things so we're
12 not -- don't have any conflicts. Any other discussion
13 on the proposal -- on the special action?

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, are we
18 ending discussion and able to vote on this and need a
19 -- probably need a question.

20
21 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
24 called for. And in support of 21-01B as modified by
25 OSM, signify by saying aye?

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
30 signify by nay.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, 21-01B
35 as modified by OSM passes the North Slope Regional
36 Advisory Council.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
39 members of the Council

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. It's
42 getting on 5:00 o'clock now.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, just one quick
45 moment, if we could just a few words of justification.
46 I know the Council had some pretty good discussion
47 leading up to that vote, but if we could just a quick
48 justification for the Council's vote.

49
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1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, thank you, Eva.
4 And I would encourage the Council members that want to
5 add on to any of my justifications on the passage of
6 these special actions. That there is a demonstrated
7 conservation need in moose decline in Unit 23 in that
8 there are other -- other factors on the Unit 26A that
9 don't warrant the extension of the closure to all but
10 Federally-qualified users. In the most affected area
11 within Unit 23 as demonstrated by the analysis there is
12 a substantial decline in moose in Unit 23 and that
13 would be our justification.

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MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
15 members of the Council.

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(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 8th day of March;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of April 2022.

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