

WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 26, 2019
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Reakoff, Chairman
Raymond Collins
Timothy Gervais
Don Honea
Tommy Kriska
Jenny Pelkola
Goodwin Semaken
Pollock Simon

Regional Council Coordinator, Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/26/2019)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's all the Council members we have at this time. Don Honea got weathered out and the plane couldn't get into Ruby yesterday. And so we're going to start the meeting of the Western Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting. And the first agenda item is invocation. Do you want to say an invocation, Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Sure.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to call the meeting to order. It's Tuesday, March 26th in Fairbanks and so we're going to establish a quorum. You want to go through the roll there, Jenny.

MS. PELKOLA: Shirley J. Clark.

REPORTER: Jenny, microphone, thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Shirley is absent.

MS. PELKOLA: Donald Honea.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: He's trying to get in on weather.

MS. PELKOLA: Pollock Simon, Sr.

MR. POLLOCK: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Raymond L. Collins.

MR. COLLINS: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Jack L. Reakoff.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Here.

MS. PELKOLA: Tommy Kriska.

1 MR. KRISKA: Here.
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Tim Gervais.
4
5 MR. GERVAIS: Here.
6
7 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola, I'm here.
8
9 Goodwin G. Semaken.
10
11 MR. SEMAKEN: Here.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have a quorum.
14 I want to welcome our new Council member, Goodwin, to
15 the seat here, welcome to the Council. And so we'll be
16 dealing with Federal fisheries and wildlife issues, as
17 you know.
18
19 And then Jenny got reappointed to the
20 Council also, so welcome back to the Council Jenny.
21
22 And I'm glad to have Ray on the phone
23 there, he's a real trooper. His health issues don't
24 allow him to travel but he does have a tremendous
25 amount of knowledge that's integral to this Councils
26 workings.
27
28 So welcome and introduction to the
29 guests, we'll go through the room here and find out
30 who's in attendance at the meeting. So we'll start
31 here with the back of the room.
32
33 MR. REBARCHIK: I'm, Bob Rebarchik, I'm
34 the Deputy Refuge Manager for the US Fish and Wildlife
35 Service out of Galena for the Koyukuk, Nowitna and
36 Innoko Refuges.
37
38 OFFICER BOSCH: Good morning. My name
39 is Brandon Bosch, Federal wildlife officer for Kanuti,
40 Yukon Flats and Arctic Refuge based in Fairbanks.
41
42 MS. CONITZ: Good morning. I'm Jan
43 Conitz with US Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks.
44
45 MR. DOOLITTLE: My name is Tom
46 Doolittle. I am the acting Assistant Regional Director
47 for the Federal Office of Subsistence Management.
48
49 MR. BUE: Good morning. I'm Fred Bue,
50

1 Fish and Wildlife Service, fisheries manager.

2

3 MR. STEVENS: Good morning everyone.
4 My name is Ben Stevens. I work with the Tanana Chiefs
5 Conference. I work with their (indiscernible - no
6 microphone) advocate for Alaska Native Peoples hunting
7 and fishing rights (indiscernible - no microphone)

8

9 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm Gerald Maschmann
10 with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon fisheries
11 manager.

12

13 MR. BORN: Good morning. I'm Ray Born,
14 the acting Refuge Manager for the Yukon Delta Refuge in
15 Bethel.

16

17 MS. STUBY: Good morning. Lisa Stuby
18 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sportfish
19 Division. I'm the current Sportfish Division Yukon
20 area management biologist excluding Tanana.

21

22 MR. CHEN: Aloha Council Members. My
23 name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
24 Always good to attend your meetings and see all of you.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews with
27 Kanuti, Yukon Flats and Arctic.

28

29 MS. OKADA: Marcy Okada, subsistence
30 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and
31 Preserve.

32

33 MR. SIMON: Jim Simon with the Tanana
34 Chiefs.

35

36 MR. CHASE: Hello, anybody on there.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, the Council's
39 in session, we're going through the room here and then
40 we're going to poll the phone to find out who's on the
41 phone. Standby. So we're introducing guests in the
42 room.

43

44 So go ahead, Tina.

45

46 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran, Deputy Manager
47 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge here in Fairbanks.

48

49 MR. HARWOOD: Hi. Chris Harwood,

50

1 wildlife biologist at Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
2 also in Fairbanks.

3
4 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, wildlife
5 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.

6
7 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl, the new
8 Fish Division subsistence leader most recently from
9 Izembek as the Refuge Manager out there.

10
11 MS. REAKOFF: I'm Nichole Reakoff a
12 subsistence user in Wiseman Village.

13
14 MS. KENNER: And I am Pippa Kenner, an
15 anthropologist at the Office of Subsistence Management
16 in Anchorage.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's the people
19 in the room, and now we want to poll the phone. We
20 have Ray on the phone, so who else is on the phone
21 line.

22
23 MR. CHASE: Ken Chase from Anvik.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ken.

26
27 MS. JALLEN: Hello, this is Deena Jallen
28 with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
29 Anchorage at the Division of Commercial Fisheries and
30 I'm a summer season assistant manager.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Deena, good to hear
33 your voice. Next.

34
35 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
36 Burch from the Department of Fish and Game in Palmer.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mark.

39
40 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is
41 Carol Damberg. I'm the regional subsistence
42 coordinator for the US Fish and Wildlife Service based
43 in Anchorage.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Anybody
46 else.

47
48 (No comments)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No one else on the
2 phone.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that's
7 who's present at the meeting currently.

8
9 Review and adoption of the agenda. And
10 so the agenda is in our book here, first page -- here,
11 and so we're -- we've got various agency updates later
12 in the meeting. I wanted to add to the agenda under
13 new business, I'd be F under new business, Pollock
14 Simon has been representing the Koyukuk River Advisory
15 Committee to the Western Arctic Caribou Work Group, and
16 so there was election of Allakaket, Pollock is no
17 longer on the Advisory Committee, but I feel that this
18 Council's -- Pollock has longstanding input and was
19 speaking for this Council also so we need to appoint
20 him from this Council. So I'd like to put that on the
21 agenda for the Council to discuss.

22
23 Any other.

24
25 Jenny.

26
27 MS. PELKOLA: I make a motion to adopt
28 the agenda.

29
30 MR. SEMAKEN: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to adopt with
33 the amendment, seconded by Goodwin.

34
35 Those in favor of the agenda signify by
36 saying aye.

37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.

41
42 (No opposing votes)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Ray good. So
45 the agenda is adopted. And so six, we're under officer
46 elections and so the Chair turns the gavel over to our
47 designated Federal officer, Karen.

48
49 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

50

1 This Karen Deatherage from the Office of Subsistence
2 Management. I will be opening the floor for
3 nominations for the Chair of the Western Interior
4 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. So
5 anybody who has a nomination from the floor, please do
6 so now.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. PELKOLA: I nominate Jack Reakoff.

11
12 MR. KRISKA: Second.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Are there any
15 additional nominations from the floor, including
16 anybody on the phone.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MR. POLLOCK: Move to close
21 nominations.

22
23 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: There's a move to
26 close nominations by Mr. Simon, seconded by Jenny
27 Pelkola. Nominations are closed. We'll now hold a
28 vote. All those in favor of Jack Reakoff as Chair of
29 the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional
30 Advisory Council please signify by saying aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All those opposed,
35 nay.

36
37 (No opposing votes)

38
39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.
40 Congratulations Chairman Reakoff. I now turn this over
41 for you to select the remaining officers and open the
42 floor for nominations.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so
47 much for your support for my chairmanship.

48
49 Vice Chair. We'll open the floor for
50

1 nominations of the Vice Chair.
2
3 MR. GERVAIS: I would like to nominate
4 Jenny for Vice Chair.
5
6 MR. KRISKA: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other
9 nominations. We have nomination by Tim for Jenny with
10 a second by Tom Kriska.
11
12 Other nominations.
13
14 (No comments)
15
16 MR. SEMAKEN: Move nominations to be
17 closed.
18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to close
20 nomination, do we have a second.
21
22 MR. KRISKA: Second.
23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
25 Those in favor of the motion to elect Jenny Pelkola as
26 Vice Chair of the Western Interior Alaska Subsistence
27 Regional Advisory Council signify by saying aye.
28
29 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.
34
35 MR. GERVAIS: Does Jenny want to make a
36 speech before we take this vote.
37
38 (Laughter)
39
40 MR. KRISKA: There you go.
41
42 MS. PELKOLA: Wow. I was just trying
43 to hide behind my glasses.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 MS. PELKOLA: But, anyway, thank you
48 for the nomination and I'll try to do my best.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we need to do
2 that vote.
3
4 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.
5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
7 Jenny as Vice Chair signify by saying aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Opposed same sign.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I registered your
16 aye vote Ray.
17
18 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much
21 for serving all these years, Jenny. You do a good job
22 for the Council.
23
24 Now, we need a Secretary for the
25 Council.
26
27 Open the floor for nomination of
28 Secretary for the Western Interior Regional Advisory
29 Council.
30
31 MS. PELKOLA: I nominate Tim.
32
33 MR. SIMON: Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim's nominated with
36 Pollock second.
37
38 REPORTER: Jack. Jack.
39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim's nominated by
41 Jenny and seconded by Pollock.
42
43 MR. GERVAIS: I'd like to nominate
44 Tommy Kriska.
45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a second.
47
48 MS. PELKOLA: Second.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You seconded it.
2
3 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, we have two
6 candidates. We have Tim and Tom, so we will.....
7
8 MR. SEMAKEN: I move nominations be
9 closed.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nominations are
12 closed. Do we have a second on that.
13
14 MR. POLLOCK: Second.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. So how are
17 we going to do this Karen.
18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 You can have a closed vote by ballot on one of your
21 yellow 3M slips.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.
24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: And I will tally those
26 votes and announce the winner.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
29
30 (Pause)
31
32 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray, cast my vote
33 for Tim.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Ray,
36 we'll register that vote.
37
38 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, my arms aren't
39 quite that long.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Nope.
44
45 So Karen's counting the votes.
46
47 So the vote tally is for Tim, Tim, Tim,
48 Tim and Tim, no, Tommy one -- so Tommy one and Tim the
49 rest. And so that would be six to one.
50

1 So not that you're not a great Council
2 member Tommy.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 MR. KRISKA: I was going to decline it
7 in the first place but I decided to let it go.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have
10 our officers elected.

11
12 Review and approve the previous
13 minutes. The minutes are here in our packet. So any
14 Council member's comments on the minutes. That's the
15 free sheet that was laying on top, it should have been
16 here -- yeah. So do the Council members have the
17 minutes from the previous meeting, which was in Galena
18 on October 10 and 11.

19
20 Did you get those minutes Ray.

21
22 MR. COLLINS: Are they in the packet?

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, they didn't get
25 in the packet, they were transmitted electronically.
26 When was that, recently.

27
28 MR. COLLINS: Okay, no. I'm having
29 trouble with my internet connection.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

32
33 MR. COLLINS: I'm having trouble
34 getting information that way.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I can understand, we
37 have poor internet where I live.

38
39 (Pause)

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Council comments
42 on the minutes for those who have the minutes.

43
44 (Pause)

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: On Page 3, the
47 Chair's report, I wanted to clarify towards the end of
48 my statement, I was not referring to the Central Arctic
49 Caribou Herd, I was referring to the -- what I was

50

1 referring to was the caribou are a misunderstood animal
2 in Alaska in general. Managers seem to have the idea
3 that caribou calving grounds have to have a lot of
4 lichen on board otherwise those caribou herds are
5 exceeding their sustained yield, or their carrying
6 capacity. My position is that caribou have to have
7 lichen during the wintertime but starting in the spring
8 caribou begin eating flowers. They start eating cotton
9 grass flowers, they start eating flowering forbes, then
10 they work to willow leaves and that's all documented in
11 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, who did a lot of
12 work on that. That's all documented on what caribou
13 actually eat at certain times of the year.

14

15 That's all been lost in the shuffle.

16

17 And so managers, when these caribou get
18 to this point where the caribou calving grounds are low
19 on lichen, which they don't really use that much in the
20 summer they want to start reducing the caribou
21 population, so I was referring to the Nelchina Caribou
22 Herd. There was 70,000 animals and the Nelchina Herd,
23 in 2017 had a fairly significant pressure exerted
24 against it, a 5,000 caribou harvest. They surveyed the
25 caribou last summer at 35,000. Apparently there was a
26 phenomenal wound/loss rate. And apparently some left,
27 go to Canada but those don't reflect in the Canadian
28 component.

29

30 So I want to clarify what my statement
31 was for the record for these minutes from last fall in
32 Galena.

33

34 And so caribou are a lowly productive
35 species, they're easily overharvested and Nelchina was
36 a glaring example of how these caribou can be
37 overharvested at various times. Mulchatna. Nelchina.
38 Fortymile. I can go on and on and on about the
39 overharvest of caribou.

40

41 So I'm going to continue to beat that
42 bandwagon until these managers get it through their
43 head, they have to go out there and start watching
44 caribou in the springtime and do an analysis of what
45 caribou actually eat. They don't eat lichens after the
46 snow starts to melt. When the tussocks start to show
47 they quit eating lichen, they start eating cotton
48 grass. That's their primary food for several weeks.

49

50

1 So I wanted to clarify that on our
2 minutes for the record.
3
4 Any other comments on those minutes.
5
6 Tim, you had one.
7
8 MR. GERVAIS: No, I'm good with it,
9 thank you.
10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
12
13 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to accept
14 the minutes with Jack's modifications put in there.
15
16 MR. POLLOCK: Second.
17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Pollock.
19
20 Did you hear what I was saying there
21 Tim -- or, I mean Ray, as far as that was my additional
22 comment from my Chair's report.
23
24 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I heard that very
25 clearly, thank you.
26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
28 there's a motion to adopt the minutes as modified.
29
30 Any further questions.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
37 adopting the minutes from our October 10 and 11 meeting
38 in Galena, those in favor signify by saying aye.
39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Registered your
43 vote, Ray. Those opposed same sign.
44
45 (No opposing votes)
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Minutes adopted. So
48 Council member's reports. And we'll start with Tommy
49 down here on the left side.
50

1 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, my name's Tom
2 Kriska. I'm glad to be here today at this meeting and
3 thanks to the Western Interior RAC for -- and doing all
4 the work that Karen and them does.
5

6 Just had some comments and things that
7 are happening out with the -- in the villages and what
8 we're up against and little bit of issues for our folks
9 that live out there. The folks that live out there are
10 having a little more harder time with this deeper snow
11 this year, you know, as you all know around our home
12 town there's five, six feet of snow. They're really
13 worried about the moose and other animals. The wolves
14 are killing them left and right. The moose can't
15 really do anything. They're walking with their bellies
16 dragging and the wolves are just having a feast.
17 They're going and jumping right on top of their backs,
18 killing them at will for -- I just think for later on,
19 I guess, I don't know. I see so many kills. There's a
20 lot of locals that are out there doing great on the
21 wolves but still there is just so many of them, there's
22 starting to be packs of 18 to 30, 30 wolves in a pack,
23 that we never even ran across yet.
24

25 One of my things, I wouldn't mind
26 seeing the moose hunt moved from -- the one, the winter
27 hunt, moved from March back into October or November.
28 I don't really see a reason for it to happen in March
29 because the winter's already over and if you're going
30 to need the meat for winter it's better to do the hunt
31 in October or November. I wouldn't mind just -- it was
32 brought to me and I think personally that it really
33 should be.
34

35 For fishing, it went great last summer.
36 We don't know what to expect this year and hopefully
37 that -- well, I'm sure that Fish and Game and the
38 fishing biologists and all that will let us have what
39 they can let us have, I guess and I just hope it's
40 good. But I know this year for sure there'll be high
41 water and that's a bad thing for fishing this summer.
42

43 And just thank you, Jack, for being
44 here.
45

46 Thanks.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Tom.
49 I want to clarify you're referring to that State,
50

1 there's a new State season for the Kaiyuh and you feel
2 that that season should start earlier. And there's a
3 call for State proposals, and that will be -- the call
4 is through May 1. This Council could make a proposal
5 to the State Board of Game under that call to adjust
6 that hunt, that winter hunt, to start -- when can you
7 cross the river, it's across the river, so that's
8 usually in November?
9

10 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, you could cross it
11 pretty much November -- late November. We crossed it,
12 I think it was November 15th we crossed the Yukon last
13 year.
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This year.
16

17 MR. KRISKA: This past year.
18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That's about
20 as late as it's going to get.
21

22 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.
23

24 MR. SEMAKEN: December down in Kaltag.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: December.
27

28 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah. It's a lot wider
29 down there.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. So late
32 November, December would be a good opening?
33

34 MR. KRISKA: Yep.
35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we can discuss
37 that proposal, since it is a State Board of Game
38 proposal, and it's a State hunt.
39

40 MR. KRISKA: Yep.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we could make a
43 proposal to adjust that same hunt, same registration,
44 but different timeframe.
45

46 MR. KRISKA: Yep. Okay. Okay, I have
47 one more.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, go ahead.
50

1 MR. KRISKA: And a lot of the locals,
2 too, are really thinking about doing the no fly zone
3 and the, you know, do like the Koyukuk does, the Refuge
4 management, if Glenn can help me with that, you know,
5 like putting out the permit hunting only for non-
6 locals, dang I couldn't really think of it right now,
7 it'll come to me later. But just feel like a no fly
8 zone and a -- dang, I'll come up with it later, but,
9 anyway, we just want that to kind of go into effect
10 this year at some point. I've been working with some
11 people from TCC to get me the information, I do have
12 it, it's on my phone somewhere.

13
14 But, anyway, I will clarify more later.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So those are
17 referred to as a controlled use area.

18
19 MR. KRISKA: Oh, yeah, there you go.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. And so that
22 would, again, be a State proposal.

23
24 MR. KRISKA: Okay.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So thanks so much.

27
28 Goodwin, welcome to the seat. Give us
29 your concerns, your observations so your Council member
30 report. Go ahead, introduce yourself.

31
32 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, my name is.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your -- every
35 time you speak you got to turn your mic on.

36
37 MR. SEMAKEN: My name's Goodwin
38 Semaken. I'm from Kaltag. I just got on the board.

39
40 It looks like the snow really fell down
41 in Kaltag here, so, like Tommy said I think we're going
42 to lose a lot of moose to the wolves there. Those boys
43 have been going down every day but they got about -- I
44 think they got about three wolves so far but, you know,
45 you just have to be there and luck out and catch them
46 on the river.

47
48 We have a lot of moose down there so
49 I'm thankful for that.

50

1 Thank you.

2

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CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much. I'll go to Ray on the phone and then I'll go to Jenny next.

Go ahead, Ray.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, we've got very deep snow here too. I don't know if it's all the way over the Yukon, I haven't heard any reports over in Innoko. But I assume that there's big snow all the way, which means we're going to lose calves. What's interesting here, the snowmachines have to stay on broke trails because they dig in so much off that there's no -- those new heavier machines, especially are really difficult for getting around. So they couldn't go after moose -- I mean go after wolves very readily with snowmachines at this time.

The other issue in the Upper Kuskokwim, we've got a mixture of lands, BLM mostly, or Federal lands right in the immediate area up here and the people of Nikolai, and I testified to it too way back when, to try to get them to move the pipeline away from the foothills because that foothills is big game country, and I don't know how much of that is -- I haven't critique the map to see how much is BLM and how much is State. But they declared, Donlin, that they couldn't do it because the Black Spruce is wet lands, and as far as I know there is very little water down there in that Black Spruce, it's all frozen underneath. I guess we could get certain conditions maybe you'd get a little water but you don't have nests and waterfowl there. So that's pretty well a moot issue now. When they put that gas line in from Cook Inlet it's going to cross both State and Federal land and so it needs to be monitored closely.

Of great concern is the Big River because the Big River is -- the name of it in Athabaskan is (In Athabaskan), it's a sheefish harvest river. And it has the major portion of the sheefish in the whole Kuskokwim go up Big River to spawn in the fall. It is first during the summer, some of them even going down river and up river different places and (indiscernible - phone - participants not muted) but for spawning they go up Big River. So it's important that if any of those are identified as Federal lands

1 that they be protected and maybe the BLM could comment
2 on that, on their input on that when they give their
3 report.

4
5 I guess those are the main issues,
6 although with the deep snow I think we're going to lose
7 a lot of calves this year, especially it's going to be
8 hard on them because the snow will support wolves.

9
10 That's all I have.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much Ray.
13 BLM is going to be speaking to us tomorrow on various
14 BLM issues so you'll have time to comment to them about
15 those.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Jenny.

20
21 MS. PELKOLA: Good morning. Thank you,
22 Jack, for your leadership and I want to thank the rest
23 of the Council members. And thank you Karen. And,
24 Tina, over there, thank you.

25
26 Like Tom and Goodwin says, we do have a
27 lot of snow, we have that in Galena also. And I think
28 it's all over the state of Alaska from what I
29 understand.

30
31 We have moose right in our town and I
32 believe it's -- this is Galena, and I believe it's due
33 to the amount of wolves we have out there. You can
34 look out your window and you can see moose standing
35 around. I think there should be something done,
36 seriously thinking about those wolves because they're
37 just all -- it seems like the herds are getting bigger
38 and bigger and they're really killing off those moose.

39
40 Also I believe, like Tom, we're going
41 to have high water this year, not only in Galena, but I
42 think in the whole Yukon, we're going to get a lot of
43 water and probably at Kuskokwim. And I'm sure there
44 may be some flooding in our area and I hope it's not
45 too bad.

46
47 Also Tom was talking about the no fly
48 zone. We were talking about drones in our area, there
49 seems like the drones are picking up and I know our
50

1 Council is against that. I don't understand anything
2 about drones but from what I hear they are interfering
3 with moose hunting and I don't know what else they use
4 them for. I don't have one but maybe some day I might
5 have one, I don't know.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: Just to see what it is.

10

11 Also my reappointment letter came late
12 again. And I know one time, Jack, you were really down
13 on whoever was in charge of that, to get it to the
14 members on time, and I don't know where the shortfall
15 is but maybe we should look into that.

16

17 And I believe there's going to be a lot
18 of erosion this summer with the high water.

19

20 And our fishing, it's nice to fish in
21 front of Galena since we have that opening there.

22

23 And also the last thing I'd like to say
24 if you notice we're missing one member that used to sit
25 on here and that was Dennis Thomas.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Just condolences to his
30 family. So I don't know what happened but he left us.
31 And with that I think I'll just end there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Dennis did
34 pass away this winter, suddenly, and we don't know from
35 what, but he's not going to be on this Council anymore,
36 and he was at our Galena meeting and seemed to be happy
37 so he'll be missed here so we have an open seat right
38 now that should be filled.

39

40 We have Tom Doolittle in the back of
41 the room, he's been running OSM and can fill us in on
42 these appointment process. And mainly the Secretary of
43 Interior's office is kind of the bottleneck on trying
44 to get those through on time. And so we need to
45 address that issue and the Staffing of OSM issue. And
46 so this Council needs to address OSM's -- they've had
47 hiring freezes and then -- they can hardly hire a
48 secretary or do anything down there. So I feel that
49 this Council needs to address some of those issues,

50

1 especially the leadership of OSM. The past Assistant
2 Regional Director, Gene Peltola, moved on to be
3 Regional Director for BIA, but Tom's been holding his
4 seat there but any time you have a -- you're not
5 actually, you're acting, that doesn't have the same
6 weight with the other agencies. And so I feel that
7 Secretary of Interior's office should be aware that
8 this is an important program, this is a statutory
9 program and the Secretary of Interior's office has to
10 make the Regional Council appointments on time and they
11 also have to appoint the Assistant -- if they want to
12 be involved in the process, the Assistant Regional
13 Director that runs OSM needs to be appointed in a
14 timely manner. So I feel that we should write a letter
15 at some point. So these Council appointments are
16 coming way too slow. We have an open seat. I would like
17 to see that seat filled before our next meeting.

18

19 Tim.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: Do we need to put that on
22 the agenda under new business?

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, so we could
25 insert that, since it's -- since that's come up, so we
26 could put that under new business here.

27

28 So letter on appointments and Staffing.

29

30 Okay. We'll put that into our agenda.

31

32 Do you make a motion to do that.

33

34 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to add
35 the topic of OSM hiring and Staffing under the new
36 business.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And Regional Council
39 appointments, that's going to be in the same letter,
40 Regional Council appointment delays.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Yeah, and as well,
43 other than OSM hiring and Staffing and Regional Council
44 appointment approval.

45

46 MR. KRISKA: Second.

47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded. Those in
2 favor of that letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
3 signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So what we're
8 talking about.....

9
10 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Ray.
13 So Jenny completed her comments. Pollock, Regional
14 Council comments.

15
16 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
17 name is Pollock Simon, Sr. I live in Allakaket, Upper
18 Koyukuk River.

19
20 I want to congratulate Jack for being
21 Chair, he's been a Chair for a long time and Jenny new
22 Vice Chair and Tim, Secretary, congratulate them. I
23 also want to thank Ray Collins for being our Chair in
24 the past and Vice Chair. Ray Collins has been with us
25 from Day one so he's a long time member.

26
27 There's a lot of snow in Allakaket.
28 The last couple years, few years we only had about two
29 feet. This year it's at five feet now, so there might
30 be a big flood scare if it goes away quick and we get a
31 fast run off, there'll be lots of water.

32
33 The last few years the State took some
34 wolves out so there's no wolves are in town. Usually
35 there's a couple of wolves running around town and kill
36 dogs but last year and this year there's no wolves.
37 Fish and Game has been shooting them from the air so if
38 wolves are not managed they -- they're staying away
39 now, but this winter I seen more moose tracks on the
40 river so moose might be coming back.

41
42 But the caribou hasn't come back for
43 20, 25 years, since '74, the Haul Road and Pipeline was
44 put in place north to Prudhoe Bay and since then the
45 caribou never come back. So that tells me that any
46 kind of road would destroy the caribou migration route.
47 So I've always been opposed to roads and now I'm really
48 opposed to Ambler Road. I'm getting older but I'm not
49 getting weaker.

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. SIMON: I still make a stance in
4 keeping the concerns -- I'm always the first one out
5 because we never had a good experience with the oil
6 pipeline and road here, there's a lot of jobs for
7 awhile but then the peoples make too much money and
8 then after four or five years when peoples return back
9 to the village and it's like you're starting your life
10 over again. So that's what can happen.

11
12 Peoples are concerned about that new
13 proposed road, the Ambler Road. They are concerned
14 because around Allakaket, up the Koyukuk River, you
15 have a limited number of wildlife issues and fish,
16 there isn't -- not enough king salmon returning, king
17 salmon being the main fish diet for our people, but
18 sometimes we're restricted from taking king salmon and
19 with the caribou not coming back and limited number of
20 moose, no wonder peoples around Allakaket area, Alatna
21 area are opposed to the Ambler Road. (Indiscernible)
22 against Ambler Road -- if they want to go up and haul
23 that oil out, that's fine, but if there's a spill it
24 could pollute the rivers and creeks, that's our
25 village's concern. That's why we oppose Ambler Road.

26
27 That's all, Mr. Chair.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks,
32 Pollock.

33
34 Tim.

35
36 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 And congratulations on your reappointment as Chair.
38 It's a real pleasure for me and all the Council members
39 to have your level of experience and dedication on this
40 Council, it makes all of our jobs a lot easier and we
41 learn a lot from your input and your work ethic on the
42 Council work, providing subsistence opportunity here
43 and with your Gates of the Arctic and your Koyukuk
44 Advisory Committee work.

45
46 So anyways we certainly appreciate what
47 you do and it has a big benefit to subsistence users
48 throughout our region.

49
50

1 Yeah, I would like to have a -- just
2 rest in peace to Dennis. I appreciate him coming on
3 this Council and giving us updates and information
4 about what's going on on the Kuskokwim. We haven't had
5 that much representation off the Kuskokwim for quite a
6 long time, basically ever since I been on the Council.
7 And so I hope we can recruit some other people off the
8 Kuskokwim because I don't travel down in that area
9 except to go to RAC meetings and so we definitely need
10 to get people that are knowledgeable about that area
11 and the issues down there and there are a lot of issues
12 and important things happening on the Kuskokwim.

13
14 So that's that.

15
16 I would like to welcome Goodwin to our
17 Council. Appreciate the opportunity to get to know you
18 and understand what's going on in the Kaltag area.

19
20 And I'd like to thank Ray for doing his
21 -- calling in on the teleconference, you're always --
22 have a great knowledge base on historically what's been
23 going on and just you're -- I can't come up with the
24 term, but you're real keystone to the Western Interior
25 Council, so thank you for staying with us even as
26 you're getting on in years, we appreciate your extra
27 effort.

28
29 So on other matters, we're all aware
30 the government shutdown affected a lot of people in a
31 lot of different ways. We heard throughout January and
32 February about non-essential employees and I would like
33 to express to all our Federal employees that I don't
34 regard you as non-essential, I feel like it's really
35 important what you do with OSM and with the wildlife
36 and fisheries management stuff is all essential to
37 providing good subsistence opportunity and good fish
38 and game populations and habitat protection going on in
39 the future. We always need to regard our time here in
40 Alaska is just temporary and we want to have these
41 hunting and fishing opportunities to be as good on the
42 die as the day we started harvesting. So I just want
43 to remember our temporary place here and just try to
44 not use up everything and destroy these populations for
45 -- by not thinking of how important it is to maintain
46 things for future generations.

47
48 Right now, I think March 24th March
49 25th marks the 30th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil
50

1 Spill. It was a big event. Exxon claims they spilled
2 10 million gallons. Other researchers, non-company
3 people put that estimate at like 30 million gallons
4 that got spread over an area that encompassed hundreds
5 of miles but the actual coastline affected was over a
6 thousand miles. We saw a situation where once the bad
7 event happened there wasn't good coordination on how to
8 fix the situation. They didn't have the right
9 equipment in place, they didn't have the personnel in
10 place, they didn't have a plan in place. The Coast
11 Guard was on scene but they didn't want to immerse
12 themselves in in a level because they didn't want to
13 take responsibility for screwing up. So we had like a
14 failure on several levels from the corporate level,
15 Alyeska, State of Alaska, the Coast Guard, there was
16 just nobody who wanted to take charge and apply the
17 correct equipment and strategies for cleaning up the
18 oil and consequently it spread over a large area. And
19 then even with the remediation techniques like washing
20 down the beaches with solvents and high pressure water,
21 they actually drove the oil deep into the sediments and
22 a lot of the beaches in Prince William Sound, still dig
23 down two feet, four feet, five feet and still find just
24 big pools of crude oil, it's still there. And that's
25 kind of where it sits, that a lot of that crude oil is
26 still around. Certain sources I read say that only
27 like five percent of the oil got cleaned up and the
28 stuff that would have been left on the surface,
29 probably could have biodegraded, evaporated somewhat
30 but with the clean up techniques now that oil is stuck
31 in the ground in several places and a lot of the food
32 links in those areas, the herring and whatever, parts
33 of the food chain below the herring that need clean
34 water, clean habitat, they're -- those links to the
35 food chain are gone and certain species in those areas
36 have never come back.

37
38 So -- but like us all as a society to
39 just realize that have large scale industrial
40 development, there's always going to be mistakes and
41 there's always going to be empty promises about their
42 ability to clean up mistakes. Mistakes can never be
43 cleaned up all the way.

44
45 So what's really critical about what
46 we're doing as WIRAC is we need to really be focused on
47 habitat protection. Without habitat, clean habitat
48 there's just not going to be proper place for the
49 animals and fish to live. And the clean -- it needs to
50

1 be clean so there's not a problem with contamination.
2 So whatever kind of development's going on, whether
3 it's military, industrial, oil industry, mining
4 industry, road construction, we need to really be on
5 that -- be on top of that and there's some -- a segment
6 of our society thinks that all those activities are
7 fine and that there's enough of Alaska to go around.
8 But every time any project goes in it takes a little
9 bit of stuff away. And just look at development and
10 stuff that's gone on in our lifetimes between, you
11 know, North Slope, and then Donlin's ramping up, we're
12 in the process on the vetting for the Ambler Road.
13 There's, at this point in time, there's probably a very
14 good chance that Pebble Mine will get put in and a lot
15 of you folks that grew up in Alaska and subsistence
16 users I know that are just to like going out in the
17 woods and harvesting, harvesting moose, harvesting
18 bears, put in nets or fishwheels in the river and
19 getting these subsistence resources, but make the
20 effort to protect the habitat, all that stuff's going
21 to disappear, or a lot of it's going to disappear, and
22 the quality of it's going to disappear. We need to
23 really be focused on trying to maintain what's left.

24
25 I didn't grow up in Alaska and I've
26 seen how industrialized society works and it works by
27 the businesses and corporations that have a lot of
28 money and a lot at stake and they have the professional
29 people to influence the public process and the
30 political process and they get their way and they make
31 some money and they create a mess and then they retire
32 or sell out their companies and then society's left
33 with a super (indiscernible) side or some other kind of
34 contaminated thing, which can take anywhere from
35 decades to centuries or may never come back.

36
37 So I think we got to just learn the
38 lessons and realize the thing that makes the Western
39 Interior special is that it's roadless, it's rural and
40 there's not much going on there, there's not many
41 conflicts between user groups compared to other parts
42 of Alaska, but it's going to -- it's not always going
43 to be that way so we need to -- as we work through our
44 issues we need to think of conservation, preservation
45 and remember that without habitat you basically have
46 not much left to maintain a subsistence economy.

47
48 On other issues this winter in the Gulf
49 of Alaska and Bering Sea we had a lot of strong wind
50

1 activity, while that's tough on the fishermen, that
2 strong wind activity is good for -- it pushes the
3 surface water in a certain direction and I believe it
4 creates an upwelling, which brings the cold, deep water
5 up from the canyons and the deeper sections of the
6 ocean, that cold water is really good for plankton
7 production, that phytoplankton, zooplankton, early
8 parts of the food chain are real critical to -- as it
9 relates to the Western Interior is it's critical to the
10 salmon production. So hopefully these stormy ocean
11 conditions this year will translate into good salmon
12 production four or five years down the line.

13
14 So right now we're having this rain
15 event around the Ruby region. It's tough on the
16 animals, I think. I mean they're designed to survive
17 through most conditions but I believe that when you
18 have a lot of really wet conditions around the freezing
19 mark that's a much tougher environment for animals and
20 people to survive in than really deep, dry, deep frost,
21 deep cold conditions. So we'll just have to kind of
22 evaluate this spring on what kind of winterkill
23 occurred. And as Tommy and Jenny had talked about it's
24 -- right now the snow conditions are favorable to the
25 predators over the ungulates so we'll have to keep --
26 be mindful of what was the survival rate throughout the
27 winter. And I'd encourage everybody to travel
28 carefully over the next few weeks with all this extra
29 water pouring out onto the rivers, there's going to be
30 a lot of overflow conditions and a lot of wet clothes.
31 So it's a real dangerous time to be traveling around.

32
33 We had the Board of Fish meeting in
34 January. There was some very significant proposals
35 that were up. They were about restricting gillnet
36 depth, restricting fishwheel size, moving the in-river
37 beach seining, not just from a king salmon conservation
38 thing but have it be like a standard gear type, because
39 as this Council discussed once they started doing it
40 and thought it out it was such a powerful harvest
41 method that the fishermen are going to say, oh, yeah,
42 this is an amazing way to catch fish, let's have this
43 just be the regular gear type for all our harvesting.
44 But fortunately Board of Fish turned down those
45 proposals and those proposals did not get passed, which
46 was surprising to me because they accepted these -- on
47 these out of cycle proposals that were available the
48 prior year and two years ago, the Board of Fish seemed
49 to be wanting to provide more fishing opportunity,
50

1 putting more harvest power into Districts 1 and
2 Districts 2. And myself and this Council have
3 expressed our concerns that this king salmon run on the
4 Yukon is very far from being rebuilt and we need to
5 still be in a conservation mode and not over exploit
6 it. I mean you can always make arguments like, well,
7 we need this increased harvest power now because it's
8 economics and what not but what's really -- should be
9 like a mission or strategy we should take is we should
10 take management techniques and put proposals forth that
11 are mindful that this king salmon stock is still in the
12 rebuilding stages and we need to conduct our
13 subsistence and commercial fishing in a way that can
14 help these stocks recover.

15

16 I'm just reviewing my list here.

17

18 That's about all I have for now.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much for
23 those comments, Tim. Those are -- I, too, was
24 surprised that the Board opposed the beach seine
25 proposal since they had open armedly accepted that with
26 900 feet of gear. That's a powerful harvest method.
27 So I was really happy to see that they did not make
28 that the standard gear type.

29

30 Your comments on the strong south
31 winds, that's why we got so much snow, is because we
32 have had all this wind out of the south and that stirs
33 the up -- it drives the nutrient levels north and the
34 Bering Straits is almost wide open up into the Chuckchi
35 Sea, so salmon are probably extending far into the
36 Bering Sea as far as range of feeding. Those waters
37 are open now and phytoplankton are developing with the
38 sunlight and so that's going to be some unusual trophic
39 level increase that probably should be looked at.

40

41 So I've been hearing beeps on this
42 phone and I want to know has anybody joined this call
43 that wasn't on the call or did you get dropped and then
44 recalled in. Is there anybody else on this phone that
45 hasn't registered with us.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hearing none, I

50

1 suppose there's nobody there.

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do have anonymous
6 people that will sit on that phone and they don't tell
7 us that they're there, so I know that.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I know you're there
12 even if you're saying that you're out there.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So my comments, also
17 the south slope of the Brooks Range is pounded with
18 snow. We've got super deep snow in the Brooks Range.
19 I measure snow on a daily basis for the National
20 Weather Service this year and we've had over 11 and a
21 half feet of snow fall out of the sky. We've got a
22 super dense snow-pak with a lot of water in it. And
23 the snow when I left yesterday morning from my house
24 was 46 inches standing on the ground. Moose are to
25 their shoulders. It's killing calves.

26

27 Tommy was telling me last night he sees
28 these calves they're all wet, yeah, they're wet and
29 then they got snow stuck all over them too. They're
30 getting like -- I've never seen calves with snow stuck
31 on their sides like that, it's frozen to them. So
32 we're going to have a huge problem this year with --
33 we're going to lose a lot of the calves. We're going
34 to lose a significant number of yearlings and we're
35 going to have a static mortality of adult, older
36 animals and lightweight moose that were runt calves
37 when they went through their first year. They never
38 achieve their optimum potential. So there's going to
39 be a significant number of moose adults. And so '08
40 and '09 we had a deep snow, but not quite this bad and
41 it killed about 10 to 15 percent of the adult
42 population. Lost a lot of the older animals.

43

44 So in some areas we, you know, in the
45 Koyukuk we don't have a really high number of bulls,
46 especially older bulls, the breeder bulls, so we're
47 going to possibly lose the few that we actually have
48 out there. So this is going to be something we have to
49 pay close attention to.

50

1 Caribou, they're a grazing animal and
2 they need to dig down through the snow so the caribou
3 -- the Porcupine Caribou came into the Upper Koyukuk
4 for the first time 50 or 60 years, and then they went
5 back to the east and they went back because, A, they
6 came across the road and they get chased with
7 snowmachines and snowmachines got headlights on them
8 and they see road traffic with headlights they thought
9 that was all SnoGos and they went -- the lead cows
10 turned around and went back. Then the snow got really
11 deep and they went even further back. The caribou went
12 -- some of them went back over on the North Slope.

13
14 And the really weird thing is we got
15 super deep snow on the south slope, you go right over
16 the crest of the Brooks Range, the Atigun Valley, all
17 the way out to the front edge of the mountain is bare
18 ground. The winds drive the snow out and those caribou
19 on that side are really fat and they're doing really
20 well. So some caribou got smart enough to go back on
21 the Arctic side. But caribou on this side, they're
22 having real hardships.

23
24 So that's going to be interesting if we
25 can get caribou survey this next year, if it gets hot
26 enough.

27
28 We have a lot of snowshoe hares. And
29 our snowshoe hares are starting to decline rapidly,
30 primarily through predation. They got all this snow,
31 they're moving up on the willows, they're getting
32 plenty of food, we got lots of owls and lynx. Lynx are
33 moving into the Brooks Range. In the last month there's
34 been a lot of lynx come to the mountains. So our hare
35 population is going to start declining unless they can
36 stabilize with summer migrating birds that will take
37 some of the pressure off of them. The wolves are
38 basically -- have basically moved with the caribou, so
39 the wolves moved out of our valley, hardly see any wolf
40 tracks. They're either up on top of the mountains
41 hunting sheep because they don't really particularly
42 want to dive around, we got really super soft snow,
43 like Ray's talking about, so the wolves moved either up
44 high or they went with those Porcupine caribou. A lot
45 of wolves went away with the caribou going to the east.
46 So the Central Arctic didn't come over on our side, at
47 least in the upper Koyukuk.

48
49 So we're going to have a bad winter, a
50

1 super bad winter for moose. I'm sorry to hear that
2 it's all the way down to the end of the upper Kuskokwim
3 and into down even into Kaltag. So that's something
4 this Council's going to have to be paying attention to.
5

6 And so as I stated in our minutes last
7 year, I was concerned about these Council appointments,
8 I'm still concerned, that's in our annual report.
9

10 I'm still concerned about the Office of
11 Subsistence Management not being Staffed in a timely
12 manner. I feel that the Department of Interior has to
13 take a little different look at what the Subsistence
14 Program is. It's a statutorily required program. This
15 isn't some option, like something that kind of can
16 happen, can take away from some parts of the budget and
17 give it to some other parts of the budget, this is a
18 very important program. This has to do with funding for
19 resource monitoring, it has to do with monitoring for
20 the subsistence users and implementing regulations that
21 reflect the statutory requirements as laid out in Title
22 VIII of ANILCA. The Secretary of Interior is under
23 obligation to maintain the statutory requirements that
24 Congress told the Secretary to do, and referred to the
25 Secretary specifically.
26

27 So I feel that -- I'm still concerned
28 about that and we're going to write a letter about that
29 issue.
30

31 But it takes -- July was when the last
32 Assistant Regional Director left and they're still at
33 an interim. Tom's been doing a great job. But if
34 you're just sitting in the seat, you're just holding
35 the seat. When I sat at the Federal Subsistence Board
36 as a Secretary instead of a Chair I had less weight
37 before the Board. And someone who's holding the seat
38 warm as an interim for a final selection months later,
39 we're coming up on a year later, the Secretary's office
40 and the Fish and Wildlife Office needs to have a more
41 timely program to appoint Regional Directors to run
42 OSM.
43

44 So I'll get off my high horse about
45 that.
46

47 So any final comments from the Council.
48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, would you talk
4 about the affect of this winter weather on the sheep in
5 your area.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The sheep are doing
8 really -- the sheep are stuck out on wind blown ridges
9 and there's not that many wind blown ridges. The snow
10 plastered -- the last snows we're getting are at close
11 to freezing so the snow is real sticky and there's a
12 few places where sheep can actually survive. But if a
13 wolf gets on those ridges with them they're not going
14 to do real well. Once wolves show up on the ridge with
15 them they can wait them out. They can starve the
16 sheeps off those ridges, the wolves just live there,
17 they'll just hang out. If they make a kill they're
18 going to just keep sitting there and keep picking those
19 sheep off.

20

21 So we're going to have the North Slope
22 sheep are going to have an excellent winter, the South
23 Slope sheep are going to have a really bad winter.
24 We're going to expect to see -- unless we get a real
25 early spring, real early spring could turn the tables
26 on that sheep population but our sheep population was
27 really low to start with and it's just barely starting
28 to recover.

29

30 So I'm really concerned about sheep and
31 moose because they don't really move away from the --
32 some moose went up the valley and got away from some of
33 the deepest snow but a lot of moose will just stay in
34 place and die.

35

36 Any other questions.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: No.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

41

42 MR. KRISKA: yeah, I have one concern.
43 I was really, you know, just listening to you guys and
44 one of the things that I'm really concerned about
45 living out in the villages and living out there and
46 listening to all my comrades out there that they would
47 go -- say something about the predator control and we
48 work hard, night and day stuff. We got rid of quite a
49 bunch of them ourselves but still there's a bunch --

50

1 there's some packs out there, I think there's one out
2 there on the Koyukuk River, 30-pack wolves, there's
3 another one down there across, right above Grayling,
4 another 30-pack. And I was just hoping that Fish and
5 Game or whoever got access to killing the wolves like
6 they did up around the AK area to sort of maybe
7 minimize these packs down to, I don't know, 10 or 12,
8 or 14, to more reasonable to where there's 30 wolves a
9 moose -- one moose wouldn't even feed 30 wolves. So
10 it's a really big concern. We travel and burn up a lot
11 of fuel and it cost a lot for us guys to do these
12 things but we know we're the ones that's going to be
13 affected if we don't do anything about it and we're
14 really looking for some sort of, you know, help from
15 anybody to help us out with fuel and stuff and we'll do
16 the work, but still I'd rather see if Fish and Game or
17 anybody that got access to going out there to minimize
18 some of these big packs it'd be really appreciated.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: I wanted to comment,
27 somebody talked about restricting who was -- or having
28 people register. Under the State law you can't
29 separate between local and non-local hunters, you may
30 be able to do something like that on the Federal but
31 what we did implement in McGrath when we had a closure
32 here on hunting around McGrath to allow for predator
33 control, we had them -- when they opened it we had them
34 implement a registration hunt for everybody. And they
35 had to register within the area they were going to hunt
36 before season so you were able to monitor the number of
37 hunters that would be in the fields and you could see
38 what was happening, whether it was growing or shrinking
39 or whatever. So that's one tool. And the reason we
40 did that is the other tool that the State uses is that
41 Tier I and Tier II. But under those if you haven't
42 hunted before, you're not eligible to enter into those,
43 or you don't get very many points, and so it didn't
44 allow the younger generation to be introduced in a
45 timely manner to hunting.

46

47 So just keep that mind if State
48 regulations go in, you may have to also register local
49 but there is that precedent set in McGrath of having a

50

1 registration hunt instead of a Tier I, Tier II.

2

3 And there's another resource that we're
4 losing, rapidly, and that's the elders who have the
5 traditional knowledge and hunted with the old methods
6 in the old places and so on. And the Office of
7 Subsistence Management should have some obligation to
8 gather some of that information while it's still
9 available.

10

11 As I mentioned, we've lost all of my
12 peers in Nikolai over the last years, all of the people
13 that I hunted and trapped with and so on, they're all
14 gone, all the men, and many of the women too. There
15 are just a few of the elder women left that have that
16 traditional knowledge. And so the younger generation
17 have grown up in a different era and that's like the
18 drifting in the lower Kuskokwim on Federal lands down
19 there, they want to go back to drifting that was
20 allowed when the numbers were high and traditionally
21 there was no drifting down there. Those salmon were
22 allowed to pass up river unharvested in the lower
23 river, if they stuck to the main river out there.

24

25 So things are changing in how game is
26 harvested now but we're losing the knowledge of how it
27 was and what has really changed and we can't just look
28 back to, you know, 10 or 15 years, or since statehood
29 and get a real a picture of what was going on prior to
30 that. So I think it's an obligation to get some of
31 that information on the human side and be aware of
32 those human resources that are fast disappearing.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
37 comments, Ray.

38

39 Any final comments.

40

41 Tim.

42

43 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I had one more
44 comment. So if this current rain event that's
45 occurring now in the Ruby, Galena area, if that drives
46 bears out of the den right now that would be -- the
47 bears would be up like seven weeks earlier than normal
48 and the only food source for them is going to be the
49 moose unless -- it all depends how it plays out. I

50

1 mean we just have to maintain this big thaw and it goes
2 away then they can start eating on some plants and what
3 not, but something to watch. It's likely the bears
4 will be out early and it'll be interesting to see what
5 affect that has on the moose population and what affect
6 it has on the bears. We noted in the fall that a lot
7 of bears were skinny for some reason, there was a bad
8 berry crop or something, but -- so they didn't go into
9 the denning situation that healthy and now they might
10 be driven out real early so it could be detrimental on
11 the moose population or it could be detrimental on the
12 bear population, just they're starving out because
13 they're coming out early in a weakened state.

14
15 So we'll have to keep track of what
16 happens with that situation.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Interesting comment,
19 thank you.

20
21 So I think that's the Council comments.
22 And so the next agenda item is public and tribal
23 comments on non-agenda items. Should we go to a break
24 and then come to those, Karen.

25
26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, that's up
27 to you but I would vote yea.

28
29 (Laughter)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we'll have about
32 a 15 minute break and we'll come to tribal and public
33 comments on non-agenda items right after that at about
34 10:45, so 15 minute break.

35
36 (Off record)

37
38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So 10:45, if we
41 could gather our Council back together.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So anybody seen
46 Jenny. So if we could get the Council back together
47 again.

48
49 (Pause)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we got Tim back
2 at the table. Jenny's not here currently but we're
3 going to go to tribal -- we have a quorum so we've got
4 public and tribal comments. We got Orville Huntington
5 in the room here for TCC, if you want to come up to the
6 mic there Orville so you can say anything you want or
7 the Council can ask you questions.

8

9

Welcome.

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MR. HUNTINGTON: Good morning. Orville Huntington for those that don't know me. I'm Tanana Chief Conference's wildlife and parks director. And I served seven years on the Board of Fisheries for the State of Alaska and am going to switch over to Board of Game. So I'm just here to answer any questions you guys might have on tribes, whether, it don't have to be about tribes but anything you use, fish or, you know, game, try to keep on top of things. So I'll just answer questions if you guys don't mind.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sure. We got any questions.

Tim.

MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, good morning, Orville. I was wondering is Tanana Chiefs going to continue maintaining funding with Henshaw Creek.

MR. HUNTINGTON: Right now we have some -- we're trying to renew that, it'll be funded through this year for sure with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, we're looking at the partners again, trying to expand that program. For sure we'll be doing those two programs this summer in our office. We have Brian McKenna and Nicole will be transferring to Ahtna, she's going to work over there now so we're going to hire a new biologist and maybe -- Charlie Green from Loudon, Jack Green, he might be going to work for us. We got a couple -- there's a natural resources cultural specialist that Fish and Wildlife Service help us secure funds for and she's helping us with our community based monitoring for climate change and her name is Deborah Lind and then we have a Vista volunteer, Kristina Stewart from -- I think she's from Vermont, and she's helping us with all our other activities and grant writing. We have NSF grant, National Science Foundation grant we'll be

1 looking at five years of funding there and then
2 probably some Department of Defense contracts with the
3 military. We'll meet with them sometime this month.
4

5 Any other work that we're involved with
6 Fish and Wildlife Service, we usually go to them first
7 and see what they need and then we ask the tribes what
8 they need.
9

10 Henshaw Creek is a priority, it's been
11 for a long time.
12

13 We may look at a sonar with the
14 Department of Fish and Game around the mouth of the
15 Koyukuk River for better data so we have some idea of
16 what's going in there. There's a lot of fish that go
17 in there so I'll be working with them this summer.
18

19 Next week I go over with the Yukon
20 River Panel for negotiations with Canada and I'll
21 partake in some of their discussions and provide them
22 input.
23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
25 other questions for Orville on TCC.
26

27 MR. COLLINS: Yes, I have a question for
28 Orville.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.
31

32 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, are you making any
33 effort, TCC, of recording elders before we lose them
34 because they are a diminishing resource and they've got
35 the information about the old traditional ways, many of
36 them. And also I know we're piecemeal up here, just
37 BLM lands around but there is concern about what takes
38 place on those BLM lands, so are you monitoring that at
39 all, like the spawning area on the Big River or some of
40 those other key things, the Bering Sea cisco too, spawn
41 above Nikolai, I guess that's one of the major spawning
42 areas located for them. And I think there's a limited
43 spawning area on the Yukon too for the Bering Sea
44 cisco.
45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Ray. Those
47 are really good concerns, especially BLM, with those
48 concerns into the Advisory Council and then submit them
49 back to local users. We do have some work we're doing
50

1 in the upper Kuskokwim. We work with Kevin Wentworth
2 with MTNT and he serves with the hunting and fishing
3 task force to try to look at different ways we can help
4 up there. And with our fisheries monitoring work as
5 well as some community based monitoring efforts we're
6 trying to evaluate the impacts of climate change in the
7 upper Kuskokwim and along the Yukon River drainage. In
8 the future -- we're just starting that program so
9 Deborah Lind is not here right now but she'll be in
10 contact with people over there and working with the
11 school district and try to do some outreach there too
12 and some education with climate change impacts, what to
13 look for and there's a lot of Avian flu and things
14 going around. Different things that affect wildlife,
15 invasive species.

16
17 As far as the cisco I'm not sure right
18 now we're doing anything. We're looking at upper
19 Tanana, I know there was some populations of concern up
20 there that Fish and Wildlife Service had. And I'm not
21 sure on BLM lands. I know in the Hogatza River up the
22 Koyukuk River, we're looking at some of their impacts
23 as well as that Ambler Road. And then Innoko region
24 there's that road they were trying to put in that would
25 impact a lot of the subsistence users. It would be a
26 huge impact because you'd be adding thousands of users
27 into the Yukon River drainage in a place where there's
28 already a lot of competition.

29
30 So there's a lot of issues to be
31 resolved in the next few years.

32
33 It's really good to hear you Ray, I
34 really so appreciate you, all your knowledge.

35
36 And as far as traditional knowledge
37 work, we're going to keep doing that. All my
38 scientific research is based on the traditional
39 knowledge and not just the knowledge itself but what
40 you're supposed to do with it and how you look at
41 things you can use it for. It's not meant to be used
42 for some things but in some cases, like when you're
43 looking at bear populations or something, you don't
44 really need to research them to know if they're having
45 problems or not. There's ways you can look at animals
46 without touching them just by understanding their
47 behavior and their physical health when you harvest
48 them. It's kind of the same for wolves, it's -- you
49 don't want every wolf dead but you want to evaluate how

50

1 they're doing and the health of the packs and how those
2 packs will relate to future diversity of those wolf
3 populations. Because no matter how many you take out
4 it just seems like the ones that come back are not
5 always the best ones and if you look at the
6 Southcentral area there's a lot of -- I don't know
7 there's just a sickness in some of them. It's hard to
8 evaluate.

9
10 Anyway I appreciate your questions,
11 Ray. I hope I answered some of them.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, you did touch on
14 some. It's interesting, I was on the State task force
15 that was looking at how they were going to manage the
16 population and some of the testimony we had from
17 Canada, and it applied to the states too, is they leave
18 some of those alpha males alone in the area because
19 they keep the new ones out. When they eliminate all of
20 the predators in a given area then they get them moving
21 in from all over and that's when you get some of those
22 weaker wolves, let's say, that would come in and
23 establish a pack because you've created a void there.
24 So you're right you have to keep some balance between
25 them.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Orville.

30
31 MR. HUNTINGTON: And, Ray, I just
32 wanted to let you know that I will be going to
33 Yellowknife after I go to Whitehorse. We're planning
34 on meeting with some researchers over there and doing
35 an international study looking at different populations
36 and how they're being impacted by changes and you're
37 right about that wolf study, I looked at it for a long
38 time and it is true if you don't bother those ones -- I
39 remember dad told me a long time ago, that, you
40 actually do better by not taking them out because it
41 causes so many problems with them. And so I've always
42 looked at it -- I've never been much of a very good
43 wolf hunter, honestly, but I understand what you're
44 talking about. I kind of get stuck in the office a
45 lot, I wish I was out more.

46
47 But anyway, some of the traditional
48 knowledge work we do, we're going to be doing with
49 First Nations in Canada and some of the biologists over

50

1 there as well.

2

3 Thanks, Ray.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, another
6 question.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, Orville. Maybe
9 it'd be better to answer this at the next meeting or
10 maybe you know the answer now, but I wanted this
11 Council to know what the Canadians thought about our
12 management and conservation efforts on the Yukon River
13 kings, if they felt like the American side was doing
14 enough conservation work or if the Canadians felt they
15 were like bearing the brunt of the conservation.

16

17 MR. HUNTINGTON: Thank you, Tim.
18 That's a good question. I think it's not so much that
19 we're not doing our part, I think, on the US side, I
20 think we're doing more than our part, a lot of
21 sacrifice up and down the river, and sometimes they
22 acknowledge it when they get a good return in Canada
23 and sometimes they don't. It gets political. You know
24 we're doing our part by protecting habitat and trying
25 to make sure the best spawners get up into those
26 rivers, especially Koyukuk River and Tanana River
27 because those are State waters. And then up into
28 Canada we have to walk a fine balance to try to, you
29 know, say we're doing our part and we have the right to
30 use those resources too, you know, a lot of our
31 cultural ceremonies are with salmon and all those
32 things matter to people, especially elders, you know, a
33 lot of elders really -- even in Ruby or Emmonak,
34 they're really tied to that salmon culture and so it's
35 been there for a long time.

36

37 I think we'll be okay for awhile. It's
38 kind of -- because there's so much climate change
39 impacts, we may look more like the Northwest after
40 awhile and if that's the case then we have to adapt to
41 open water a lot longer period of time, or all winter
42 in some cases, and those salmon populations will adapt
43 to those conditions. And so that's something they have
44 to realize too up in Canada, is we're not making this
45 stuff up it's happening to us and we just have to try
46 to provide Staff and our youth with enough knowledge to
47 protect what we have. And kind of a little bit -- I'm
48 optimistic. I think there's good things we can do
49 still. And even with them, I think we could partner

50

1 with them in a lot of things, like Northwest Boreal
2 Forest Landscape Conservation Cooperative, I have a
3 meeting with them Thursday and we're looking at some
4 work, we're going to do across the border and back and
5 forth and helping. Fish and Wildlife started it up a
6 long time ago and then it was pulled out of their
7 program so we decided to take that on with
8 conservationists around the state and nation. Just
9 trying to help out.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any final comments.

14

15 Council members.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks
20 so much Orville. Appreciate all your comments.

21

22 Any other tribal comments or public
23 comments on non-agenda items, it'll be available every
24 morning.

25

26 PJ.

27

28 MR. SIMON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
29 Members of the Board. My name is PJ Simon and I'm from
30 Allakaket. I live here in Fairbanks. Can I start now?

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go right ahead.

33

34 MR. SIMON: Yeah, so one of the concerns
35 I have is the heavy, heavy snow this winter up in the
36 Brooks Range. And I'm an active hunter, trapper, I
37 help my dad with fishing, seining for whitefish and
38 sheefish up the Alatna River for food and some for
39 dogs. And then I also hunt in Gates of the Arctic with
40 people from home, Allakaket and Alatna, we go up to
41 Anaxaruk, John, River, Tango Blue, Huntsfork, and those
42 are the sheep hunts that we've been keeping alive since
43 pre-contact, 5,000 years, maybe longer, up the John
44 River. And it's an old hunt that my grandfather, my
45 great-grandfather, my father have hunted all his life
46 and we do our best to keep our traditional ways and to
47 provide for our families.

48

49 And this year, especially this year,

50

1 with the deep snow, Mr. Chairman, I'm worried about the
2 moose calves, the dall sheep, like you said it's the
3 opening of the Bering Sea has created an influx of snow
4 along the south slopes of the Brooks Range. That's
5 worrisome. Time will tell what it does to the
6 population of the sheep. If you can recall in 2013,
7 the dall sheep population in the Gates went from 10,000
8 to 7,000, we had a 30 percent mortality. We're looking
9 at -- hopefully we're not looking at the same
10 situation. And the moose around the traditional
11 hunting areas of Allakaket within State land, BLM land,
12 US Fish and Wildlife land, Gates of the Arctic land,
13 there's 70 bulls for 100 cows in some areas, and that's
14 going to take a punch in the gut this spring. There'll
15 be a lot of moose -- food for bears when they pop out
16 and so grizzly bears. And, so with that I hope that
17 this Board can keep an eye on the population of our
18 renewable resources, biological goal that feeds our
19 people on the upper Koyukuk River. We are very
20 traditional people and we follow the traditional
21 calendar that has been taught to us by all our elders,
22 including my dad, he's almost 80 years old.

23
24 But I hope that also this Board can use
25 its authority somehow and work with the Kanuti National
26 Wildlife Refuge in budgeting. I talked to the manager,
27 Tina Moran, and talked about how the helicopter is used
28 for enforcement. The whole world wants to go to Kanuti
29 National Wildlife Refuge right now for the moose and
30 it's hunter congestion, you know, things like that.
31 Everybody's short of money, State short of money, Feds
32 short of money, well I'm short of money.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. SIMON: But you get my drift. We
37 got to have balance.

38
39 Just on balance, like the late Reverend
40 David Salmon said, Mr. Chairman, you got to have a
41 balance of Western way and traditional way. And as a
42 person of 37 who's still in the work force, you know,
43 whether for resource development, for different ways of
44 doing things, making money, gold extraction or whatever
45 extraction, is our young people need jobs but we have
46 to have that balance. So hope that if there's any
47 construction in the upper Koyukuk or resource
48 extraction that you guys would keep that in mind, that
49 our people, I'm still in the work force, I'm a plumber,
50

1 I'm a construction worker, truck driver, part-time
2 dredging for gold, so with that I'm hoping that this
3 Board can keep any projects in the future to that note.
4

5 But also, the trapping, I'm hoping you
6 guys can back the trapping initiative, Mr. Chairman,
7 keep the anti-trappers from taking away our traditional
8 way of life. People along the Koyukuk River, including
9 the Yukon River went from dead falls to modern trapping
10 techniques and so has our life. We have all the
11 amenities of the world right now but, yet, you know, we
12 find that time, we find that effort to go out into our
13 traditional home lands and live out our lives, you
14 know, like our people and our fathers and their fathers
15 before them. So try to be like my father as much as I
16 can and delve into the traditional ways but, yet,
17 maintain that we got to have money, we got to pay for
18 gas, we got to pay for snowmachine upkeep. I don't use
19 dogs, but I still go out there.
20

21 And the other thing that's worrisome,
22 is I hope this Board can follow the John Sturgeon case,
23 the ruling came out today. You know, access within
24 Federal Parks, Federal Refuges, in BLM lands, maintain
25 -- keeping an eye on that because we can easily
26 overhunt all the renewable resources, it's just we need
27 best management practices, this Board working with the
28 State and so on and so on or private inholdings,
29 village corporation, or ANC inholdings.
30

31 I don't want to trap you, I just want
32 to say keep up the good work. I'm out there in the
33 southern Brooks Range and scratching out a living and
34 enjoying it and breathing the cold air of the deep
35 woods.
36

37 Also in the guiding industry, so I'm
38 almost a registered guide so I'm hoping that you guys
39 take it easy on the registered guides. There's not
40 very many Alaska Native registered guides and it
41 provides some sort of income in times of hardship right
42 now with the State, there's no money, and there's no
43 money in the villages, they're having a tough time.
44 Guys like Mr. Kriska, who go out, unselflessly, and
45 cull the wolf population, the predators, and I do too
46 and it eases a guides work in subsistence congestion,
47 less predators, there's more opportunities to harvest
48 game.
49

50

1 But also the other thing, I was talking
2 to the Kanuti Refuge manager, Tina Moran, and I
3 requested that talking to Glenn Stout, the area
4 biologist for Game Management Unit 24, is the
5 wound/loss ratio on moose, what we can do. There's 17
6 percent wound/loss ratio, so that means out of 100 bull
7 moose 17 run away and they get away and they die and
8 that's one moose down, so if we can bring that to light
9 and have hunter education or sighting in your rifles in
10 falltime that would be something, that would be good
11 practice, that we all sight in our rifles, whether we
12 get a rangefinder or, you know, use the right calibers
13 or take your time and shoot. I'm guilty of losing
14 moose when I was a kid. You know, I learned just out
15 there, being out there in the woods.

16
17 So with that, Mr. Chairman, if there's
18 any questions, I'd gladly answer them, if not thanks
19 for the time.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate you
22 bringing up that wound/loss issue. Sighting in a rifle
23 is very important and some people just pick up their
24 rifle go out hunting and the thing's not shooting
25 correctly so the wound/loss rate can be pretty high.
26 Each moose is a precious animal, we don't want to lose
27 it. If it's shot it better be killed. In shooting
28 .223s at moose, it promotes high wound/loss rate.

29
30 There's a proposal before the Board of
31 Game to eliminate .222 caliber fire, they failed the
32 proposal, but the reality is a lot -- in fact, Orville
33 had a picture on FaceBook a few years back of a dead
34 moose laying in the river. Remember that Orville, a
35 dead moose laying in the river.

36
37 MR. HUNTINGTON: (Nods affirmatively)

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Got away from
40 somebody, got in the river and floated away, it was
41 dead, washed up on the bar rotted. I just -- that was
42 the saddest thing I've practically ever seen, is the
43 moose getting shot, getting away because it's too light
44 of caliber and getting away from people. I think that,
45 you know, there should be a State education program for
46 communities. My son was hunting on the Novi with a guy
47 from Tanana and these kids go to start shooting at 400
48 yards with a .223, hit this moose, ran off in the
49 woods, right before dark, it got away from them. It's
50

1 happening a lot. And so that has to be brought out. I
2 do think that sighting in rifles, trained to shoot a
3 rifle, you know, 30-30, or any kind of 30 -- or
4 something's going to kill this moose but shooting at a
5 moose with .223, shooting at the butt end of a moose
6 with a .223, that's just a lot of work to save them, we
7 don't want to lose them.

8
9 So I appreciate you bringing that issue
10 up.

11
12 MR. SIMON: Yes, one more comment, Mr.
13 Chairman.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

16
17 MR. SIMON: Yeah, every year in the
18 upper Koyukuk, Alatna, Allakaket, and Hughes, we count
19 on the caribou coming down, whether it's the Western
20 Arctic Caribou Herd, the Central Herd or the Teshekpuk
21 Herd, that's an important food source for us because
22 historically upper Koyukuk has been low in moose. You
23 know it went from a high of 2,000 in 1994 to what it is
24 now and then if we look at a couple hard winters back
25 to back, there goes our food source, we've always been
26 eating caribou. This year we have to go south for food
27 because of the deep snow. The caribou stopped at that
28 Crevise Creek up there on the John River and they're up
29 there at Onyxarak by up there, 200 miles, 180 miles up
30 the Alatna, so it's a long way to go, especially with
31 facing climate change, like Mr. Huntington stated, it's
32 earlier, earlier break ups, later freezeups, and open
33 water; I mean how do we negotiate that. Life's getting
34 tougher out there. But, yeah, that's the other comment
35 on caribou.

36
37 If there's no other questions, Mr.
38 Chairman.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: My question was you
41 were referring to a trapper initiative, what -- I'm not
42 familiar with that. What are you requesting this
43 Council to back the trapper initiative, what is that?

44
45 MR. SIMON: Oh, I'm sorry, Mr.
46 Chairman, I meant to say, please keep the trappers in
47 mind, you know, the upper Koyukuk, with the good places
48 of Grayling Tribe have been bringing back the fur
49 industry through the CDQ group with Kwik-Pak and
50

1 they've been buying fur from the upper Koyukuk which
2 add an important element to the economy, bringing
3 trapping back and to us that's very important. Last
4 year they were paying good prices for martin. Last
5 year they were paying good prices for lynx. This year
6 they're paying good prices for wolf and wolverine.
7 Lynx are down, martin's down, but still, yet a guy can
8 go out there, a guy or girl can go out there and, you
9 know, do okay. But that's what I meant to say, Mr.
10 Chairman, that please keep the trappers in mind in
11 protecting our traditional way of life.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do. We keep
14 trappers in mind. So I feel that harvesting urbavors
15 and predators evens the, you know, that's the balance
16 of nature, taking it from both sides of the equation is
17 beneficial to all the resources that we utilize as
18 subsistence users.

19
20 Any other questions for PJ.

21
22 Tim.

23
24 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 Thanks for your testimony, PJ, it's really important
26 for our Council to hear your local use on the
27 resources. I just had a few questions.

28
29 So you're saying that for last year and
30 this year Kwik-Pak is buying all the fur or most of the
31 fur coming out of Allakaket?

32
33 MR. SIMON: Yes, for some of the
34 trappers and Grayling has been gracious and, you know,
35 we don't send quite a lot of fur, Mr. Gervais, but it's
36 an avenue for cash, yes, so it's an important item for
37 our economy, bringing back trapping.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: Okay, thank you. And
40 then you don't have to talk about this if it's not
41 appropriate, but I'd like the Council to know on how --
42 how common is den hunting for bears in the Allakaket,
43 Alatna, Hughes area?

44
45 MR. SIMON: It's quite common. That's
46 our power food that we use. Like I said earlier, moose
47 came into the valley, according to Sidney Huntington,
48 in 1937, the late Sidney Huntington, and before that
49 our food was bear and caribou. On cold days you make a
50

1 pot of soup and you use the bear -- the bear's always
2 been our power food, we call it, and it's an important
3 food source, whether we're using an ax or if you get
4 old enough, like my uncle said, sometimes you use a
5 snare. Long ago people didn't travel, they didn't have
6 the amenities of -- well, look at it this way, I left
7 Hughes at 1:00 o'clock the other day, at 10:30 I was in
8 Fairbanks, so to travel that far by truck and
9 snowmachine, it's the amenities of the modern world,
10 but back in camp, years ago, when people were living we
11 didn't have all of this. Bullets were scarce, people
12 used crude instruments to live, and that was life.
13 It's changed a little bit, maybe we use rifles and the
14 best practices and respecting the animals and the way
15 we live, it's important to us.

16
17 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. And then do you
18 feel -- do you have any concerns about this winter
19 trail road going from the Haul Road to Utiqiavik, does
20 that have any impact on your area?

21
22 MR. SIMON: Well, I would say maybe in
23 the future, that's of concern, the Western Arctic Herd,
24 Teshekpuk Herd and Central Arctic Herd, like our
25 Chairman says about noise, pollution, or fugitive dust
26 or whatever, you know, new invasive species coming off
27 of that, that would be a concern to me. But the
28 world's getting tough and it's going to cost somebody,
29 golly, you know, \$10,000 versus \$2,000 to ship a truck
30 to Barrow, I can't pronounce the other word, it's okay
31 with me I suppose. We're adapting like Orville said we
32 adapt and so does the animal.

33
34 MR. GERVAIS: All right, thank you
35 much.

36
37 MR. SIMON: And if I may, one more
38 thing, Mr. Chairman, on the Henshaw Creek weir. I
39 think that's an important asset to the Koyukuk River.
40 We have lows of salmon from 100,000 in the '90s, I
41 think a few years ago there was 365,000 chum, 15
42 percent of the whole Yukon River chum run but also that
43 data, everything is data driven. That had put the
44 brakes on the proposed road to Ambler, because with the
45 Yukon River Fish Commission a few years ago, when I was
46 with Tanana Chiefs Conference as a board of -- the
47 executive board, we went to St. Mary's, the elders
48 there, through Myron Naneng said keep an eye on the
49 spawning grounds of our salmon because 15 of every 100
50

1 salmon that passed St. Mary's were destined for the
2 Henshaw Creek. And to us that was very important. We
3 got to a low salmon count. We talked about using a
4 moist air incubator like the Tlingit-Haida have done in
5 the past and to revive the king salmon, or the chinook
6 in the SouthFork, the Jim, or the Henshaw Creek.
7

8 So we're always vigilant, we're always
9 keeping track. And I thank Orville Huntington for his
10 work on the Board of Fish, and my father, keeping the
11 issues of the Upper Koyukuk River. We're kind of a
12 long ways from people, which is a blessing and not so
13 much of a blessing if we want food and fuel and
14 resources. But keep the salmon in mind also.
15

16 Just general comments and thank you for
17 the opportunity for me to testify today in front of the
18 WIRAC.
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We appreciate your
21 comments.
22

23 You got a comment, Jenny.
24

25 MR. COLLINS: This is Ray.
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.
28

29 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, you touched on that
30 traditional bear harvest and I don't know if everybody
31 knows how important that harvest of bears is because in
32 this area before they could implement any predator
33 control they had to find out what was killing those
34 moose calves and the bears were a major component in
35 harvesting calves, some of them sit on those cows
36 almost waiting for them to drop their calf. So during
37 the first few weeks, most of that calf harvest of the
38 ones that are born are bears. Now, I know the wolves
39 hunt year-round and they have better opportunities in
40 the deep snow but sometimes we overlook the importance
41 of the bear harvest to keep the balance, especially for
42 calf survival.
43

44 Thank you.
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much, Ray.
47

48 Jenny.
49
50

1 MS. PELKOLA: PJ, I just want to thank
2 you for your comments. It goes to show that these
3 young people can still learn how to trap and how to,
4 you know, what you call that, you just said it, with
5 your rifles, with their rifles, what's that word, well,
6 anyway so they can hit the moose.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Sighting in their
9 rifles.

10
11 MS. PELKOLA: Sighting in their rifles.
12 I think it's very important.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes.

15
16 MS. PELKOLA: And I think in Galena
17 they do have a class there with the students every fall
18 or whenever. So I think maybe the schools can get
19 involved in that, if there was no one else to do it, or
20 just maybe an elder or someone knowledgeable like you,
21 or an elder person, to show these kids. Because I
22 notice that when the hunting season comes around a lot
23 of them are all excited, they want to get their first
24 moose or first whatever, and sometimes to me they seem
25 like they're too anxious and I don't know if their guns
26 are ready or what, but I think it's very important that
27 these little younger kids learn all about trapping and,
28 you know, and I think that these cultural camps that
29 TCC puts on is very important for our kids in our area
30 because they use a lot of the elders and people that
31 know, you know, how to survive off the land in their
32 classes.

33
34 So I just thank you for your comments.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks much, Jenny.

37
38 Tom.

39
40 MR. KRISKA: Thank you, PJ, for your
41 testimony there. It was great and good to see you and
42 I'm glad you came here.

43
44 There's a lot of good things that you
45 touched on here, one of the reasons I keep on trying
46 and kind of move on, trying to get into these boards
47 and all this other stuff to help our people, because a
48 lot of our people, like everyone else, have a hard time
49 to understand what's really happening to the whole
50

1 society, not only Native, but just everyone in Alaska.
2 And the big thing from what I see happening in this
3 last -- you said, 1974 there was a lot of moose, but
4 even back then there was a lot of us out there hunting
5 and there was moose all over. I remember there were
6 times when we were in Koyukuk, the big moose were up
7 around Huslia, above those areas, they were big moose,
8 that's where all the moose were. And now we're not
9 even going way up there anymore because what I think is
10 happening, and it's -- you know, this global warming
11 and all of this stuff, is a big part of everything
12 that's happening to us right now, and with all these
13 other obstacles that we have to put up with to live in
14 Alaska, our hunting and all these regulations, laws and
15 all of this other stuff, it's kind of hard to really
16 sustain our lifestyle and it's getting harder and it
17 seems like we're into a fight about things and we
18 shouldn't even be. I think the best thing to do, is
19 with all these people, all these agencies here, is to
20 listen to what you're saying, what I'm here for, what
21 we're all here for is trying to come up with these
22 ideas to, you know, sustain our way of life.

23
24 We're people too and it's -- I'm glad
25 you came here. Really glad you came here. It really
26 inspires me to go on and not to stop in what we're
27 doing here.

28
29 Hunter education, like sighting in the
30 guns, that's a big thing. Traditional values come from
31 our elders and there's a few comments, even Jack -- I
32 mean Ray mentioned about the elders, there's a lot
33 that, you know, we should have learned or we did learn
34 a lot of it but then right now we have very few elders,
35 which is hard to take, but it's happening and we're
36 going to turn into the elders and everything is
37 changing in this whole world. Not only in Alaska,
38 everywhere. Our fish. Our moose. The Eskimos over
39 there. And times are changing and we just have to
40 change with it and do the best and understand each
41 other a lot better.

42
43 And I'm glad you're here, that just
44 inspired me, and gave me all these thoughts for myself
45 to go on, so thank you very much.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
48 comments, Tom.

49
50

1 MR. SIMON: Yes, if I may, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, PJ.

4

5 MR. SIMON: Yes. One of the things, I
6 think, between this Board, you all know how we live,
7 the agencies can do better, I would say. And we, as
8 Native people, can do better to communicate, cross-
9 communication. If you look at our traditional
10 lifestyle, Mr. Chairman, as Athabascans, it's like 100-
11 sided guy. BLM will see three increments. Fish and
12 Wildlife will see 10. Gates of the Arctic will see 20.
13 But they won't see how we live and better we
14 communicate. And the better we get along, and like Mr.
15 Kriska says, you know, we all use the same resources,
16 there's good ways of all utilizing the renewable
17 resources. Look at Mike Spindler, retired manager for
18 Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, he single-handedly had
19 the idea to follow the greater white-fronted geese, the
20 demise of the geese from when I moved to Galena in
21 March 18th, 1991, we used to go hunting, there used to
22 be so much geese, thousands and thousands and thousands
23 of geese, we called Paradise Island below Galena, used
24 to love to go down there to hear the geese cackle all
25 night. Charlie Green and the boys, we'd all go down
26 there, David Billings, we would all hunt, Jeff Pelkola,
27 we used to go down there and hunt and all of a sudden
28 (makes sound) they were gone. So that baffled Western
29 science, and especially educated people like Mike
30 Spindler, so he decided on a project for the greater
31 white-fronted geese to implement satellite transmitters
32 on them and what he found out is the geese go from
33 Galena area over to Kotzebue but also Kanuti Refuge and
34 when they migrate south they take a 48 hour flight,
35 they will go to Saskatchewan, 30 percent mortality
36 there, but they were the first geese to arrive in
37 Saskatchewan for opening day for seven days, then
38 they'd go over to Nebraska, South Dakota, same thing,
39 and opening day, our Interior white-fronted geese would
40 be there, and then South Texas, Louisiana and also
41 Central Highlands of Mexico where there was no limits.
42 So Mr. Spindler with all his might and energy
43 transformed something through Western Science to
44 benefit the greater white-fronted geese population
45 Interior, and now we have a lot of geese where we've
46 never seen geese before. So things like that, I'm
47 grateful for Natives and non-Natives working together
48 for a good cause.

49

50

1 Just to bounce off of Ray's comments on
2 the black bear issue, I'd also like to say as
3 Athabaskan people, when we luck out out in the woods,
4 really I'm not supposed to talk about this until I'm
5 really old, but 47 is kind of getting close to there.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. SIMON: But it's a good important
10 bonding mechanism for our Native people. The old
11 elders of the village who cannot go out anymore, they
12 come up to our bear party. We start early in the
13 morning, we get the cotton wood, we get the big pots,
14 we get all the ingredients, we set up the table and
15 chairs in Allakaket, Alatna people come over too, and
16 we cook bear meat all day. We eat a whole bear in one
17 day. And there, the elders of the community, they get
18 to bond and tell stories with the kids and the children
19 and the young adults and tell them how things go, where
20 animals are certain times of the year, and it goes on
21 and on. We've been doing that for years. So that's
22 one of the important parts of our Athabaskan lifestyle,
23 is having a bear party. And it bonds the old and the
24 young. With so much TV now days, FaceBook and social
25 media, our social lives are changing like Mr. Kriska
26 says, those kind of things are keeping our Athabaskan
27 lifestyles alive, we're taught values and we're taught
28 rules. And we're taught a lot of other things.

29

30 So I just wanted to comment back to Ray
31 on that.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.
36 I think it's good for the audience and the people on
37 the phone and the people on the Council to hear about
38 those things, so appreciate you speaking, before your
39 age, but we.....

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But any further
44 comments for PJ.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
49 really appreciate all of your comments.

50

1 And we have Ben -- oh, Orville, you got
2 one more, I was going to have Ben come up also.

3
4 MR. HUNTINGTON: I just forgot to
5 mention that, you know, I know I know what PJ's talking
6 about, about bear party. There's a lot of things that
7 men do in our communities but I was taught healing with
8 plants and animals. And so there's a lot to bears
9 people don't understand. There's a lot of medicinal
10 properties they carry for Native people, well, anybody
11 who'd learn to eat them, I guess. But those medicinal
12 properties are the plants they eat, they don't work in
13 our body, our body doesn't process them, only the black
14 bears do, and that's why -- there's so few of them now,
15 they're not the same quality they were at one time.

16
17 When I was a little boy, they were
18 really rich, thick, fat, and a lot of medicine in it,
19 and I know my doctors keep telling me not to eat it,
20 but still I eat a little bit because people from Hughes
21 still want to take care of me. So I don't eat as much
22 as I used to but I respect what I was taught by the
23 people who taught me, you know, we heal with things
24 like big animal fat or black bear, and not just the
25 meat but everything that's in it, it's good for you
26 spiritually and physically and mentally.

27
28 And the other thing was, the bear study
29 that Ray talked about earlier, I forgot about that, it
30 was so long ago. It was my first day on the job when I
31 was with Fish and Wildlife Service and we were helping
32 them, I knew about it about 20 years before that
33 because my dad said go talk to Grandpa Edgar and so I
34 did and he told me where they were hanging out and why
35 they were there, and so when Osborne got that idea, we
36 already knew about it and we were just helping him
37 along and where to go to find what was killing moose
38 because we needed to know. You know, Dad and them were
39 good at it, Dad and uncle Don Stickman and then they --
40 well, they could fly and kill them so they got only the
41 ones that, you know, that they needed and there was a
42 lot of animosity toward them because, you know, people
43 are jealous, you know, even when you're trying to help
44 people, people get jealous of you helping, and I always
45 respected them for taking care of people. In 1993 when
46 that population peaked I could see that the habitat had
47 reached its limit with what we had there and like Tom
48 Kriska said, people just weren't going out to get them
49 like they used to, and it's hard, you know, that's why
50

1 we try to create programs and tribal management work,
2 you know, we can help people fund their activities to
3 keep going and getting predators and keep up those
4 traditions. I don't if anybody will teach after I'm
5 gone but a lot of the plants and animals that we heal
6 with, it's really important to our people and to our
7 culture.

8

9

That's all, thanks.

10

11

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
12 comments, Orville.

13

14

MR. KRISKA: Mr. Chair.

15

16

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

17

18

MR. KRISKA: Orville, I just kind of
19 spaced it -- well, I didn't space it last time. I just
20 really want to thank you for you being on the Board of
21 Fish and everything you do for our Native people and I
22 really respect that and you inspire me in a lot of ways
23 to keep going. I'm an outdoorsman and now I'm finding
24 myself sitting in different places, but a lot of it
25 goes back to you and your cousin Gilbert and them, PJ,
26 a lot of the late elders, a lot of those guys, I
27 respect people like you, even Ben back there, I'm
28 thankful for you guys otherwise I probably wouldn't
29 been out there having all the fun in the world and all
30 it's -- it's not going anywhere.

31

32

So thank you very much.

33

34

MR. HUNTINGTON: You know, it goes both
35 ways. We're really grateful for you and those hunters
36 that come and testify, you guys are really doing a good
37 job when you learn the system and how to support the
38 things that are helping your people. Like when you and
39 Arnold were testifying, I could just feel what you guys
40 were saying, you know, you guys were -- you would talk
41 and then he would talk, you guys are learning the
42 system and how to protect what we're doing, you know,
43 hunting, fishing, trapping. It's real important. And
44 I look forward to serving with you before I do
45 something else.

46

47

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
48 Orville. And I do appreciate your work on the Board of
49 Fish. You made a huge, huge difference for the

50

1 Interior of Alaska since you've been on that Board, and
2 really appreciate it.

3

4 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

7

8 MR. CHASE: This is Ken Chase down in
9 Anvik.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ken.

12

13 MR. CHASE: I have a question for
14 Orville if he's still available there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, he's here, go
17 ahead.

18

19 MR. CHASE: Yeah, Orville, this is Ken.
20 In absence of our representative down here for the
21 Board, we haven't had much contact here locally. But
22 my one concern here since you're on the Fish Board, or
23 were on the Fish Board, is the Anvik River. You talked
24 about the Henshaw Creek salmon and stuff, and Anvik
25 River, you know, has one of the -- probably one of the
26 biggest chum salmon spawning on the Yukon. And we used
27 to have a commercial opening here years ago but now
28 it's mostly back to subsistence, and it is a big
29 subsistence river for the Anvik area. But the State
30 has a weir there on the Anvik River and we haven't had
31 much contact with them, the State kind of been like
32 come in and do their thing and leave and we don't hear
33 too much, or have any interaction with them. I'm just
34 wondering if your position with Tanana Chiefs, if
35 there's any way that maybe we can get a co-management
36 thing with the Tanana Chiefs and the local, for this
37 type of a weir counting station, because I know the
38 State is running out of -- you know, it's low on funds
39 and they may even be closing it down, so I'm just kind
40 of looking forward to that, because it's still a big
41 subsistence river and we'd like to protect those chum
42 salmon on that river.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Orville.

45

46 MR. HUNTINGTON: Yeah, I think that's a
47 great point, Ken. I have a lot of concerns with that
48 river in particular since there's other ones along that
49 drainage and along those hills there, when I was a
50

1 little boy I'd always heard stories of how always snow
2 covered mountains stayed snow all summer long but now
3 when I fly down from Huslia and went to a meeting
4 there, there was like no snow anywhere and so I know
5 those rivers are having some changes going on, you
6 probably see it first. So I would say I could tie in
7 some of our climate change research and work with maybe
8 Anvik and Grayling Tribe and try to establish some kind
9 of monitoring system to watch these changes over time
10 to help the Board of Fish. It's not the first time it
11 would help the Board of Fish, the Yukon River Fish
12 Commission put in a lot of money to help people get to
13 AC meetings and train them and testify and I think we
14 could help the tribe back. I'll be looking at some
15 work this summer in Nulato, around that area and Huslia
16 and then I wanted to get down in that GASH area and
17 you've just given me an opportunity where I could
18 expand some of our research down into that area.

19
20 So I'll probably be working with you
21 and Fish and Wildlife Service and maybe whoever we
22 could partner with at the tribe there. It won't be
23 probably until fall, I think, but I'll look into it and
24 I'll try to -- I'll draft up some plans.

25
26 MR. CHASE: Okay, thanks.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Thanks,
29 Orville. I want to poll the audience here, I got Ben
30 in the back of the room, did you want to talk Sam --
31 did you want to talk to the Council.

32
33 MR. HENRY: Oh, yeah.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We'll pull up
36 Sampson Henry here. He used to be on the Koyukuk River
37 Advisory Committee, you were on this Council at one
38 point, weren't you, it seems like you were.

39
40 Go ahead.

41
42 MR. HENRY: Hi, I'm Sam Henry from
43 Allakaket. I know most everybody from here on the
44 Board.

45
46 And one of the comments I'd like to
47 make is I was looking at the agenda and it's supposed
48 to be on tomorrow I guess or whatever, maybe late
49 tonight, about comments about the proposed Ambler Road
50

1 and things like that. I'm against that. I'm really
2 opposed to the Ambler Road. And one of the things that
3 I'm concerned about is the road -- proposed road going
4 over king salmon spawning area, upper Henshaw. I
5 happened to go to a weir at Henshaw one time and then I
6 was told that the king salmon go right next to --
7 they're particularly where they spawn and then they go
8 right next to the mountain, that's the only place they
9 can spawn, at a certain depth of water, certain
10 temperature of water, then if you disturb that spawning
11 area and king salmon move someplace else and we can't
12 afford to lose that, it would change the eco-system
13 around that area if we happen to mess that area up for
14 their spawning.

15
16 And another thing I don't like about
17 it, is it's just, you know, the influx of hunters
18 that's supposed to be coming in, that will be coming in
19 on the proposed road, would be, you know, it's just
20 really, really terrible for us subsistence hunters.
21 Like right now I haven't had any kind of moose meat for
22 let's see about five years, five or six years, I'm kind
23 of blind in my left eye anyway so I can't hardly see,
24 but then couldn't get any moose, I have to go a heck of
25 a long ways from Allakaket to Huslia in order to see a
26 moose. For some reason the moose down around Huslia,
27 they're coming back to where the fat is about three or
28 four inches thick and whereas it used to be the same
29 thing up around Allakaket area, now you're lucky if you
30 can get about an inch and a half thick of fat up around
31 Allakaket. And it's just their food, I suppose, I
32 don't know what it is. But it could be the climate
33 change. Because all the lakes are drying up and then
34 their food, some of their food source is going away,
35 you know, on the lakes, there's plants and stuff and
36 down in the bottom of the lakes, what they like to eat,
37 and you could see them eating it in the summer when
38 they get fat -- before they get fat, you know, and then
39 they go up on the bar and they keep the top kippered
40 willows, you know, years and years ago when my
41 grandmother told me, you know, what to eat in an
42 emergency, you know, she said you see those moose
43 eating, I said, yeah, I never thought about it, but she
44 said right on the tips of the willows and the bar
45 willows, just the very tip of it, if you can get that
46 off and eat it it's sweet, so I tried it. It is.

47
48 And that's what moose like to eat, just
49 the tip of it. There's a lot of things that I
50

1 remember, you know, they were talking to us -- you
2 know, Orville and PJ was talking about traditional
3 values of something like bear, a black bear, you know,
4 I remember my Dad he was in his '80s and we went back,
5 Kanuti River, way back Kanuti River and I wanted to
6 shoot this one black bear but he told me, yeah, don't
7 shoot that black bear, the meat is good right now but
8 then not very much fat on it, let it go, look for it in
9 falltime when the fat's supposed to be really thick,
10 you know, and everything is good on it, and no need to
11 shoot it right now he told me, you know, so I started
12 listening to that. And then my grandmother, she used
13 to say when the meat is good, she said, boil it, boil
14 the meat and you get the nutrients -- she never said
15 nutrients, but she'd get this stuff from the bone, she
16 don't know what it was, but it's sort of like vitamins
17 and stuff like that now days, I suppose, the nutrients
18 from the bone, she said -- well, in our language she
19 said (in Native), you know, it's just really tasty, it
20 gets really tasty from the bone, and that's what she
21 meant, you know, it's really healthy.

22
23 Anyway I wanted to comment about
24 proposed Ambler Road, I'm really against that. Because
25 we're going to trade -- if we allow that road to go
26 through, you know, we're going to trade our way of life
27 just for a few dollars. Really, just for a few
28 dollars, that we'll never see. And our way of life is
29 just going to be nothing. What those people a long
30 time ago, what they said, you know, was really, really
31 true. You know if we don't have anything -- if we
32 don't have our land we don't have anything. You know
33 our people is not the only ones that said that, you
34 know, Native people down in the Lower 48, it's in all
35 the history books, that's what they said; without our
36 land we're nothing and that's really true, and that's
37 what's going to happen if we just don't say anything
38 about building -- they call it progress, you know, but
39 then I remember one time this evangelist, I forgot
40 what's his name, he was talking some place down in the
41 Lower 48 and he was talking on TV and he said I heard
42 something today -- that's what he said -- I heard
43 something today that stopping progress, caribou, he
44 said, caribou is stopping progress. The Native people
45 in Alaska want us to stop progress because of caribou.
46 And he kind of mentioned it to where it sounded like it
47 was nothing, you know. And to us that's just our way
48 of life. That kind of publicity I don't care too much
49 for.
50

1 Anyway, that's just about what I had to
2 say. I wanted to say some more but I forgot what it
3 was. And I'm kind of short of breath right now, not
4 feeling too good.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right.
7 Appreciate your comments, Sam, coming up here and
8 talking to us.

9
10 You have one comment there, Pollock.

11
12 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I wanted to make a
13 short comment. It'd be about hunting black bears in
14 the den. It's always been a Koyukon practice. We hunt
15 bears, black bears in the den in the fall time. And a
16 few years ago the State took it and tried to make it
17 legalized for people across the state to take bears in
18 the den but it's always been a Koyukon practice. We
19 respect the animals, take care of it good, and -- but
20 now there's not much black bears, I think grizzlies eat
21 a lot of them and a few years it's been cold in May and
22 no good berries so if a black bear goes into its den in
23 falltime with not much fat on it, then it goes through
24 winter, when the fall -- the black bears wouldn't
25 survive the winter if they don't go into their den with
26 a lot of fat on it. I just wanted to mention this,
27 it's been a Koyukon practice for hundreds of years, if
28 not thousands of years.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
33 comments, Pollock, appreciate that.

34
35 Ben Stevens, did you want to speak to
36 the Council.

37
38 MR. STEVENS: Good day, Mr. Chairman.
39 Congratulations on being elected and your slate of
40 officers.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you.

43
44 MR. STEVENS: And thank you for
45 allowing me the opportunity to chat with you.

46
47 First off let me say, thank you, (in
48 Native) for coming out away from your homes to help us
49 navigate some of these complicated issues here.

50

1 For those that may not know me, again,
2 my name is Ben Stevens, I'm from Stevens Village, which
3 is north of here on the Yukon River, I am Koyukon,
4 Athabaskan, I grew up in the village. Almost every
5 summer was at fish camp, above Stevens Village, where
6 my family harvested mainly chinook for the winter. Our
7 family's fish camp fed up to seven families for the
8 entire winter at one time. These days it doesn't do so
9 well. We're hoping for better times.

10

11 Anyway, again, I want to thank you for
12 a brief moment here to chat with you.

13

14 I want to bring up a couple of
15 different points that are slightly different than our
16 previous speakers.

17

18 One is that my day job is working with
19 the hunting and fishing task force at the Tanana Chiefs
20 Conference. The primary purpose is to advocate -- help
21 advocate for our people's hunting and fishing rights
22 and opportunity. That means a number of really
23 different things, but basically it boils down to
24 wherever our people's food is, a matter of the
25 discussion, we should have our people there. Moreover,
26 they should be part of the discussion, they should be
27 at this microphone, even better they should be behind
28 the desk with you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have an open
31 seat, we've got one.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. STEVENS: Exactly.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got one.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. STEVENS: You need more qualified
42 folks than me. But I, you know, on that point, Mr.
43 Chairman, I really do appreciate Pollock, you guys
44 coming out of your homes, gentle fellows, Chief
45 Pelkola, you know, I mean you folks do a tremendous
46 amount for our folks.

47

48 Tim, I don't necessarily know exactly
49 where you -- where you live, but maybe you can give me

50

1 a brief moment to tell me, where is that at?

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: I moved to Ruby in '96.

4

5 MR. STEVENS: Okay.

6

7 MR. GERVAIS: And I live there all the
8 time until 2011, and then -- but prior to that I was --
9 after the king salmon runs had failed I started working
10 down on the coast in the summer and I was fishing
11 Bristol Bay from about 2000 and I still fish Bristol
12 Bay, and then in 2012 I bought a boat for fishing in
13 the Gulf of Alaska, so now I'm spending somewhere
14 around five months a year fishing Chignik and sometimes
15 Kodiak, sometimes Area M. So I'm not -- even though
16 Ruby is my residence, I'm not there all the time. And
17 then still active with Ruby Advisory Committee. And
18 then I got married in '09 and we're working through
19 some issues as a family on trying to get our kids in
20 Ruby school this fall and we're trying to work things
21 out on what's the appropriate place for our children to
22 be. So right now I have this mixed life where I have
23 my documented residence in Ruby but I'm spending half
24 the year fishing out of Chignik and Kodiak.

25

26 MR. STEVENS: That's great. Mr.
27 Chairman, I apologize for asking a question of your
28 Board. But I look forward to getting to know you
29 better, Tim, because I work with the North Pacific
30 Fisheries Management Council on a lot of marine issues
31 and so getting to know you might help expand my world.

32

33 Anyway, let me get to my two points
34 briefly.

35

36 Mr. Chairman, the first thing is that
37 part of the task force, part of the strategy is, how
38 can our folks learn your language, the language of
39 regulations. The language of the statutes, because
40 that's a different language and that, I believe, has
41 been a barrier for a lot of folks coming to these types
42 of forums. Because you don't walk into a meeting where
43 they're speaking some different language and sit there
44 all day, that's just not normal. So we're very, very
45 diligently trying to teach our folks to better
46 understand this new language.

47

48 Secondly, part of building that
49 capacity and affording our folks, and you, just a

50

1 little bit more capability is we're also shaking the
2 branches to try to get potential candidates for your
3 Board, for your body, and getting folks out of the
4 village, out of, you know, the deep snow and the fish
5 camps and off the river and so forth to sit down for
6 days on end in a situation like this where
7 comprehension is a challenge, that, in itself, is a
8 huge, huge deal. But we have done, I think a
9 considerable amount of getting folks to training
10 sessions and to apply for seats on panels, commissions,
11 councils, committees, anywhere where there is a
12 discussion about the foods that they eat. And so I
13 want to make sure that we are communicating as much as
14 possible as that process evolves.

15
16 My concern here, sir, is that we can do
17 a tremendous amount of the side, bringing our folks
18 into Fairbanks, getting our folks to apply to these
19 RACs but then once it goes into your shop, we tend to
20 find that -- we've heard it described as a black hole,
21 we submit applications and they go -- and it somehow
22 gets lost between Alaska and DC., and so like last
23 year, I believe we heard that you folks received a
24 record number of applications for the RACs, Western and
25 Eastern, and the success rate was horrifyingly
26 disturbing. And so all those folks, they turn around
27 and they look at me, and they said, you know, Ben, we
28 did everything that we were supposed to, I mean we went
29 through the training sessions, we applied, we did all
30 that stuff and then nothing, and then maybe one person
31 was assigned a seat. And so now when we do that same
32 thing, all these same folks that you desperately need
33 to hear from are turning to me and they're flipping me
34 off. And so when you folks start looking for
35 candidates to apply for positions on boards and
36 commissions and so forth, we have to keep that in mind,
37 that we can bring them up but somehow there's a hole
38 there in the trail or something, or a road block or
39 something's going on there. And maybe it applies to
40 some of the things that's going on with the
41 establishment. If folks are having a hard time like
42 hiring people, maybe that's a weakness that maybe a
43 partner organization might have the strength to be able
44 to help. We're definitely at a time for partnering,
45 for creating these strategic alliances, I think, Mr.
46 Chairman, there's a tremendous amount of potential for
47 a lot of us to do well here.

48
49
50

Those are my two points, sir, and I

1 will sit here and answer questions if there are, if
2 there are not, I will thank you for listening to me and
3 for the invite.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I really appreciate
6 your comments, especially on this Council appointment
7 process.

8

9 We need, desperately need a Council
10 member from the lower portion of our Council region and
11 the Kuskokwim River. We lost Dennis Thomas and so we
12 need a Council member really bad. We got Ray in the
13 upper river, we don't have anybody -- if you got some
14 -- I'm frustrated when we had Darrel Vent on our
15 Council as Vice Chair and he was passed over, I was
16 baffled by that. I have no idea how that even
17 happened.

18

19 Politics in Washington DC maybe put D
20 on his card, how do I know what happened to him, but
21 I'm really concerned about politics entering into the
22 vetting process of the Federal Subsistence Program for
23 these Council seats.

24

25 We need to have knowledgeable Council
26 members on this Council.

27

28 Darrel says I was passed over, I said,
29 Darrel reapply again, we need to have people who have
30 knowledge of the -- and he's been to the tribal -- he's
31 on the tribal task force, and so he's been on this
32 Council, he's been trained by you, we need to have
33 people like Darrel, and we need somebody desperately
34 from the lower Kuskokwim right now. And so we've had
35 -- we got a gap and so we rely heavily on Ray's
36 knowledge of the Kuskokwim, but we need another Council
37 member from there. If you have a candidate and if
38 you're familiar with candidates of that -- from around
39 Aniak on up the drainage, in that area, we need a
40 candidate, that would be highly appreciated if you
41 could try to get one to apply and help them with their
42 applications. Are you helping them with their
43 applications?

44

45 MR. STEVENS: Trying to the extent that
46 we can.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

49

50

1 MR. STEVENS: It's -- we found a couple
2 of different areas where the process gets a little
3 shaky. When the resources -- when the Feds call, for
4 example, the references, for some of these RACs, some
5 of those questions are not necessarily, they're not
6 conducive to finding out the true nature of -- I
7 believe what the Feds are looking for in a person like
8 that. And so I just went through one of those and I
9 knew the person that they were talking about but the
10 question that was asked of me made me answer in a way
11 that did not necessarily reflect kindly upon that
12 person, even though that person was the kind of person
13 that you need sitting at this table. And so when we
14 talk about the whole system, I think we've got to do a
15 lot more than just take a look at one small aspect of
16 it.

17
18 The subsistence review, back in
19 2010-ish, that immediately comes to mind, the resulting
20 reports, the progress, these, I think, are things that
21 may need to be revisited, I don't know, I'm just saying
22 that the task force is here to help you in any way that
23 we can.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I appreciate
26 that.

27
28 Jenny.

29
30 MS. PELKOLA: Ben, I think you're doing
31 a great job. I know you work very hard with the
32 hunting and fishing task force. I was also
33 disappointed that Darrel didn't get reappointed. And
34 like Jack said, we really need reps from like we had
35 one from the GASH area, and now we don't have any from
36 that area, and then we lost Dennis who was -- wherever
37 he was from.

38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Crooked Creek.

40
41 MS. PELKOLA: Crooked Creek. So that
42 way we get to know their needs, whatever, you know, the
43 issues that they have down there. And we're all mostly
44 up from upper river and we know our area, and when we
45 have a mixed board, I think we can work through issues
46 more smoothly and we know the issues.

47
48 But I think you're doing a great job.
49 And I always wanted to go to your class but every time
50

1 you have a class, I'm at another meeting, so one of
2 these days I'll make it.

3

4 MR. STEVENS: Thank you. Thank you
5 very much Chief.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Any
8 other.

9

10 Tim.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank
13 you, Ben, for bringing that up. As an active member of
14 this Council I don't get involved with any of the
15 recruitment decisions or what not, and I don't know who
16 does that, but could somebody who's familiar with the
17 process speak to that issue and like is there really
18 like a record number of applicants and nobody's getting
19 selected and what's -- I don't understand why.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'll defer to Karen,
22 she's -- that portion of it, we have no -- the Council,
23 other than I find people, like put your application in,
24 we have nothing to do with the vetting process. We
25 have nothing to do with the selection process.

26

27 Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 As Jack said the first process is to go out and recruit
31 applicants. And there were a record number of
32 applicants, not this go around, but certainly the last
33 go around. What happens when we receive the
34 applications, we setup panels of reviewers that are
35 largely people from the Federal agencies and they are
36 assigned applicants, they review their applications,
37 they contact references as you referred to, and they
38 type up a review on that candidate based on criteria
39 that we have setup for qualifications to serve on the
40 Council.

41

42 From that place, it goes to a process
43 that ends up at the Federal Subsistence Board and the
44 Board will send a completed slate of candidates to the
45 -- I'm not sure what the title is these days, but the
46 special assistant secretary to the Interior of Alaska
47 is what it used to be. That person also reviews the
48 applications and from there it goes to the Department
49 of Interior, Secretary of the Interior. From that

50

1 process they do a background check. That is done on
2 any appointee or any Federal employee and through that
3 some individuals are removed as potential candidates.
4 There are, as Jack alluded, certainly politically
5 reasons for why some candidates -- I'm going to be up
6 front -- are not selected or reappointed. We had a
7 huge slate that were not reappointed from that last
8 round. Yukon Delta lost a number of candidates. As a
9 Federal agency we are not permitted to find out the
10 reasons for that, but I will say on the record that any
11 candidate who was not selected certainly has the right
12 to contact the Department of Interior and ask why.
13 What -- why they were not either reappointed to the
14 Council or whether they were not appointed to the
15 Council, if their name was sent forth by our office.

16
17 And so that's the process. It's quite
18 complex.

19
20 As far as the reference questions, we
21 are consistently reviewing the process for looking at
22 whether we are asking the correct questions, not only
23 of the applicants, but of references, and we would
24 certainly invite any input on that. We can review
25 those forms, we can resend them in to get them approved
26 by the Department of Interior to make sure we're asking
27 the correct questions to get the information we need
28 for qualified candidates.

29
30 I see that Tom Doolittle has come up to
31 go ahead and clarify or say additional information
32 about this process.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Before you begin,
37 Tom, what I would like to see is that the candidates
38 who submitted applications be notified one way or the
39 other. Sometimes we don't know what happens.

40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 My understanding is that all candidates are notified.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I've had candidates
45 tell me they weren't notified. I'm not sure why.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: They may not have been
48 notified this session. What happened is generally
49 there's a deadline of December 2nd for appointment
50

1 letters. The previous Administration actually did a
2 pretty good job of meeting that deadline. The current
3 Administration coupled with the shutdown held up that
4 process and letters, as you all know, and Jenny in
5 particular, only went out recently, in fact we just got
6 the letters a few days before we were making travel to
7 get new Council members to be able to come to Council
8 meetings, which is quite an extensive on boarding
9 process for travel so those were just recently sent out
10 and some people had not even received them yet.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Tom.

13

14 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, Mr. Chair. For
15 the record, Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional
16 Director for the Federal Office of Subsistence
17 Management.

18

19 What Karen has stated to you, relative
20 to part of the process, relative to panel review, you
21 know, up to going to the senior advisor for the State
22 of Alaska, as an advisor to the Secretary of Interior
23 and then going into the vetting process through the
24 White House liaison, and the vetting process, again, as
25 you know, and as OSM knows is that there is no, you
26 know, justification given back, you know, from the
27 Department or others on that. It would be pure
28 conjecture that there would be any political
29 motivations behind any decisions at all, background
30 checks are fairly uniform. And that I want to make
31 sure it stands corrected for the record, as well, is
32 that we do not know, you know, the exact outcomes of
33 the vetting process, because we're not privy relative
34 to the confidentiality of the entire process. And so I
35 want to make sure that that's correction is clear for
36 the record.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I want it clear for
39 the Council, the Federal Subsistence Board selects
40 candidates, sends it to the special envoy for the
41 Secretary of Interior, at that point can that person
42 nix that appointment and the Federal Board doesn't know
43 it and it continues on for a decline or what?

44

45 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, there is no
46 information provided beyond the point, you know, after
47 the vetting process is done. So no one at OSM, none of
48 the Board members know specifics and then it's kept as
49 a confidential process, and it has been, not just with
50

1 this Administration, but also in previous
2 Administrations as well.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: If there's, you
5 know, a background check comes up and the person's not
6 selected, is there only one candidate, does the Federal
7 Board pick a couple, have a couple open for the
8 Secretary's office?

9
10 MR. DOOLITTLE: Our goal would be to
11 have enough candidates, you know, for a given Council
12 that there would be alternates. So if you were -- if
13 somebody left for some reason, or in the case of, you
14 know, in this particular Council, a tragedy, that we
15 would hope that there would be enough depth in the
16 application and people previously vetted that you could
17 be able to, you know, place an alternate in that
18 person, and I think that that's a goal.

19
20 And so really the recruitment process,
21 which this year, I was told is that we've had 63
22 nominees, you know, so for this coming cycle, which is
23 good, it shows the depth of interest on being Regional
24 Advisory Councils statewide, but still it really comes
25 down to, you know, hitting the street, taking concerns
26 that we've heard in testimony to really try to get more
27 involvement in the geographic region. So I share that
28 responsibility along with the Councils to make sure
29 that we reach out, and we reach out with those
30 communities as well. This is a very important thing,
31 is to have the geographic depth and the depth and
32 knowledge of resource use throughout the region, which
33 is bigger than the state of New Jersey, probably bigger
34 than the state of Wyoming, really, when we take a look
35 at it. So it's a substantial area.

36
37 So always room for improvement, Mr.
38 Chair, and Council members. And part of the process is
39 we have control over and part of it we don't.

40
41 Thank you, sir.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this point I'm
44 unclear. We talked about alternates for the Councils
45 and are we at a point where we have alternates in the
46 nomination process?

47
48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Apparently there was a process in the past where
50

1 alternates were selected to fill open seats and that
2 went away. I understand that Carl Johnson, who has
3 recently left the OSM met with the special assistant to
4 the Secretary, which I know is a different title, and
5 that they are very open to bringing back that process,
6 so that we make sure that we have full Councils if
7 there's a change.

8
9 I do want to state that I'm sorry if I
10 gave the impression that we have knowledge at OSM or
11 any other Federal agency of why a candidate was not
12 selected at the Department of Interior, however, I do
13 know, working with volunteers, which you all are
14 considered volunteers, that you do have the right as a
15 candidate to contact the Department of Interior, or the
16 Office of Personnel Management to see if there's any
17 reason why you were not selected based on your
18 background or vetting check. And I've had that happen
19 before with volunteers.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: This Council
24 commented on the alternates and wanted the alternate
25 system and then it went away, how does it go away? The
26 process should have maintained the alternate system
27 because this is exactly what we got, we got an open
28 seat here. So we need -- if it went away, who made it
29 go away and it should be reinstated.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, through the
32 Chair. Definitely we can take a look into why that
33 went away. I know that there wasn't a conscious
34 decision between Gene or I to see that particular
35 process go away so what we'll do on behalf of the
36 Council is to make sure that we address that question
37 because obviously it's a mechanism that not just serves
38 this Council but all Councils statewide, is to have
39 depth in the process. And some of it has been is that
40 there had not been enough, you know, nominations from a
41 given Council where there wasn't, you know, a number of
42 people that were extras that were vetted. But, again,
43 as a fail-safe it's obvious for basic function that
44 that needs to continue, so your voice is well heard.

45
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that.

49
50

1 Any further questions or comments.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Jack.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

6

7 MR. COLLINS: Excuse me. I'm having
8 trouble hearing the Council members when they speak,
9 either they're not close to their mic or something.
10 The ones that are testifying from the Department I can
11 hear that fine, loud and clear. But even your comments
12 are getting weaker.

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I've been
15 fairly close to my mic here, but I'll have you pull
16 your mics up a little closer to your face when you
17 speak into the mics so Ray can hear you.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, I appreciate
22 that, Ray, because I've been on that end of the phone
23 and it gets really, really super hard to hear people
24 sometimes.

25

26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You have a question
29 for Ben, Ray?

30

31 MR. COLLINS: No, I didn't have a
32 question but I just -- I can't hear the questions from
33 the other members.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, sorry about
36 that. Just interrupt us at any time if you're not
37 hearing us, okay.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. Any
42 final comments, Ben.

43

44 MR. STEVENS: Just thank you and my
45 (indiscernible - not using microphone)

46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right,
48 appreciate that. And do we have anybody else here for
49 public comments on non-agenda items.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't see anybody.
4 So it's a quarter after 12:00, how long should we break
5 for lunch -- Karen.

6

7 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. That's up
8 to the Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think people
11 would like probably an hour, so 15 after 1:00, return
12 on the record, so we'll recess until 1:15.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm going to call
19 the meeting back to order because we need to be
20 rolling. So we're missing a couple Council members but
21 we have Ray on the phone and we have five members here
22 and we have to kind of keep this meeting rolling. And
23 so it's almost 1:30 now.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So old business.
28 We're moving into the old business on the agenda.
29 Wildlife closure review, but first we have time
30 constraints for this meeting. Do you want to go into
31 those time constraints for our schedule with this room
32 here.

33

34 Karen.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
37 Tomorrow we need to vacate this room by 4:00 o'clock.
38 So Jack has recommended that we continue the meeting a
39 little later after 5:00 o'clock this evening to
40 complete some of the agenda items. And then tomorrow
41 morning first thing the Bureau of Land Management will
42 starting their presentations, they have a number of
43 issues that are important to the Council. And so
44 that's the proposal right now.

45

46 What we'd like to ask if there's agency
47 people that could be available for their reports later
48 this evening, we'd really appreciate you hanging around
49 and giving those reports.

50

1 Thanks so much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then we have
4 additional people that have arrived and so if you've
5 arrived after we started here I'd like to have people
6 that are present in the back of the room, so Caroline,
7 go ahead.

8

9 MS. BROWN: I'm Caroline Brown. I'm
10 the regional coordinator manager for the Division of
11 Subsistence for Fish and Game here in Fairbanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead.

14

15 MS. MILLION: Hi, I'm Bonnie Million,
16 I'm the field manager for the BLMs Anchorage Field
17 Office. I'm going to be giving the presentation
18 tomorrow about the Bering Sea Western Interior Resource
19 Management Plan which is currently out for public
20 comment. I did want to give a little plug, I will be
21 hanging around all day today and all day tomorrow and I
22 brought a whole bunch of very large maps with me and
23 I've got some little summary sheets as well for the
24 Council members. So if anybody has any initial
25 questions, I don't know if folks have had a chance to
26 check out the lovely document that's on line, but I'm
27 around all day and tomorrow and I'm more than happy to
28 answer any questions.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
31 that Bonnie.

32

33 Anybody else.

34

35 MR. STOUT: Glenn Stout. Galena area
36 biologist for Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Glenn.

39

40 MS. LONGSUM: Hi. I'm Sara Longsum,
41 I'm with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as the
42 assistant area biologist (no microphone).

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think that's
45 everybody that I have seen come in.

46

47 So, okay, moving on the -- go ahead,
48 Karen.

49

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Chair. One more quick announcement, if you
3 wouldn't mind signing into the sign-in sheet at the
4 front door, we'd really appreciate it if you haven't
5 done so already.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we do have
10 new business No. 11, wildlife closure review. And the
11 first one is WCR18-20 moose in Unit 24, and that would
12 be on Page 5 of our book here.

13
14 Go ahead, Lisa.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
17 before I start presenting the individual closure
18 reviews we have an update to the closure review policy
19 and I believe Greg was going to -- where's Greg?

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. KENNER: He went to lunch late.

24
25 MS. MAAS: Okay. Well, Greg was going
26 to give it, it's just something I need to read, so I
27 could read it but I was told that the leadership team
28 member was supposed to read it.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hum.

31
32 MS. MAAS: So if he's not here then
33 perhaps I can just read it.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Okay. And, again, this is
40 an update to the Federal Subsistence Board's closure
41 policy and so I'm going to read what I'm supposed to
42 read and then if it doesn't make sense feel free to ask
43 questions and I can answer them.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. MAAS: So at the February 2018
48 Federal Subsistence Board work session, OSM Staff
49 recommended revisions to the Federal Subsistence

50

1 Board's closure policy in order to more accurately
2 track and implement existing wildlife and fisheries
3 closures in future years.
4

5 As a result, the Board approved changes
6 to the policy to allow for review of half of all
7 closure reviews on a staggered four year cycle with the
8 other half being reviewed the following years.
9

10 Even years for wildlife.
11

12 Odd years for fisheries.
13

14 Upon further review of this closure
15 policy OSM Staff believed additional.....
16

17 (Teleconference interference -
18 participants not muted)
19

20 REPORTER: Go ahead, Lisa.
21

22 MS. MAAS: Okay.
23

24 OSM Staff believed additional
25 clarification was needed prompting discussion with the
26 DOI solicitor with regard to the Federal Subsistence
27 Board action on closure reviews. The solicitor and OSM
28 Staff clarified that the FSB closure policy intends
29 that the Federal Subsistence Board take final action on
30 closure review analysis during its wildlife and fishery
31 regulatory meetings. Closure review analysis are to be
32 addressed by Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and
33 the Federal Subsistence Board in the same manner as
34 regulatory proposals, therefore deference to Council
35 recommendations will apply when the Board takes final
36 action on closure reviews.
37

38 Closure reviews are treated the same as
39 regulatory proposals to retain, modify or rescind
40 individual closures. Similarly the InterAgency Staff
41 Committee and the State of Alaska will be asked to
42 submit comments to the Board on closure review
43 analysis. Follow-up proposals from the Councils to
44 request that an existing closure be modified or
45 rescinded will no longer be required as part of the
46 closure review process.
47

48 At this time wildlife Staff are
49 presenting the first round of wildlife closure reviews
50

1 to the affected Councils seeking their recommendations.

2

3 These closure review analysis will be
4 presented for Board action at the April 2020 wildlife
5 regulatory meeting. Deference will apply to these
6 closure review analysis like any other regulatory
7 proposal.

8

9 Closure reviews will be brought back to
10 the relevant Councils during the fall 2019 meeting
11 cycle so that Council's can revisit their original
12 recommendations and in case there is any relevant,
13 updated biological and/or socio-culture information.

14

15 So, thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

18

19 And when the leadership team arrives
20 they -- or if we have any further questions on that
21 closure review they can fill us in on that, but we'll
22 go through your review first for this.

23

24 MS. MAAS: Sure. And just to sum up
25 the main differences that before closure reviews were
26 presented to the Council and that was it. The Council
27 decided whether or not to submit a proposal but now all
28 closure reviews are going to be reviewed by the Board.
29 So these closure reviews will.....

30

31 MS. KENNER: The Council and the Board.
32 Sorry.

33

34 MS. MAAS: And so these closure reviews
35 will come back again at the fall 2019 meeting. And
36 we're going through a change in the process so it might
37 be a little like -- some things might seem a little
38 redundant but it just what happens when things change.

39

40 So I'll get on with the WCR18-20. And
41 I just have a handout to pass out with a couple of
42 corrections.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, go ahead.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49 Members of the Council. For the record my name is Lisa

50

1 Maas and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of
2 Subsistence Management. I will be presenting a summary
3 of the analysis for Wildlife Closure Review 18-20,
4 which begins on Page 5 of your Council meeting book.
5

6 Wildlife Closure Review 18-20 pertains
7 to the closure of moose hunting in the Kanuti
8 Controlled Use Area in Unit 24 to non-Federally-
9 qualified users. The closure area is depicted in Map 1
10 on Page 5. The Kanuti Controlled Use Area is closed to
11 aircraft for moose hunting purposes under both State
12 and Federal regulations. The Board closed the Kanuti
13 CUA, controlled use area, to moose hunting by non-
14 Federally-qualified users in 1992 because subsistence
15 needs were not being met and because harvest met or
16 exceeded the harvestable surplus. Since 1999 the moose
17 population within the Kanuti CUA has appeared stable.
18 Between 1999 and 2017 densities ranged from .2 to .48
19 moose per square mile, which is typical for Interior
20 Alaska moose populations that are limited by predation.
21 Bull/cow ratios have been consistently high ranging
22 from 51 to 75 bulls per 100 cows, indicating bulls are
23 not being overharvested. Since 2004 calf/cow ratios
24 have exceeded 30 calves per 100 cows suggesting
25 adequate productivity for population growth.
26

27 The Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan
28 prescribes a conservative harvest rate of five percent
29 for the Kanuti Controlled Use Area moose population.
30 This translates to an estimated 65 moose based on 2017
31 population estimates. Since Federal lands within the
32 Kanuti CUA are closed to non-Federally-qualified
33 hunters, all harvest is by Federally-qualified
34 subsistence users mostly by residents of Allakaket,
35 Alatna, Bettles and Evansville. However, before the
36 closure in 1992 local residents still accounted for the
37 majority of moose harvest from the Kanuti CUA due to
38 aircraft restrictions. Between 2006 and 2017 moose
39 harvest by Federal registration permit in Unit 24B
40 range from zero to 5 moose per year. Over the same
41 time period area, reported moose harvest under State
42 regulations average 34.5 moose per year. However,
43 unreported harvest in Unit 24 is significant. Between
44 1997 and 2002 unreported harvest rates for Unit 24
45 residents were estimated at 76 percent.
46

47 OSM's recommendation is to modify the
48 closure.
49
50

1 Biologically the closure no longer
2 seems warranted due to very high bull/cow ratios.
3 Calf/cow ratios have also been high in recent years and
4 the aircraft restrictions would still limit access by
5 non-Federally-qualified users. However, whether or not
6 the closure remains warranted for continuation of
7 subsistence uses is not clear as extremely high
8 unreported harvest rates preclude accurate harvest
9 information. It is unknown whether or not subsistence
10 needs are being met although high bull/cow ratios
11 indicate bulls are available for harvest although
12 hunting success rates are low.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 I'd be happy to answer any questions.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Lisa.
19 Questions on the proposal. Is the Council aware of
20 where we're going with this.

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council member
25 comments.

26
27 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, who's
30 this?

31
32 MR. HONEA: This is Don.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don, go ahead.

35
36 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just have a
37 question for Lisa. I realize, I mean these things
38 always kind of confuse me, these -- I'm looking at the
39 current Federal regulations, is this something that,
40 Lisa, you are doing on a year to year basis, I mean, is
41 there something -- is this new?

42
43 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair. Thanks,
44 Don, for that question. So these closure reviews, we
45 do every four years now. So this closure was
46 implemented in 1992, I believe, and it was the Federal
47 Subsistence Board's policy that we review these
48 closures every four years. So this wasn't a proposal,
49 it's just something we do every four years.
50

1 Hopefully that makes sense.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Okay, yeah, that does make
4 sense. I appreciate that.

5

6 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, Don, didn't
9 know you were on the phone. Are you going to try
10 to.....

11

12 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just got on this
13 afternoon here, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The question was,
16 are you not going to be able to fly now and you're
17 going to attend by phone?

18

19 MR. HONEA: Well, you know, I mean if
20 there was arrangements, if I could come down there in
21 the morning, I mean that's a very good question. I
22 would like to pose that to Karen. Is that -- does it
23 make a difference if I come in in the morning and only
24 make a half a day.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With all that travel
27 it'd probably be advantageous just to stay on the phone
28 because we're going to go over a whole bunch of BLM
29 stuff in the morning and if you can't travel today,
30 then it'd probably be advantageous just to stay home
31 and stay on the phone. That'd be my opinion but
32 Karen.....

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, well, that's --
35 that's a very good opinion, I mean I appreciate that,
36 but I would like Karen to give me a call after the
37 meeting here this evening to discuss this.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen answer the
42 question.

43

44 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Through
45 the Chair. Don, what I would recommend, I think, is
46 the same as the Chair, is to stay on the phone, and I
47 think the main reason for that is because the meeting
48 has to end tomorrow at 4:00 o'clock so we're going to
49 have an early ending to the meeting so there's going to

50

1 be even less time for you if you're only able to be
2 here for a half a day. Would that work out okay for
3 you, number 1.

4
5 And, number 2, do you have all the
6 materials that you need in order to participate by
7 phone.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I just got this like
12 a couple days ago, or yesterday or something through
13 the mail. So, snail mail, it actually came in and I
14 got it in front of me. I can't promise that I will be
15 on the phone in the morning, I mean, you know, because
16 it's really hard to do this by phone. But I'll
17 continue to stay here as long as I can.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought -- what we
20 thought you were going to get on an airplane this
21 morning and were going to be here like this afternoon,
22 that's what we were thinking.

23
24 MR. HONEA: Yeah, well, again -- again,
25 I don't really know the protocol for that, whether --
26 because I called up, I wasn't on the manifest for
27 Wright's Air this morning even though they cancelled, I
28 would have paid my own way and maybe I would have got
29 reimbursed from you guys. I mean it's always been kind
30 of unclear as to the travel here. I'm sure you guys
31 would pick it up if I -- but I wasn't on the manifest
32 and that's okay because there's no flights today.

33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, understand
35 that.

36
37 MR. HONEA: So I will just continue --
38 and if I call in in the morning I will.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Karen.

41
42 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Through
43 the Chair. Don, yes, there were attempts to get you on
44 that flight this morning but as you said there were no
45 flights out of there this morning because we were asked
46 if you were going to return on the same flight that you
47 were originally scheduled on. So it seems to me
48 there's just a lot of difficulty right now getting in
49 and out of Ruby.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HONEA: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Glad to hear
6 you're on the phone though, Don.

7

8 MR. HONEA: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we went over this
11 review of the closure which has been in place for quite
12 some time. And so we're going to move through this as
13 a proposal, and so I'll use the back of my card here.

14

15 Introduction of the proposal.

16

17 Report on the Board's consultation.

18

19 Was there any tribal consultation on this proposal?

20

21 MS. MAAS: Yeah, thanks, through the
22 Chair. So in the future these will be treated as
23 proposal so at the fall meeting we'll have comments
24 from ADF&G and potentially the tribe, potentially ISC
25 comments but right now we don't have any of those. So
26 we're still asking the Council to make a recommendation
27 on this closure review but you'll see it again in the
28 fall.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: All right. So I was
30 unclear about that.

31

32 MS. MAAS: Yeah, it's a change.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're going to
35 review the data and we're really concerned about this
36 moose population right this minute because we got
37 literally five feet of snow in Allakaket and we're
38 losing calves right this second, and yearlings, and
39 adult moose so we don't know what's going on with this
40 moose population until the hunters are able to go out
41 this fall and find out then we'll have a better form
42 our basis to comment on as to the spring timing and a
43 whole bunch of factors that will lead to what the end
44 results of their mortality. We are going to have
45 mortality this year.

46

47 So where does the Council want to go
48 with this proposal. Do we want to -- at this point
49 would the Council be inclined to maintain the closure

50

1 until we get a better feel for the moose population at
2 our fall meeting.

3

4 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

5

6 MR. HONEA: I would entertain a motion
7 to do that.

8

9 MS. PELKOLA: I second.

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We have a motion by
12 Don, seconded by Jenny.

13

14 Further discussion on this closure
15 review.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, this is Ray.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: I think we ought to take
22 a conservative stand and, yeah, oppose any changes in
23 it for now.

24

25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

26

27 MR. COLLINS: Since it's four years
28 since it can change again, we don't know what the
29 weather's going to be -- if it's going to keep getting
30 deep snow or what's going to happen here in the next
31 few years. I would be in favor of continuing a
32 closure.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. The other
35 thing is the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee met in
36 Allakaket in December, and we heard a lot of testimony
37 about there were only nine moose killed. One was
38 killed in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and only
39 eight were killed locally. And people were having a
40 hard time getting moose because of the warmer falls,
41 the moose were back in the hills and weren't really
42 moving until like 18th, 20th of September, after they
43 had burned off a lot of fuel trying to find these
44 moose. So the current harvest for Allakaket and
45 Alatna's been fairly low. And that was a major driving
46 force of the committee members wanting to move the
47 State season back an additional -- from the 25th of
48 September to the 1st of October. So there's going to
49 be a proposal submitted to the Board of Game to do
50

1 that. But right now harvest by the subsistence users
2 in Allakaket and Alatna has been unachieved during the
3 fall season and the winter hunt. There's a winter hunt
4 from December 15th to the 15th of April.

5
6 So that's still not being utilized to
7 the greatest extent. So we have real concerns.

8
9 So the comments to this Council, I'm
10 putting this into the record, the comments are:

11
12 We're not achieving the harvest that
13 the communities would like to achieve. And we still
14 have this deep snow year.

15
16 So those would be the reasons that this
17 Council feels that should, at this time, that the
18 closure should be maintained.

19
20 So those in favor of submitting this
21 and maintaining the closure at this time signify by
22 saying aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
27 sign.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time
32 we're going to maintain the closure for WCR18-20.

33
34 Okay, Lisa.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Next
37 up is Wildlife Closure Review 18-39, and this begins on
38 Page 16 of your Council meeting book. And I also have
39 handouts because there's a State action that applied to
40 this closure.

41
42 Okay. Again, Wildlife Closure Review
43 18-39 begins on Page 16 of your Council meeting book.
44 And this closure pertains to the closure of moose
45 hunting in the eastern portion of Unit 19A to all
46 users. And the closure area is depicted in Map 1 on
47 Page 16.

48
49 Unit 19A, north of the Kuskokwim River,

50

1 upstream from but excluding the George River drainage
2 and south of the Kuskokwim River upstream from and
3 including the Downey Creek drainage, not including the
4 Lime Village management area, hereafter referred to as
5 Unit 19A east, was closed under State regulations in
6 2006 and under Federal regulations in 2007 because of
7 conservation concerns including low productivity, low
8 bull/cow ratios and high hunting pressure.

9
10 Last week the Alaska Board of Game
11 adopted Proposal 127 as amended by the Stoney/Holitna
12 Fish and Game Advisory Committee to open a Tier I
13 registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A east. The
14 amendments and background on the Proposal 127 are
15 provided in the handout you just received.

16
17 Since 2008 the Unit 19A east moose
18 population has appeared relatively stable but has
19 remained well below management objectives. The State
20 has conducted wolf control in Unit 19A east since 2006
21 and in 2013, 2014 the State removed bears from 14
22 percent of Unit 19A east. While moose densities within
23 the bear control area are above State management
24 objectives, moose densities in the remainder of Unit
25 19A east are well below objectives. Bull/cow and
26 calf/cow ratios have met or exceeded management
27 objectives since 2007 and 2011 respectively. No legal
28 moose harvest has occurred in Unit 19A east since 2006.

29
30 OSM's recommendation is to maintain the
31 status quo.

32
33 Moose abundance in Unit 19A east has
34 not significantly changed since the hunt area closed in
35 2007 because of conservation concerns. While bull/cow
36 and calf/cow ratios are recovering they're likely
37 bolstered by intensive management. Moose abundance and
38 density are well below management objectives and should
39 recover further before the closure is relaxed.

40
41 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: What was the
44 bull/cow ratio in general for 19A east, the closure
45 area?

46
47 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so the bull/cow ratios
48 are depicted in Figure 2 on Page 22, and you can see, I
49 mean there is some noise there, the management
50

1 objectives are to maintain ratios of 20 to 30 bulls per
2 100 cows, and you can see in like 2017 the bull/cow
3 ratio was about 35, and then before that it had been
4 pretty high. And I just read in this Stoney/Holitna AC
5 handout, that the 2018 bull/cow ratios were pretty high
6 at 52 bulls per 100 cows.

7
8 So there's some noise there but
9 hopefully -- but overall, I mean they've been above
10 that.....

11
12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14
15 MS. MAAS:30 bull per 100
16 management objective.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the makeup of
19 those bulls is predominately younger bulls?

20
21 MS. MAAS: I'm not sure.

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: I wanted to let
28 everyone know that Joshua Pearce from the Alaska
29 Department of Fish and Game is on the phone right now
30 so if there's questions that people have about Unit 19
31 he's available to answer those questions if we don't
32 have that information.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I didn't know
37 you were on the phone there, Josh. Are you copying
38 these questions, on the makeup of the.....

39
40 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, good afternoon,
41 Jack, yep I'm here. So, yeah, to answer your question
42 these bulls there's a large number of large bulls.
43 There has been no hunting since 2006 and so there's
44 been quite a few years for these things to grow so it's
45 a real nice mix actually of large, medium and small
46 bulls. You know, we've had pretty good recruitment the
47 last few years and the bull/cow ratio was 52 per 100
48 this last year so there is certainly sufficient bulls n
49 the area which is, in large part, why the Board just
50

1 opened up a very limited hunt to try to get something
2 going again for the locals there. It is open to
3 residents, of course, but there's going to be a
4 registration permit issued just in Sleetmute and Stoney
5 River, just 30 to start with. But, you know, after all
6 these years of a closure there's definitely good
7 numbers of bulls in the area.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's a healthy
10 number. I'm happy to hear that. So thank you.

11
12 MR. PEARCE: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
15 on the proposal.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm confused by
20 OSM's recommendation to maintain status quo with that
21 kind of a bull/cow ratio over the management objective.
22 Reasons again why OSM felt to maintain status quo.

23
24 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so and also remember
25 the timing of some of this, I mean this was done before
26 the 2018 bull/cow ratio came out and before the State
27 made their decision. So, yeah, the 2017 bull/cow ratio
28 was only 35 bulls per 100 cows. And also if you look
29 at the overall population, which is displayed in Figure
30 1 on Page 22, the green dots are the moose population
31 for Unit 19A east and so you can see the confidence
32 intervals of those overlap. So there hasn't been a
33 significant increase in population so, you know, it was
34 kind of like, well, in the past years they've
35 maintained the closure and there hasn't been any
36 increase in population and also the intensive
37 management, that there is concern that portions of Unit
38 19A east might have higher densities of moose because
39 there is wolf control and bear control, but if you take
40 that away then what would happen to the moose
41 population.

42
43 And, you know, the State's hunt is a
44 very limited hunt so, yeah, it's up to the Council, you
45 know, what recommendation you want to make. But these
46 were just some concerns that OSM had.

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: With the State Board
49 of Game's Tier I, which is residents of Alaska only,
50

1 there would be -- in that kind of a bull/cow ratio, the
2 management objective is 20 to 30 bulls per 100 cows,
3 and even the minimum threshold of 35 is exceeding that
4 at 52 for the entire thing.

5
6 So I would be in -- personally, I would
7 be inclined to initiate a proposal to modify or
8 eliminate the closure. Personally. That would be my
9 personal opinion because of the bull/cow ratio and the
10 population should begin expanding because of the larger
11 bull component in the population. If you track those
12 numbers back into 2001, there were six bulls per 100
13 cows, it was a catastrophic lack of bulls from
14 overharvest. That's what does that, is a overharvest
15 of bulls. So now the State just has a limited Tier I
16 hunt and so with a limited registration number.

17
18 So, again, Josh, that's 30 permits,
19 registration permits issued?

20
21 MR. PEARCE: That's correct. Yeah, so
22 this first year, the local Advisory Committee was
23 hoping to do through the Board of Game was to open up
24 kind of an experimental hunt really to see what kind of
25 harvest we could get and to assess what the demand is
26 going to be like in this area. Things have changed a
27 lot down in Unit 18 now, there's a lot more moose
28 hunting opportunities than there were -- or than there
29 was in 2004 and 2005, the last two years that this area
30 was open.

31
32 So, yeah, I guess there are a couple
33 things I'd like to address, too, but that kind of
34 lower, but still not low bull/cow ratio of 36 per 100
35 in 2017, if you look 2017 to 2011, just occasionally
36 those were both snow years, the bulls just aren't in
37 the river yet, we just get low counts occasionally, you
38 know, but that's not real defined 58 to 36 back to 52,
39 you know, that doesn't happen in one year unless
40 movement influenced that. And so really the -- you
41 know to have a Federal closure like was just explained,
42 you know, OSM when they did their analysis, of course
43 that was before the Board passed the State's proposal
44 127 like they did. But, you know, in this case Federal
45 lands in 19A east are fairly limited and they're north
46 of the river so they're not overly accessible but, you
47 know, to continue a closure could definitely have a
48 negative influence on some of the folks who are hoping
49 to hunt in that area, which is primarily going to be
50

1 people from Red Devil, Sleetmute and Stoney River.
2 That's where we're going to issue the permits and it
3 will just be 30 to start with. The Board did authorize
4 up to 75 permits but we're going to start it off real
5 slow and easy here. And the harvestable surplus in
6 that area is around 70. So even starting off at 30
7 permits, if everybody shot a moose, which they won't
8 because it's only going to be a five day season, but
9 even if everybody did, we'd still only be taking about
10 half of the bulls that we could from the area.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yeah, there's a
13 lot of safeguards, sideboards on that hunt.
14

15 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, that's correct.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Council's
18 recommendation on this would be to maintain the status
19 quo of the closure or initiate a proposal to modify or
20 eliminate the closure. This is a modification of the
21 closure is what this is actually doing because it's
22 allowing a limited hunt, a controlled hunt and it's
23 only Tier I. It doesn't encourage non-resident
24 participation. Where we get into really high demand is
25 when we have non-resident hunters with hunting guides
26 that can suppress a population and especially on an
27 unlimited guide use area, on the BLM lands. That's
28 kind of an issue.
29

30 You had a comment, Lisa.
31

32 MS. MAAS: Yeah, thank you. Through
33 the Chair. I just wanted to clarify that in the past
34 the Council would be initiating a proposal, but now
35 with the changes and the new closure policy, you just
36 make a recommendation for this closure review. And I
37 also just wanted to throw out to the Council, and I'm
38 sure you're well aware of this, Jack, that there's
39 several tiers of closure so this is currently a closure
40 to all users, but there's also a possibility to close
41 to only non-Federally-qualified users or go through an
42 .804 analysis where you're closing to some Federally-
43 qualified users and it's open to other Federally-
44 qualified users. So there's different kind of layers
45 or tiers of closures.
46

47 And also for the record, Federal public
48 lands comprise about 18 percent of Unit 19A east.
49
50

1 Thanks.

2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So at this time,
4 personally, I feel that the moose population can
5 sustain the harvest that's proposed and as in
6 regulation -- in State regulations. So I don't feel
7 that there's an issue per se with an unlimited number
8 of hunters coming to hunt those moose. So I would like
9 to see an initiation -- to initiate a proposal to
10 modify or eliminate the closure at this time since we
11 have current data that shows 52 bulls per 100 cows with
12 large bull component, a significant large bull
13 component. But you got to have big bulls for breeding,
14 larger bulls. My opinion. That I learned from Glenn
15 Stout, that you have to have three year old bulls and
16 older for breeding because of the pheromone interaction
17 of females with males. So we have the large bull
18 component, we have a good number of bulls. And so I
19 don't see any reason to maintain the closure.

20
21 Other comments from Council members.

22
23 That's my opinion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council members.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do we have a
32 motion to initiate a proposal to modify or eliminate
33 closure.

34
35 MR. GERVAIS: So moved.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Tim. Do we
38 have a second.

39
40 MR. KRISKA: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tom.
43 Any Council comments in regards to -- Lisa.

44
45 MS. MAAS: Okay. I just want to
46 clarify that the intent is to completely eliminate the
47 closure so it would be open to all users.

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, this is where

50

1 you're confusing me. The OSM's recommendation to
2 maintain status quo. Like there's three questions here
3 for this Council.

4
5 MS. MAAS: I just want to make sure I
6 completely understand that when you say you want to
7 eliminate that closure, you mean, so there's no closure
8 to anyone. It's not like you're going to open it to
9 Federally-qualified users but it stays closed to non-
10 Federally-qualified users.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. But.....

13
14 MS. MAAS: Your intent is to open it to
15 everyone.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Open it to everyone,
18 that would give.....

19
20 MS. MAAS: Okay.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and the State
23 has the sideboards on the hunt.

24
25 MS. MAAS: Right, I just wanted to.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I'm not worried
28 about those.....

29
30 MS. MAAS:make that completely
31 clear. Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, yes, I'm aware
34 of what the request is. I feel that there's a
35 population of moose that can sustain the -- and the
36 permits being issued in those communities is also going
37 to give the local people the first crack at those
38 permits.

39
40 So we have a motion to -- and is it
41 appropriate that this Council -- and I feel it's
42 appropriate that the Council initiate a proposal to
43 modify or eliminate the closure. That's appropriate,
44 right?

45
46 MS. MAAS: That's appropriate. I mean I
47 understand that's what this closure review currently
48 says but it'll actually just be a recommendation for
49 this closure review. So you won't actually be
50

1 submitting a proposal anymore, and that's just a change
2 in the policy.

3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

5

6 MS. MAAS: So from now on it'll just be
7 a Council recommendation in this closure review. Does
8 that make sense?

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kind of.

11

12 The Council's recommendation is.....

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, this is
15 Ray.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

18

19 MR. COLLINS: I don't like any of the
20 Tier II, it seems to me that the folks we took in the
21 McGrath area of having picking up (coughing) picking up
22 the permits before season lets you know who gets them
23 and how many get them, even if they're open to all
24 State members, but by -- and then they'd only be issued
25 in those local units. I mean there may be some local
26 people that would like to apply but they may be working
27 during that season, you know, making a little cash
28 somewhere and not being able to get it in time. So I'd
29 rather leave any closure in place. It'll be hard to
30 initiate it again, or harder. And then modify it that
31 there'd be so many permits that could be picked up, 30
32 in this case, I guess, before season.

33

34 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
35 Josh. May I address Ray there, please.

36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Josh.

38

39 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Ray, so this
40 registration permit we're going to do exactly like we
41 do here in McGrath. It's not going to be a Tier II
42 permit. So I will go down there this summer to
43 Sleetmute and Stoney River and issue permits in the
44 villages there so it will be just like this one, where
45 if a person wants a permit they're going to have to
46 come pick it up in person in the village.

47

48 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Okay.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And, right now, the
2 way I read this regulation there's a Federal closure so
3 there is no hunt anyways, Ray. So what this would do
4 is if we eliminate the closure there's no Federal hunt
5 anyway.

6
7 MR. COLLINS: Right.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no priority
10 right this second not unless we submit a proposal to
11 allow a Federal hunt in that portion of the unit.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Correct, Lisa.

16
17 MS. MAAS: Yeah, that's correct. I
18 mean currently even though there is -- the State just
19 approved that limited Tier I hunt under State
20 regulations, since there's a Federal closure State
21 users cannot go on those BLM lands and hunt.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

24
25 MS. MAAS: Unless Federal regulations
26 change.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And there's also no
29 Federal hunt -- the permit would not apply to the
30 Federal hunt areas either because there's no Federal
31 season, no open season. So right now the State hunt
32 doesn't apply to the Federal lands either. That's the
33 way this regulation reads, because of the closure.

34
35 So my opinion is that we need to
36 eliminate the closure because the moose population can
37 sustain the harvest. And that this Council needs to
38 submit a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to
39 somewhat mirror the State regulations.

40
41 Correct?

42
43 MS. MAAS: That's the way it used to be
44 done. So you can think about it as a proposal, but
45 really in your recommendation you would just say what
46 the.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, I'm talking
49 about -- we're under call for wildlife proposals. So

50

1 there's no Federal hunt right now so now there's enough
2 moose to have a Federal hunt so we need to have -- on
3 the Federal lands nobody can hunt. This regulation
4 says there's no open season. There's no Federal -- so
5 the closures closes to the Federal subsistence users.
6

7 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I understand that.
8 And I think we're saying the same thing it's just a
9 technicality of it. It's just that the Federal Board
10 policy, instead of initiating any proposal, you just --
11 this is now the proposal.
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.
14

15 MS. MAAS: The closure review is
16 treated like a proposal. So it's just a technicality.
17 We're kind of -- our intent's the same it's just how
18 you get there.
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, we're talking
21 about two different proposals. We're talking about
22 this wildlife closure review 18-39. We're talking
23 about one proposal. But we also need to submit a
24 proposal to have a moose season for Federal users
25 because there is right now, a closure, no Federal open
26 season. So we need to submit a proposal for this
27 round.
28

29 Correct?
30

31 Am I missing something here?
32

33 Go ahead, Karen.
34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Correct me if I'm wrong, Lisa, what I think is being
37 said is that if the Council recommends removal of this
38 closure, to open this closure, then that will be the
39 proposal that that will open the Federal lands to
40 hunting that are currently closed in regulation, or
41 not, because that's where the confusion seems to
42 be.....
43

44 MS. MAAS: Through the Chair.
45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE:whether it takes
47 a recommendation or whether it takes a proposal to
48 change what's currently in regulation.
49
50

1 MS. MAAS: Yeah. And so the new -- I
2 mean the new Federal Board policy is we treat these
3 closure reviews as a proposal and so the Council's
4 recommendation would be to eliminate the closure, but
5 along with that recommendation you could also recommend
6 a harvest limit and a season. But if you want to
7 submit a proposal that's fine. I mean this is the new
8 policy.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

11
12 MS. MAAS: But if it's easier, and.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That.....

15
16 MS. MAAS:we'll probably end up
17 combining.....

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That finally
20 clarified, we can insert the season language into this
21 proposal. I thought we had to make another proposal.
22 That's usually the way we do these things, you can't
23 mix apples and oranges all in the same proposal,
24 typically.

25
26 You have a comment, Tom.

27
28 MR. DOOLITTLE: Sure.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

31
32 MR. DOOLITTLE: Through the Chair.
33 Council. Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional
34 Director for OSM. Yeah, Lisa's right, you know, with
35 the revisions of the policy and making sure that we
36 actually adhere to the closure policy which hadn't been
37 done properly, really, on the proper, you know, four
38 year cycle, and so as we enter the wildlife proposal
39 process, is that the closure policy as has been stated,
40 is correct, that this would become a proposal and then
41 the recommendation that Lisa suggested for the season
42 change, A, to close, and B, any modifications that you
43 see, would become part of that analysis and have
44 deference to the process as a proposal that the RACs
45 normally have. You also will have another crack at
46 your recommendation on the same analysis, you know,
47 because this will also be a proposal that the ISC and
48 the State of Alaska will comment on as well, and in
49 your fall meeting cycle you would have another
50

1 opportunity to fine tune that proposal. But this is
2 the opportunity to put that recommendation and initial
3 language in there with the realization that this will
4 be a formal proposal to the Board in the 2020 wildlife
5 cycle and you'll have another crack at it in the fall
6 2019 cycle.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks for
9 that clarification.

10

11 So we have a motion on the floor to
12 initiate proposal to modify or eliminate the closure so
13 we have that on the table. We need to also amend the
14 motion to include to mirror the current State
15 regulations and would you state that for the record
16 again, Josh, the current State regulations.

17

18 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, sure, Mr. Chairman.
19 And, of course, as you know the State regulations would
20 apply on the Federal lands as long as this closure went
21 away. So a Federal season would not be required but
22 what it's going to be is September 1st through 5th,
23 antlered bulls, one per household by registration
24 permit.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, copy that. So
27 the Council's aware of the current Federal season. So
28 that -- but under the Federal subsistence regulations
29 we need to eliminate the complete Federal closure on
30 the Federal lands also. So that would be the current
31 season, it'd be September 1 to 5, one antlered bull,
32 and a limited number of permits issued.

33

34 Do we have a motion to modify the
35 motion.

36

37 MS. PELKOLA: I so move.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Move to include the
40 current State season and bag limit by Jenny.

41

42 MR. GERVAIS: Second.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tim. So
45 now our current recommendation to be reviewed is as
46 discussed to OSM that we'll see at our fall meeting.
47 It'll all be written up in legalize and so we'll review
48 that in the fall season.

49

50

1 One comment Lisa.

2

3 MS. MAAS: Thanks. I just wanted to
4 clarify -- make sure I'm completely clear that the
5 intention is to have like a joint Federal/State permit
6 and the total harvest quota between -- or the total
7 permits between State and Federal regulations would be
8 30 permits total.

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, exactly the
11 same number. It'll be a joint permit.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Okay.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And -- but when you
16 got a book that says there's no Federal season you have
17 to change that under the regulations. So those in
18 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

19

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22 MR. HONEA: Aye.

23

24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there Ray.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. All right.
33 Motion passed. So we're on the next one WRC18-43.

34

35 MS. MAAS: I apologize, Mr. Chair, I --
36 apparently my notes on this one disappeared so I might
37 have to wing this one.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 MS. MAAS: Well, all right, shoot,
44 well, unfortunately my notes disappeared on WCR18-43,
45 but this closure review begins on Page 25 of your
46 meeting books and is for Unit 19A remainder, which the
47 map of that closed area is depicted in Map 1 on Page
48 25.

49

50

1 This closure is similar to the previous
2 one except it's for a different area, so it's for Unit
3 19A remainder and the Federal public lands are closed
4 to moose by non-Federally-qualified users but they are
5 open to residents of Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, Upper
6 Kalskag, Aniak, Chuakbaluk and Crooked Creek, so
7 there's an .804 restriction on this area. And this
8 area was also closed in 2007 but there is a Tier II
9 hunt under State regulations for this area, and it was,
10 again, similar to the last closure because of
11 conservation concerns, low population, low bull/cow
12 ratios, low calf/cow ratios.

13
14 And for this area, if you look on
15 Figure 1 on Page 31, the red dots are the Unit 19A
16 west, like that's the survey area, and so you can see
17 there's a really large increase of moose in 2017, it
18 was a pretty significant increase, but it was also the
19 first year, in 2017, that they surveyed the entire hunt
20 area and so, you know, it's a larger area so it's a
21 larger number of moose but the density in that larger
22 area was quite a bit lower than the density in the
23 Aniak, Unit 19A west survey area.

24
25 Bull/cow ratios for this area a bit
26 lower, you can see on Figure 2 for the last couple
27 years it was about 20 bulls per 200 cows in years 2016
28 and 2017. Calf ratios are pretty high. In 2017 it was
29 upwards of 60 calves per 100 cows. The annual reported
30 moose harvest for all of Unit 19A between 1994 and 2005
31 averaged 127 moose. Over the stated time period annual
32 reported harvest on Federal public lands averaged 22
33 moose, and the harvestable surplus of moose for this
34 area was about 60 bulls in 2006. Of course, now there's
35 a big increase in 2017.

36
37 So, again, the low bull/cow ratios in
38 2016 and 2017 indicate few surplus bulls available for
39 harvest and so the OSM recommendation is actually -- no
40 change to the closure is currently recommended. And so
41 the harvest, there's also delegated authority to the
42 Yukon Delta Refuge manager so they're able to adjust,
43 you know, in-season, the quota, number of available
44 permits, close the season when the quota's met.

45
46 Yeah, so primarily it's a pretty low
47 bull/cow ratio so no changes to the actual closure
48 recommended, but just on a completely separate issue,
49 if you look back to Map 1 you'll see it's kind of a
50

1 split hunt area, there is, you know, Unit 19A west, and
2 then the Lime Village Management Area, and when the
3 Section .804 analysis was done, it was not recognized
4 that the Lime Village Management Area was part of this
5 hunt area, so currently residents of, you know, along
6 the Kuskokwim can go over and hunt in the Lime Village
7 Management Area, but residents of Lime Village,
8 technically cannot hunt around their own village. Our
9 -- there's apparently been no complaints by like law
10 enforcement or residents of Lime Village that this is
11 an issue, it's more of kind of technicality in
12 regulations, so OSM recommended potentially putting in
13 a proposal to correct this but, again, it's kind of --
14 it's a technicality, you know, there's not much on the
15 ground impact but as far as in regulations it was kind
16 of an oversight.

17

18 So, thank you.

19

20 And, sorry, again, for that disjointed
21 presentation, I don't know what happened to my notes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So questions
24 for Lisa, and then I want to get Josh Pearce's feel for
25 this moose population at this time.

26

27 Any questions for Lisa on her
28 presentation.

29

30 MR. HONEA: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Don.

33

34 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 I have a question, she mentioned twice the .804, what
36 is an .804?

37

38 MS. MAAS: Oh, sure, thanks, Don. So
39 the .804 analysis, that's just kind of that section of
40 ANILCA, but it's basically when there's a limited
41 amount of harvest in an area so not all users with a
42 customary and traditional use -- there's not enough
43 moose, for example, for everyone with a customary and
44 traditional use determination to harvest moose, so then
45 an analysis is done to determine which users, primarily
46 which communities depend on that resource the most.

47

48 So it's more of a -- so not everyone
49 that has a customary and traditional use determination

50

1 can harvest, only people that were determined by that
2 ,804 analysis are able to harvest that resource in a
3 particular area.
4

5 MR. HONEA: Okay. I'm always kind of
6 confused by these regulations and I would like to know
7 when we went introduce them -- or you introduce them,
8 to say the intent or what exactly is this, to open them
9 up because the -- it's presently closed?
10

11 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so thanks Don. This
12 is another closure review so similar to other ones,
13 it's not a proposal, it's just closure that -- from the
14 -- because of our policy we're required to review them
15 every four years just to make sure, you know, just in
16 case information's changed, that we can modify or
17 retain the closure. So it's not a proposal, it's just
18 something we do every four years.
19

20 MR. HONEA: Okay. But this is still an
21 action item?
22

23 MS. MAAS: Yeah, uh-huh, the Council
24 needs to make a recommendation on whether to modify the
25 closure or maintain the closure.
26

27 MR. HONEA: Okay, thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
30 for Lisa.
31

32 (No comments)
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Josh, your
35 opinion of this moose population that the bull/cow
36 ratio, health of this population.
37

38 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, sure. So just a
39 kind of general overview, it was just mentioned, you
40 know, the moose population in western 19A has increased
41 pretty substantially since 2010 and that was kind of
42 what we were suspecting before we were able to actually
43 do a survey because harvest with the same number of
44 permits kept gradually creeping up over the years, and,
45 really, you don't get increased success rates without,
46 you know, more moose on the landscape, because nothing
47 else changed; season dates were the same, et cetera.
48

49 So we are roughly, these are just rough
50

1 numbers, but at about 150 moose being harvested per
2 year from this Tier II area, that westerner portion of
3 19A with about 100 of those coming from the Tier II
4 permit and roughly 50 from the Federal permit, again
5 those are kind of rounded off numbers for you there.
6 But it gives you a ball park, about 150 per year, which
7 is about perfect compared to our harvestable surplus,
8 which is a little higher than that at 160 -- 165 per
9 year.

10

11 So kind of from 2010 moving forward,
12 the bull/cow ratio did stay low. It was just at the
13 very bottom end of our objective, you know I kept kind
14 of hoping it was going to creep up a little bit. But I
15 think basically as the moose population grew we were
16 kind of harvesting as many bulls as we possibly could
17 from the area. So we were right around 21, 22 bulls
18 per 100 cows, which in a low density population
19 especially is on the low side. So it was encouraging
20 this last fall, actually we went out, and there was
21 some improvement. We're up to 26 bulls per 100 cows
22 and the harvest seems to have stabilized, you know,
23 right around 150 or so. So we'll see if it continues
24 to increase or not but we've got approximately 50
25 percent success rates, which are pretty good. And then
26 last year harvest was a little bit lower but we, like a
27 lot of parts of the State, had a very warm, wet, buggy
28 fall, and so I think people just weren't quite as
29 successful.

30

31 So in this case I would say things are
32 actually working really well in 19A west and I think we
33 got a pretty good thing going with the distribution of
34 permits like we have. Eventually I would like to,
35 we're not quite there yet, but I'd like to eventually
36 consider, you know, somehow doing a joint permit in
37 this area as well, just to simplify for the users what
38 piece of paper is needed, but like I said we're not
39 quite there yet. I want to see what this population
40 does. We're going to do another GSPE survey next
41 winter, in 2020, and so we'll see if it's continuing to
42 grow or not, if it's stabilized. But as you guys may
43 be somewhat familiar with, the Unit 18 moose population
44 on the Kuskokwim has kind of grown in leaps and bounds
45 down there. They've got exceptional bull/cow ratios,
46 amazing twinning rates, very high calf recruitment, and
47 they still have good habitat down there, like I said
48 the twinning rates are real high. So we would continue
49 to see -- or expect to see some increase in the moose

50

1 population in that western portion of the unit.

2
3 So I guess as a summary, like I said
4 I think things are going really well and one thing --
5 I'm just going to mention one more thing and then I'll
6 pause. But one thing OSM did bring out in their
7 presentation, and I think it was an important one for
8 you guys, the Lime Village Management Area, is
9 definitely -- it's not really correct the way it's in
10 there and what I would suggest to you guys is trying to
11 match up with the language in the State book, to where
12 there's three areas in 19A. You've got that area
13 that's the western portion, which is Tier II, which is
14 defined by the George River and the Stony Creek
15 drainage; you've got the Lime Village Management Area,
16 which has its own definition; and then 19A remainder,
17 which is the closed area around the Holitna. So I
18 think it'd be really good to clear that up in the
19 Federal reg book and it sounds like this might be a
20 good time to do that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate all those
23 comments. My question is, in your 26 bulls per 100
24 cows, what's the large bull component, is it starting
25 to increase, or is it still suppressed?

26
27 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, so in that, it's
28 still fairly depressed, as you would expect where we've
29 got kind of a low bull/cow ratio so this last time --
30 and I don't have this broken out, but out of the bulls
31 that we saw it was roughly half were small, maybe a
32 quarter were medium and a quarter were large, slightly
33 less than a quarter were large. So I would say just
34 over half of the -- or roughly half of the bulls are,
35 you know, more that small size with only maybe 40
36 percent or so in the medium to large category.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How large is that
39 population currently in the west, approximately.

40
41 MR. PEARCE: In the west, yeah, let me
42 pull up the figures here. So in the western, well,
43 that Tier II area as a whole, is just .7 moose per
44 square mile, but when you exclude that area down around
45 Crooked Creek and those places, it's considerably
46 higher, 1.3 moose per square mile. So when you add
47 some of the low density stuff into it it drags it down
48 to .7, but that area from Chuathbaluk down to --
49 actually a little further than that even, more like
50

1 Napiamiut down to Lower Kalskag, it's a decent density
2 of 1.3 and like I said I would anticipate that number
3 to keep creeping up but we'll have to wait until this
4 winter to see if we verify that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Appreciate
7 all those numbers.

8
9 MR. PEARCE: Okay.

10
11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so I do agree
12 with OSM's recommendation, and I do definitely agree
13 that there needs to be submittal of a regulatory
14 proposal to make these changes. I thought we were
15 changing this in this proposal.

16
17 MS. MAAS: So, Mr. Chair, I actually
18 asked specifically about this proposal with our
19 regulatory specialist, and if it's anything to do with
20 the actual closure itself you just make a
21 recommendation for this closure review.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

24
25 MS. MAAS: But since the Lime Village
26 issue is kind of a side issue that doesn't exactly have
27 to do with the closure, he recommended submitting a
28 separate proposal.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

31
32 So I agree with the OSM recommendation,
33 other, no changes to the current closure is currently
34 recommended.

35
36 And this Council's going to need to
37 submit a proposal to -- what would be the -- well, when
38 we get to that, when we get to that one.

39
40 Let's deal with this Wildlife Closure
41 Review 18-39, how does the Council feel about going
42 along with OSM's recommendation for other.

43
44 Tim.

45
46 MR. GERVAIS: Is it WCR18-43?

47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, am I off track
49 here, yes.

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: I make a motion to
2 maintain the closure on WCR18-43.
3

4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, 43, yeah, I got
5 off here, how did I get that off -- okay, we got a
6 motion.
7

8 MR. HONEA: I would second that.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Seconded by
11 Don.
12

13 Further discussion on WRC18-43, Unit
14 19A remainder moose.
15

16 (No comments)
17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Further discussion.
19

20 (No comments)
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
23 the motion signify by saying aye.
24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26

27 MR. HONEA: Aye.
28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed, same
30 sign.
31

32 (No opposing votes)
33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that covers those
35 closure reviews. We're moving in to call for Federal
36 wildlife proposals. What do you think, Karen, on
37 continuing to roll here.
38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Do you want to do that
40 housekeeping on the Lime Village.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's coming up
43 under call for wildlife proposals, so that would be --
44 uh-huh.
45

46 (Pause)
47

48 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. In
49 response to your question, I think they're prepared to
50

1 go ahead and open the floor for the call for wildlife
2 proposals.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. Go
5 ahead, Lisa.

6
7 MS. MAAS: Thanks. And I have another
8 blurb I'm supposed to read about the wildlife
9 proposals.

10
11 So because of the government shutdown,
12 due to a lack of funding, we will continue to accept
13 proposals until March 27th as noted in the proposed
14 rule, however, because some of the Council meetings had
15 to be changed based on the shutdown, we will still
16 accept proposals from those Councils or proposals given
17 to the Federal representatives, Council coordinators,
18 at those meetings after the March 27th deadline, as
19 originally noted in the proposed rule.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So Pippa,
24 you're going to give a presentation on.....

25
26 MS. MAAS: Oh, no, we're just both up
27 here to field questions because she does, you know,
28 customary and traditional use.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we're in
31 call for Federal proposals. We've identified that this
32 Lime Village fell through the cracks somehow, so I'm
33 not exactly sure what the language should be to
34 alleviate -- to combine them with the 19A west.

35
36 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so through the Chair.
37 There's kind of two options, two routes you could go.
38 One, is to just add Lime Village to the Section .804
39 analysis, so that, in that closure, you know, where it
40 lists the number of villages that can hunt in Unit 19A
41 remainder, Lime Village would be added to that.

42
43 The other option is to create a whole
44 separate hunt area.

45
46 And Lime Village, currently, if you
47 look at the regulation book it's on Page 91, Lime
48 Village has their own separate hunt, I mean it says
49 Unit 19A rural residents of Lime Village July 1st to
50

1 June 30th [sic], so considering they already have, you
2 know, barring the closures, Lime Village already has
3 kind of the whole Unit 19 and maybe -- well, I think
4 this happened even before the Regional Advisory
5 Councils were formed in '93, that Lime Village -- I'd
6 have to go back to the transcripts but there is a lot
7 of discussion about whether or not to have the Lime
8 Village Management Area under Federal regs and my
9 understanding is back in like '92 or '94 Lime Village
10 asked that they not even have that management area
11 under Federal regs. So there's a lot of history to the
12 Lime Village that I'm not super familiar with at this
13 time but as far as just creating a whole separate hunt
14 area in Unit 19, I'm not sure how that would jive since
15 they already have access to Unit 19, it's just a matter
16 of that closed area.

17
18 MS. KENNER: It would just be a hunt
19 area.

20
21 MS. MAAS: Yeah, but the hunt area --
22 because it's like Unit -- yeah, I guess under the State
23 regs they have it as a whole separate hunt area.

24
25 MS. KENNER: But they -- for the
26 record, this is Pippa Kenner with OSM.

27
28 REPORTER: Pippa, put that closer to
29 you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pull the mic closer
32 to your mouth.

33
34 REPORTER: Thanks.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So are you.....

37
38 MS. KENNER: So I think what -- oh,
39 sorry.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I was going to ask
42 Ray and Don, can you hear what they're saying -- Ray.

43
44 MR. HONEA: Yes.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Ray.

47
48 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Go ahead,
2 Pippa.

3
4 MS. KENNER: I was just going to add to
5 what Lisa was saying, yeah, there is something that
6 happened, and the question I think we're at is whether
7 to bring the Lime Village hunt area over as a special
8 management area and so what I was going to say is that
9 Lime Village area could be its own hunt area for the
10 purposes of season and harvest limit, but it wouldn't
11 necessarily have to be a special management area.

12
13 I think what Lime Village was asking
14 was that in Federal regulations it not be a special
15 management area.

16
17 MS. MAAS: And through the Chair.
18 There is -- I mean the closure was intended for Unit
19 19A west and so the fact that Lime Village Management
20 Area is part of that closure, I mean the moose
21 population down there is, you know, pretty different.
22 We didn't really even consider that when we were going
23 through our closure review. So that kind of gives
24 credence to creating a separate hunt area because the
25 moose population is doing different things, you know,
26 versus the Unit 19A west moose population.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

29
30 MS. KENNER: And if I could add to
31 that, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

34
35 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner. So
36 when the closure analysis was done and was adopted by
37 the Board, it didn't envision the Lime Village area as
38 being some separate area. In that analysis the eastern
39 part of Unit 19A was considered all of the eastern part
40 of Unit 19A, including the Lime Village area.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, that's a
43 little confusing.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I.....

48
49 MS. KENNER: Could you tell me why?
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Because we have Lime
2 Village with a community harvest bag limit of 28 bulls
3 and they can hunt all year-round, and they didn't want
4 a management area, but they are within this -- the
5 periphery of the unit shows that's the Lime Village
6 Management Area is this little portion of 19A over
7 here, right.

8
9 Go ahead, Lisa.

10
11 MS. KENNER: If I could respond.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

14
15 MS. KENNER:since we started -- I
16 can't speak for the State but I think under caribou
17 regulations the Lime Village Management Area is
18 discussed in caribou regulations in State regulations,
19 the Lime Village Management Area has a distinct harvest
20 limit and season that's separate from the other areas.

21
22 So the history of these harvest limits
23 that have been imposed on Lime Village, Lime Village is
24 a special case because they took the State of Alaska to
25 Federal court and in it they were allowed to have this
26 year-round quota but no other community has done that.
27 Then that, Lime Village came to the Federal Program and
28 asked for a community harvest limit which we do have in
29 our regulations, the ability to do it, and so it got a
30 community harvest limit. So that's separate than the
31 hunt area.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But where I'm
34 confused is Lime Village already has a regulation for
35 moose for a year-round season and 28 bull quota, why --
36 what do we have to propose then, what are we proposing,
37 they already have a hunt.

38
39 MS. MAAS: Yeah, so the.....

40
41 MS. KENNER: Thank you. So the issue
42 is that we think a proposal is necessary because if
43 somebody was looking at our regulations it would appear
44 that Lime Village is not eligible to hunt in the
45 Federal season anywhere in Unit 19. Unit 19A west,
46 they're not included in the prioritization .804, so
47 they can't hunt there; Unit 19E is closed, and if we
48 include Lime Village in Unit 19A west in Federal
49 regulations, that would mean Lime Village isn't

50

1 included in the .804 for that area and so the entire
2 unit is closed to them.

3
4 Well, we know that can't be so how do
5 we fix it.

6
7 One way is just to create another hunt
8 area and Lime Village would have -- it is eligible to
9 hunt in that hunt area, the others are closed to it but
10 it is included in that hunt area.

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

13
14 MS. KENNER: Or we could include it in
15 Unit 19A west so that we have two -- it's kind of like
16 Pakistan and Bangladesh, they're divided in two
17 different areas in Unit 19A.

18
19 And, you know, the one we prefer, maybe
20 Lisa can answer that.

21
22 MS. MAAS: Well, I was just saying, I
23 mean the easy way would be, yeah, just to add.....

24
25 REPORTER: Lisa, your mic.

26
27 MS. MAAS:Lime Village to the
28 .804 analysis for Unit 19A remainder, or 19A west, but
29 the issue with that is that why should that Lime
30 Village Management Area be closed when the moose.....

31
32 REPORTER: Lisa turn your mic on.

33
34 MS. MAAS:population is doing
35 something completely different in Unit 19A west hunt
36 area. And, you know, if you look under State
37 regulations the Lime Village Management Area has a
38 harvest limit of two bulls open to all residents.
39 Well, no it's a -- but still.....

40
41 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
42 Josh.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Josh.

45
46 MR. PEARCE: I was really hoping to
47 hear this discussion here and the last lady speaking, I
48 picked up maybe a 10th of what she had to say if she
49 could.....

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pull your mics
2 closer to your mouths, they're not hearing you.

3
4 REPORTER: No, wait, Lisa's mic is not
5 on. Turn it on.

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Josh, we're
8 debating about this whole Lime Village issue, current
9 State regulations is two bulls for Lime Village on the
10 State land in the management area, State Lime Village
11 Management Area.

12
13 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, so that's exactly
14 right. So there's a lot I'd like to say here.

15
16 The Lime Village Management Area like
17 was mentioned has an extremely long history, including
18 some court case litigation, so there is a very long
19 history there and that's part of the -- it's one of the
20 original, I believe, Tier II hunts, certainly one of
21 the older ones, if not the oldest. So the village
22 management area is open to use hunting under Tier II
23 permit and a permit has a bag limit of two bulls.
24 There's a fall season and then winter season that goes
25 from November 20th to March 31st. And that is how
26 people in Lime Village -- I actually was asked about
27 that, caribou community harvest, and as far as I know
28 the Lime Village for moose and caribou, I am not aware
29 of anybody participating in that community harvest
30 system.

31
32 So the confusion, as I see it, when you
33 look at it, residents of Lime Village are authorized to
34 hunt anywhere in Unit 19 during the entire year, except
35 there's this Federal closure in the Lime Village
36 Management Area, which as was said, I don't think was
37 the intent, it was western 19A, so the way I interpret
38 it is, you know, technically with their Tier II permit,
39 they can hunt on State lands or private lands, but
40 those Federal lands within the Lime Village Management
41 Area are technically closed to them so they can't hunt
42 under the State or Federal season, you know, in that
43 area. So that's an issue that needs to be addressed.

44
45 And, furthermore, when you look at the
46 Federal book, it's extremely confusing to somebody who
47 tries to compare it to the State book because 19A
48 remainder in the Federal book is 19A west, which is got
49 a completely different description than State regs, 19A
50

1 east, which is the closed area, is called 19A
2 remainder. So it's flipped in the Federal book. And I
3 think at a minimum if it were to be clarified to where
4 those three hunt areas were described in the Federal
5 book, you don't need to make any changes, you know,
6 Lime Village can still have access to Unit 19 with the
7 community harvest system that they don't use, but you
8 don't need to make a change to it, but to clarify that
9 Federal reg book, I think, would eliminate a lot of the
10 confusion that's taking place on this phone call right
11 now even, so if we're confused about it, imagine what
12 the average hunter picking up the book is thinking when
13 they see it.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

16

17 MR. GERVAIS: At this point did
18 somebody clarify the difference between the Lime
19 Village hunt area and the Lime Village Management Area.

20

21 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
22 Josh. There is no such thing as a Lime Village hunt
23 area, that would be just a imprecise verbiage that was
24 used, it's the Lime Village Management Area.

25

26 MR. GERVAIS: And, Josh, that Lime
27 Village Management Area, I don't know, do you have this
28 Federal book that shows WCR18-43.

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you showing Map
31 1 in the discussion here.

32

33 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, yeah, I sure am.
34 And somebody said, you know, I wasn't around when this
35 Federal closure was put in place but I would agree with
36 the statement I heard somebody say a little bit ago
37 that the intention of this was not to include the Lime
38 Village Management Area area is my guess, and, really,
39 what it should be is that area, and I'm going to read
40 it the way the State does:

41

42 Down stream from and including the
43 George River drainage and down stream from and
44 excluding the Downey Creek drainage.

45

46 That is the area defined by the TM680,
47 the Tier II hunt down river where you've got this .804
48 analysis, or whatever it's called, and that's the area
49 that I believe was intended to be closed.

50

1 (Pause)

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: So is the Lime Village
4 Management Area is this cross-hatched area on Page 25.

5

6 MR. PEARCE: Yes.

7

8 MR. GERVAIS: Surrounding Lime Village.

9

10 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, that's correct.
11 It's the area in that kind of southeast corner of 19A
12 with the black bullet for Lime Village.

13

14 And it has -- you know, it's defined by
15 drainages so for a user on the ground it's pretty easy,
16 it's the Stoney River from the mouth of the Stink,
17 including the Stink drainage up stream to but not
18 including Can Creek drainage, which is where the 19B
19 boundary to the south starts. And the Lime Village
20 Management Area has a fair bit of, you can see those
21 Federal BLM lands, so for those hunters on snowmachines
22 in the winter, those Federal lands can actually be very
23 important. And the way I read it right now they can't
24 hunt on those Federal lands.

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the best course
27 of action, Pippa, would be elimination of the closure
28 around Lime Village within the Lime Village Management
29 Area.

30

31 MS. KENNER: Yeah, this is Pippa Kenner
32 for the record, from OSM.

33

34 REPORTER: Hold up Pippa, let me reboot
35 this.

36

37 MS. KENNER: And in doing so you would
38 be creating another hunt area.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. So the
41 Regional Council would like to submit a proposal that
42 would eliminate the closure and would be the south,
43 very southeastern portion of Unit 19A depicted on Map 1
44 on Page 25, to eliminate the closure to Federal public
45 lands and maintain the Lime Village only resident
46 season for moose and quota. That's what -- the
47 direction the Council should most likely proceed.

48

49 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I guess my -- I guess

50

1 Lime Village can, you know, theoretically hunt,
2 everywhere in Unit 19 year-round.....
3

4 REPORTER: Lisa, wait a second -- Lisa,
5 wait a minute, you're not broadcasting through the
6 phone.
7

8 MS. MAAS: Okay.
9

10 REPORTER: Okay, go ahead.
11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your.....
13

14 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'm
15 losing.....
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:mic on. No, we
18 just had a technical problem, Lisa, continue.
19

20 MS. MAAS: Okay, yeah. Thanks, Tina.
21

22 So, yeah there's currently a regulation
23 for Lime Village residents being able to hunt year-
24 round anywhere in Unit 19 that there's not.....
25

26 MR. HONEA: No.
27

28 MS. MAAS:a closure. And so my
29 question is if we create a new hunt area that's
30 equivalent to the Lime Village Management Area is what
31 the season and harvest limit.....
32

33 MR. HONEA: If I could.....
34

35 MS. MAAS:should be in that
36 area.....
37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participant talking to other parties)
40

41 MS. MAAS:currently under State
42 regs it's a Tier II, which I'm guessing since it's Tier
43 II it's primarily Lime Village residents but I'm not
44 sure under Federal regs how exactly to negotiate the
45 season and harvest limit for that new hunt area.
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you have any
48 harvest data for the Lime Village community, I mean
49 they have this long season in current regulation of 28
50

1 bulls, do they have -- are they achieving that, do you
2 have any idea what they're killing there?

3

4 MS. KENNER: Do you want to.....

5

6 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Josh. Go
9 ahead.

10

11 MR. PEARCE: This is Josh again. So we
12 issue 7 permits under the Tier II system per year,
13 which like I said the bag limit is 2 so that means 14
14 moose could be taken, however, only about two moose on
15 average in recent years are shot so we're only talking
16 about -- literally less than a handful of moose. And
17 to answer your question most of those permits do go to
18 people.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participant talking to other parties)

22

23 MR. PEARCE:in Lime Village, but
24 there are some that do go to other places. However,
25 it's a very small number of moose that are taken and
26 like I said I am not aware of this community harvest
27 system being utilized at all.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So currently
30 there are two issues, the current community harvest
31 system is not being used and it's not actually being
32 recorded, I don't think we'll get -- actually capturing
33 data from that hunt that's in the regulation book so we
34 need to address -- we need to align more with what the
35 State is doing. They're issuing a two moose permit and
36 so the State -- the Federal Subsistence Board should
37 also recognize that permit during the year-round
38 season.

39

40 Do you have any harvest data from this
41 -- what my question was, does the Federal government
42 have any -- OSM have any harvest data from the Federal
43 hunt, and apparently not.

44

45 MS. MAAS: We may have that data but I
46 don't have it right now.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right.

49

50

1 MS. MAAS: I mean I.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, Josh
4 doesn't.....
5
6 MS. MAAS:I could potentially
7 look it up tonight.
8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:think anybody's
10 using it.
11
12 MS. MAAS: I mean we have our own
13 Federal database that might have that information in
14 there but I don't have that.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: There's no reporting
17 system through this -- what I'm trying to find out, do
18 you have a reporting system for this hunt that sets a
19 community quota?
20
21 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I don't know.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this hunt.....
24
25 MS. KENNER: I think what -- this is
26 Pippa Kenner again for the record. I can't speak for
27 the BLM concerning these hunts, however, what I
28 understand from what's already been said, the fact that
29 people aren't taking up to 28 moose in this community
30 hunt, it hasn't been addressed because they haven't --
31 they've only been taking a couple of moose, or they've
32 been taking such a low number of moose there's not --
33 the population of Lime Village has gone down since that
34 court case in the '80s, so I think it just hasn't come
35 up as an issue because people under the State
36 regulations people are achieving what their goals are.
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, all right, I
39 just want to delve into that really thoroughly if we're
40 going to make a proposal, let's make sure that we
41 capture all of the problems in one net.
42
43 MR. GERVAIS: Jack.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.
46
47 MR. GERVAIS: All right, I just want to
48 clarify. So it sounds like Josh is saying the
49 residents of Lime Village are taking around five moose
50

1 per year out of their 28 quota and what is -- is the
2 population of Lime Village like 15 or 20 people?
3

4 MS. KENNER: Thank you for that
5 question, Mr. Gervais. Through the Chair. I have an
6 educated opinion is yes it's in that range. I haven't
7 looked at the population recently.
8

9 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, this is Josh again,
10 yeah, 15 to 20 is a really good estimate of the number
11 of people in that area and so the moose that are being
12 harvested are being harvested under the Tier II State
13 system which is completely independent of this
14 community harvest quota of 28 and that's what, like I
15 said, I do not believe, and I am not aware of any
16 harvest that is taking place under that.
17

18 And I asked specifically about the
19 caribou which is a very similar situation and the
20 biologist from BLM who I spoke with, you know, wasn't
21 even aware of that system being utilized at all.
22

23 So, yeah, the harvest is currently
24 under the State Tier II permit.
25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. That
27 clarifies the issue.
28

29 So this Council just needs to submit a
30 proposal, an amendment to the WCR18-43 to eliminate the
31 entire closure in the southeastern portion of Unit 19A
32 near Lime Village. That would basically get to what
33 the -- we don't really need to submit a proposal,
34 regulatory proposal because most of the moose are being
35 taken on State regulations, and they're not using the
36 community hunt and we're getting no data from the
37 community hunt and so all's we need to do is eliminate
38 the problem closure on the Federal lands.
39

40 That's what we need to do, correct?
41

42 MS. MAAS: I mean that should work. I
43 was -- I think it would be similar to 39 where you
44 should specify like the seasons and the harvest limits
45 if you're going to eliminate the closure.
46

47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well.....
48

49 MS. MAAS: Which I guess could mirror
50

1 the State although that's Tier II.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:we could do
4 that or we could just leave in place this community
5 hunt that doesn't seem to be used anyways and nobody's
6 tracking it and nobody seems to feel -- the BLM
7 doesn't.....

8

9 MS. MAAS: Oh, the community.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:seem to
12 feel.....

13

14 MS. MAAS:hunt is for all of Unit
15 19, and so if we're just eliminating the closure for
16 the Lime Village Management Area then we have this hunt
17 -- this area that's not really.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, on Page 91,
20 rural residents of Lime Village only, no individual
21 harvest limit, a village harvest quota of 28 bulls,
22 including those taken under the State Tier I system,
23 reporting will be by community reporting system.

24

25 This is the regulation, I'm reading
26 right out of the.....

27

28 MS. KENNER: I'd like to clarify.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

31

32 MS. KENNER:this is Pippa Kenner
33 with OSM. Even though on Page 91 of the Federal
34 regulations under Unit 19 moose, there's a year-round
35 hunt for the community quota of 28 bulls, that only
36 applies in Unit 18 that isn't closed or isn't closed to
37 Lime Village. And because there's broad areas in Unit
38 19 that have been closed, currently Lime Village is
39 only eligible to hunt in the hunt area surrounding the
40 community in Federal regulations on Federal public
41 lands.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh. Lisa.

44

45 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the issue is that for
46 that -- that the hunt area is Unit 19 for only
47 residents of Lime Village, and so if we're going to
48 take the Lime Village Management Area out of the Unit
49 19A remainder hunt area, then we have this area that's

50

1 not accounted for.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Uh-huh.

4

5 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

8

9 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner
10 again. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yeah, so what you were
11 saying about eliminate the closure near Lime Village,
12 that effectively is right and so what Lisa came back
13 and said was maybe we need a harvest limit and a season
14 and when she said that you referred to the harvest
15 limit, which doesn't really give us a harvest season in
16 that Lime Village hunt area, and, you know, for right
17 now maybe we don't have the information to make that
18 determination. Maybe we can say, you know, season to
19 be announced or -- and this is for other people going
20 into the Lime Village hunt area and hunting. So maybe
21 for right now we could just leave it to be announced
22 and defer it until we go through the entire analysis
23 with maybe some more information.

24

25 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we need a motion
28 to eliminate the closure in the far southeastern corner
29 of Unit 19A, the Federal closure, and so we want to
30 tack that on to the -- to Wildlife Closure Review 18-
31 43, so a motion -- I need a motion to that effect.

32

33 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

36

37 MR. COLLINS: I have comments. I was on
38 the State Fish and Game Advisory when that was
39 initially implemented and I guess it was brought about
40 because of the lawsuit that they brought. But at that
41 time they were required on the State lands to submit an
42 annual report, if they killed a moose they were
43 supposed to report it to someone in the village and
44 those statistics would be turned over so that they'd
45 remain within the 18 or whatever the limit was. But
46 that -- the reason that was a State reg is a lot of the
47 land that was given under the Lands Claims around the
48 village where they primarily hunted was State lands and
49 so they had to go that route of having that in State

50

1 regulations. But I don't know why they fell down on
2 the requirement to report seeing as they harvested, so
3 we had that data.

4
5 But that was -- I was -- it kind of
6 came out of the State meeting and discussed that with
7 them and what they might do and so on and that's when
8 the proposal came in for that quota on State lands
9 around the village there. And I guess at that time
10 they didn't think about the Federal lands at all, they
11 just assumed that they could continue hunting on the
12 Federal lands as they traditionally had.

13
14 I don't know if that helps or confuses.
15 But that was the reason for the need for the State to
16 take some action because of all of the corporation
17 lands around there was State lands and they couldn't --
18 they had to have a State regulation that allowed them
19 to hunt on that.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, may I respond.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Pippa.

26
27 MS. KENNER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
28 Chair. This is Pippa again and I'm with OSM.

29
30 Thanks for that statement and maybe
31 question, Ray. The regulations that sprung from that,
32 from the Wasillie case about Lime Village, they have
33 changed considerably since those issues came up in the
34 '80s. And currently in State regulations on both State
35 and Federal land, for Lime -- for in the management
36 area, the limit is two bulls by a Tier II permit and
37 there's a season. So currently under State
38 regulations, as a result of that lawsuit, that is the
39 regulation in State regulations and it's changed
40 considerably over time.

41
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43
44 MR. COLLINS: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I still feel that
47 we need a motion, Ray, to eliminate the Federal closure
48 in the southeastern portion, which was this little area
49 around Lime Village that has yellow Federal Bureau of
50

1 Land Management lands, we need to eliminate that and we
2 can make that as an additional motion to Wildlife
3 Review 18-43 that we just voted on, that they eliminate
4 that portion of the closure entirely so that Lime
5 Village can continue to hunt under the State permitting
6 system. That fixes the whole problem.

7
8 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So do you make that
11 motion from the Kusko area.

12
13 MR. COLLINS: For sure, I'll make that.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Ray makes that
16 motion to eliminate the closed area around Lime Village
17 delineated in Map 1 for Unit 19A.

18
19 Do I have a second.

20
21 MR. GERVAIS: I'll second that.

22
23 MR. KRISKA: Second.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got two seconds,
26 we'll go with Tommy seconded.

27
28 Any further discussion on this Lime --
29 this closure -- closed area around Lime Village.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
36 Those in favor of elimination of that closed area
37 around Lime Village signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 MR. HONEA: Aye.

42
43 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those opposed same
46 sign.

47
48 (No opposing votes)

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So unanimous. So
2 we're not going to get into the regulatory language
3 since the State Tier bag limit is being primarily used
4 and so that's -- the harvest is being reported, that's
5 -- my concern is that the harvest gets reported because
6 that's a positive thing for the subsistence users to
7 maintain the data set of the use. A lot of people say,
8 I don't want to report, well, they're going to allocate
9 your moose to somebody else if you don't report.
10 That's kind of the problem with not reporting. So we
11 want to maintain this harvest reporting thing.

12
13 So I would also like OSM to review this
14 regulation for this community harvest quota of 28, that
15 sort of seems to be a stale regulation at this point in
16 the Federal subsistence regulation book and report back
17 to us in our fall meeting on that particular aspect.

18
19 So.....

20
21 MS. KENNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 We'll do that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

25
26 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you. So
29 it's 3:00 o'clock, we're going to go to a 15 minute
30 break and so then we'll come back on record, it's 3:10
31 and so we'll come back on record at 3:25 sharp.

32
33 (Off record)

34
35 (On record)

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen and Tim. If
38 we could gather everybody back up.

39
40 Are you still on the phone Don and Ray.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You still there Ray
45 or Don.

46
47 REPORTER: Is anybody there?

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is anybody on the
2 phone?
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 REPORTER: Well, you never know if it's
7 still working.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MS. DAMBERG: Oh, yeah, this is Carol
12 Damberg, I'm on the phone.
13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. We wanted to
15 make sure that the line was still there.
16
17 So, Don and Ray must have clicked off
18 somehow. So we need to come back to order.
19
20 So right now we're still on the agenda
21 item for call for wildlife proposals, and that's on --
22 so if you have any issue or if there's anyone that
23 knows of an issue where there needs to be a regulatory
24 change under Federal wildlife proposals, this is the
25 time for the Council to make that because the close --
26 the end of the window ends tomorrow. There's no coming
27 up with another proposal after that.
28
29 So what about down in your country
30 there, Tommy, you got any regulatory changes for
31 Federal.
32
33 MR. KRISKA: No, I think we're fine.
34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So Jenny.
36
37 MS. PELKOLA: No.
38
39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Can't think of any.
40
41 Pollock, you think of any proposals.
42
43 MR. SIMON: No.
44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, you think of
46 any proposals.
47
48
49 MR. GERVAIS: No.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And myself -- I'm
2 not sure where Goodwin went there.

3
4 But did you come back on the phone
5 there, Ray.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don't know what
14 happened to them. I told them we were on a 15 minute
15 break.

16
17 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, Jack, this is Josh,
18 we all got disconnected. I just called back in so they
19 might not know they're disconnected.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, is that right,
22 okay.

23
24 MR. PEARCE: Yeah, so I just barely
25 came back but, yeah, we got cut off.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So if I hear them
28 come back I'm going to ask them about wildlife
29 proposals. But at this time, I don't -- up in the
30 northern part of the region, I don't know that there's
31 any wildlife proposals that need to be submitted at
32 this time.

33
34 And so there is that call and it ends
35 tomorrow.

36
37 So we're under Council charter review,
38 and so Karen.

39
40 (Pause)

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And that would be on
43 Page 71 of this book.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this is the
48 Council's charter. And you're presenting on this
49 or.....

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: I'm sorry.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you presenting
4 on this?

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, I am.

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Karen's going
13 through our papers for those on the phone and so we're
14 going to go through this charter.

15

16 (Pause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 For the record this is Karen Deatherage with the Office
22 of Subsistence Management. I'm going to read you a
23 brief on the charter review and then a couple of other
24 ideas I can share with you that I discussed with
25 Chairman Reakoff during the break for the Council to
26 consider.

27

28 Under the Federal Advisory Committee
29 Act you have to have a charter that's renewed every two
30 years so we're currently in a renewal period. So the
31 year before it renews, we just had a discussion to see
32 if there's anything you want to change in the charter.

33

34 Now, we have to make a point of 98
35 percent of what is in the charter is actually required
36 by the Federal Advisory Act and it's implementing
37 policy so you can't change that language. But you can
38 make name changes to your Council; the number of
39 members on your Council, because all of the Councils
40 originally started off with 10 members, since that time
41 three of them have changed to 13 members to reflect
42 their regions better; you can also modify its
43 membership balance. What kind of balance will you have
44 serving on your Council to represent the region well
45 and all the Councils have one, their provision is to
46 have 70 percent of the people on the Council represent
47 subsistence users and 30 percent represent commercial
48 sport users. That is a goal, not a requirement. But
49 that is currently written in the Council charter for

50

1 the Western Interior Alaska Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will make
4 note.....

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: One reason.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:that that was
9 forced upon the Councils back in like 1999 or about
10 that time era, the Deputy Secretary of Interior decided
11 that there needed to be a 70/30 split, we went back and
12 forth about that but we finally came down to a 70/30
13 split and so Tim is commercial/sport use, or what's
14 your status.....

15

16 MS. PELKOLA: Subsistence.

17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:same thing.....

19

20 MR. KRISKA: Same.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:so we -- this
23 Council, they had tried to achieve that representation
24 on the Council so it's not weighted completely
25 subsistence.

26

27 Go ahead, Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 One region, who I formerly worked with, the
31 Kodiak/Aleutians Council had actually added a
32 geographic membership balance to indicate in their
33 particular case, four members were from the Kodiak
34 Archipelago, three were from the Alaska Peninsula and
35 three were from the Aleutian/Pribilof Island area.
36 Because that region is so spread out the Council wanted
37 to make sure that they had a broader geographic
38 representation that had value for them.

39

40 So those are essentially the key
41 provisions that you can make changes to.

42

43 The name of the Council.

44

45 The number of Council members.

46

47 And if you wish, you can add a
48 geographic membership balance goal that you could put
49 in there.

50

1 Jack and I discussed that on the --
2 during the break -- so what I did was I handed out one
3 of these large maps for you, to look at the region and,
4 Jack, if you want to go ahead and talk about your
5 impression of how this region is divided into so-called
6 subregions and where -- and I can indicate where the
7 current representation is, the Council may wish to
8 consider setting some regional guidelines for the
9 charter.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So this region is
14 comprised of the Koyukuk River drainage and the middle
15 Yukon drainage is like a northern area, there's the
16 GASH area, which is in the lower portion of the -- in
17 the Yukon in the lower portion of the region, then we
18 have the Kuskokwim area as part of this region. So we
19 -- I feel that we need to have a goal of at least two
20 members, one from the upper Kuskokwim and one from the
21 lower Kuskokwim to represent the Kuskokwim River
22 drainage. And the selection process has reflected that
23 previously and I think it's really important to have
24 representations from up and down the Kuskokwim River.
25 I feel it's important to have at least one member from
26 the GASH area on our Council. And then, you know, we
27 -- the middle Yukon and lower Koyukuk is sort of a core
28 area where we can have more members representing that
29 area and that includes from Kaltag up through Ruby,
30 then we need to get into the -- and Huslia, which is
31 the lower -- all of that is an overlapping area of
32 knowledge and so I'm real happy with the representation
33 that we have currently and then we need up river
34 representation from up the drainage. I'm up in the top
35 of the region, we need to have representation in the
36 top portion of the -- up towards the mountains, so you
37 get into people who use the Brooks Range, and so
38 Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles, Wiseman, those utilize the
39 mountainous region and even Hughes has customary and
40 traditional use, or resident zone community status for
41 the Gates of the Arctic National Park, so from Hughes
42 up river needs to have good representation also.

43

44 But the Kuskokwim is a long river, it
45 only has Ray currently represented on that. Dennis
46 Thomas died this winter and so we need to have one
47 representative from there. We'd like to get another
48 representative from the GASH area and -- but Kaltag
49 kind of overlaps with GASH, doesn't it, Goodwin.

50

1 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.
2
3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do you feel that you
4 can represent the GASH, or know a lot of people in the
5 GASH area or no?
6
7 MR. SEMAKEN: You mean like Nulato
8 or.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, no, I'm talking
11 about down here Anvik, Grayling, Shag, Holy Cross, down
12 river from you.
13
14 MR. SEMAKEN: Oh, oh, oh, yeah, I
15 know.....
16
17 REPORTER: Goodwin, your mic.
18
19 MS. MAAS: Microphone.
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Mic on. Mic on here.
22
23 MR. SEMAKEN: Yes, I do know people down
24 that way, Anvik and Grayling, Shageluk.
25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And do you have --
27 are you aware of their user needs and concerns and
28 things like that, do they -- do you talk to them.
29
30 MR. SEMAKEN: They're too far away from
31 us, hundred miles or so.
32
33 MR. KRISKA: I pretty much talk to them
34 every other day.
35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say again.
37
38 MR. KRISKA: I said I pretty much talk
39 to them every other day.
40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
42
43 MR. KRISKA: But I would like to.....
44
45 REPORTER: Tommy. Tommy, your mic.
46
47 MR. KRISKA: Okay.
48
49 REPORTER: Thank you.
50

1 MR. KRISKA: I would just like to say
2 maybe since there's -- we could have a thing where we
3 can have more representatives if we need to, we could
4 put that in here now or up to 12 representatives or 13,
5 and then maybe get a few more from this GASH area and
6 like you said Kuskokwim area, to add them to our group
7 here, instead of 10, maybe 13.

8
9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we do want to
10 have, as highlighted, we need to have good
11 representation from the GASH area, we have to have good
12 representation from the Kuskokwim and -- but we're
13 having -- one of the issues is that we don't have good
14 applicants. What was the number of applicants for our
15 region this cycle?

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 There are four vacancies and there are four applicants
19 for this cycle.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that can be a
22 little bit hard to try and increase the number of seats
23 because the applications have not been really high.

24
25 MR. KRISKA: I think I could work on
26 that part for the GASH area. I know a lot of people
27 down there and if someone can know more people around
28 the Kuskokwim, maybe try to get a few more because I
29 think I can come up with somebody from the GASH.

30
31 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman.

32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

34
35 MR. CHASE: This is Ken. I got cutoff
36 and I had to switch phones and I just got back on and
37 I'm hearing the discussion on the representation down
38 in the GASH area and just the overall, and we are
39 definitely undermanned, under staffed and under
40 interested down here. I think it's a concern to me.
41 And we have, I don't think (indiscernible) can speak
42 for us either, it's got to be us locally, somebody in
43 the area stepping up and doing this because we've had
44 lots of problems in the last few years, we've had very
45 bad representation and spokesmen and that shows today,
46 we don't have anyone sitting on the committee there to
47 give input. And I'm pushing to try to educate some of
48 the people to the fact that we need more people to step
49 forward that has knowledge of these things.

50

1 And what happens is we get someone
2 elected, and it seems like when they do get elected,
3 they're knowledgeable but they lose contact with their
4 constituents, they don't go around and talk to the
5 villages, they don't talk to the people, they talk to
6 the Council but they don't talk to the man on the
7 street.
8

9 And I've been saying this over and over
10 for years that that's the problem with the
11 representation on that board and other boards, and
12 other committees we have, is they're okay as long as
13 they're sitting in the crowd but when they get up there
14 and start leadership they don't seem to contact the
15 people that's pertaining to what they should need to
16 know.
17

18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, appreciate
19 those comments.
20

21 So we're under charter review, Ken, and
22 so we're discussing getting more broader representation
23 through this region. Tom Kriska feels that we need to
24 increase the number of Western Interior Council members
25 from currently 10 to 13. But at least one or two more
26 seats would be good, I think. Because we have a huge
27 region and so YK-Delta, if you look at that region,
28 it's not nearly as large as ours and so YK-Delta's got
29 13 representatives and Western Interior's got 10 but we
30 have a giant region and so we have to also allocate
31 these seats. So I feel that there should be an
32 allocation of two on the Kuskokwim, at least one to two
33 at the GASH area, the core is in the middle Yukon from
34 Kaltag up to Ruby and then up to Huslia, that can have
35 quite a bit of representation, that's a lot of use, and
36 then the upper portion of the unit from Hughes up into
37 the upper drainage up where I live should also have
38 good representation because that's mountain hunting a
39 lot -- that's use of the upper river include Brooks
40 Range country, which is different, it's different than
41 what we have in the lower portion of the region.
42

43 So what does the Council feel about
44 increasing the Council members up to 13.
45

46 Tim, you got a comment.
47

48 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I have two
49 comments. Like right now the Council is set up with 10
50

1 members and we have the vacancy for Dennis and then
2 potentially we have a vacancy for Shirley Clark, I
3 don't know what's going on with her but I'm not seeing
4 her at the meetings or on the teleconference, so most
5 likely that seat's available too. So those are two
6 seats that need to be filled.

7
8 And then regarding the discussion of
9 the charter, it's like I'm in agreement with you that
10 we want representation of the entire region, but I
11 don't -- I think if we direct Karen and whoever's the
12 vetting board, vetting group, to fill these seats I
13 think we can just verbally tell them we need people
14 from these areas without actually specifying it in the
15 charter. If you specify in the charter and you don't
16 get applicants then you're stuck and then you're always
17 going to be fighting to get a quorum.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Karen.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you. Through
22 the Chair. These would be guidelines and
23 recommendations. I can tell you that the
24 Kodiak/Aleutians Council has not met their goal of
25 having that kind of representation in their region but
26 they want to put it in their charter so that it's
27 recognized that this is something that they're hoping
28 to achieve. So this would not be a requirement for the
29 Council to fill these seats based on your regional
30 needs, but it would be a goal, that that's how you
31 would like to have the Council composition set up.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I, myself, think
36 that it should be in the charter because things change.
37 How many times have we seen the faces at OSM change and
38 change and pretty soon things get lost, things get lost
39 with time, and so the goals of this Council should be
40 broader representation, it's not set in stone and so it
41 would be the goal to have at least two representatives
42 on the Kuskokwim, at least one or two in the GASH area,
43 the core of the seats in the middle Yukon, from Kaltag
44 up to Ruby and Huslia, and then in some seat -- a
45 couple seats in the upper drainage. So then we would
46 have kind of a goal for OSM to look at, you know,
47 beating the bushes. We're under represented on the
48 Kuskokwim, it's like get a hold of every tribal council
49 and anybody we can get a hold of to get more

50

1 nominations.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So that's kind of
6 would be a positive thing for this charter. Right now
7 Kodiak/Aleutians was right, I agree with them, there
8 needs to be a goal for OSM on representation.

9

10 So does that make sense, Tim, if it's
11 just strictly a goal?

12

13 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, if it's a guideline
14 and we don't get stuck into a situation where we can't
15 make our quorum.

16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Right.

18

19 Jenny.

20

21 MS. PELKOLA: I think it's very
22 important to have reps from the like GASH area, I think
23 we -- and wherever they represent because they have
24 issues that they can really speak to and like we do, we
25 speak to our issues. And I don't know how soon they
26 can fill Dennis' seat but it seems like they should do
27 that before the next meeting. I think it's very
28 important to have reps from every area, at least two
29 from GASH, well GASH would represent this whole area.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Basically 21E.

32

33 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, just right here,
34 okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 21A. And then we
37 need this 19D and C and A representation.

38

39 MS. PELKOLA: Okay. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think the
42 Council's pretty much in agreement on setting goals for
43 representation. So what about the increasing the
44 membership of the Council, does the Council -- would
45 like -- Pollock.

46

47 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, are you

50

1 back on Don.
2

3 MR. HONEA: Yeah, I had a comment on
4 increasing Chair, not to offend anyone, but I think the
5 number is right. I think the number that 10 that we've
6 had since inception of this whole thing is -- but I,
7 like Jenny and others, who are, I think it's imperative
8 that we get somebody from the Kuskokwim, take, for
9 example, when we were meeting in Galena, some of the
10 fishing proposals that were coming up I knew nothing
11 about and I think a lot of us. When we met, years ago
12 we met in McGrath and one of the RAC members that was
13 on there, just kind of a new person on there, said, we
14 took a break and he said, Don, you got to realize we're
15 speaking -- well, I said, hey, for the whole area, for
16 the whole Western Interior, and I said well I'm just
17 giving my view on my area because I don't know what's
18 going on in Aniak or something, so I think somebody
19 mentioned word of mouth, and I think that's really
20 important because, you know, and I hope Ray is in there
21 -- he's in agreement with me here that it's a good size
22 river and stuff that I think we need them, we need
23 them. I'm just going to have to say that, it's
24 imperative that we get people from the Kusko, whether
25 it's Aniak or Dennis Thomas was from Crooked Creek, I
26 believe, and I really miss the guy but -- yeah, I think
27 we have a good number, it's just that we have to fill
28 for where can.

29
30 Thanks.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks for those
33 comments, Don.

34
35 So you're satisfied with the number of
36 Council members of 10 for Western Interior?

37
38 MR. HONEA: Exactly. I am satisfied
39 with those numbers, I just want to like -- like some of
40 the other ones that we have a varied -- I agree that we
41 need somebody from the GASH area and it's imperative,
42 I'll say it again, that we have at least two from the
43 Kusko.

44
45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So I feel
46 that it would be hard to achieve additional
47 representation on this Council and with the funding
48 restraints of OSM, I don't know that we'd actually
49 achieve that. But I do think that it's worthwhile that
50

1 we put into the Charter the goal for representation of
2 two members from the Kuskokwim River, at least two
3 members from the Kuskokwim River, at least one member
4 from the GASH area. At least two members from Hughes
5 up river on the Koyukuk. And the rest of the members
6 from the Huslia, Ruby, Kaltag triangle.

7
8 Is that agreeable to the Council.

9
10 Pollock.

11
12 MR. SIMON: Mr. Chair. I got a couple
13 of.....

14
15 REPORTER: Pollock, your mic.

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn your mic on.

18
19 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
20 got a couple of comments.

21
22 REPORTER: Thank you, Pollock.

23
24 MR. SIMON: The first one is we've been
25 meeting in bigger communities like Galena and Aniak,
26 McGrath, but I when I read the charter it's only four
27 and a half pages long, the charter doesn't state that
28 you're supposed to meet in bigger communities only.
29 When I got on this board I suggested that we meet in
30 smaller communities so that we can meet the peoples
31 that we represent. But I don't know who suggested that
32 we meet only in bigger communities otherwise, yes, put
33 words into charter to reflect that, smaller
34 communities.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, OSM told us
37 several years ago that we could not meet in smaller
38 communities because it was not cost effective and they
39 had limited budgeting. That was one of the reasons we
40 got pushed to the hub communities of Galena, McGrath
41 and Aniak. We haven't been down to Aniak for a long
42 time because they don't have a meeting place for us.
43 They have a gymnasium that echoes like the inside of a
44 culvert and so we're not going to meet there ever again
45 in that.....

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:gymnasium,
50

1 period, because it's not -- the public's sitting five
2 feet in front of the table and they can't hear what I'm
3 saying so there's no reason to be there.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We do need to find a
8 community in the Aniak -- a building in Aniak to have a
9 meeting down there because I think it's pretty
10 important to go down there and talk to people once in
11 awhile. But when we meet in some communities we don't
12 get any participation, we don't have anybody that shows
13 up at the meeting. When we come to Fairbanks, we had,
14 look, how many comments we had from -- TCC was here, we
15 get various comments from people that come here. So my
16 opinion is that we meet one time in Fairbanks, and one
17 time in one of our communities and that way we get more
18 of a feel for what's actually going on because we can
19 interact with agency people in the urban places.

20

21 That's just my opinion.

22

23 Tommy.

24

25 MR. KRISKA: Going back to this number
26 of representation here for this, our area, I think
27 doing the count on the representation here on the whole
28 region and I come up with one way we need to do it,
29 just seems like to me, I know 10 is a good number but
30 you're still going to miss out on one more
31 representative from the lower Yukon, so maybe instead
32 of 13 go to 11, and that would cover our whole area.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Tommy's
35 suggestion to increase -- Pollock.

36

37 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
38 have one more comment.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Pollock.

41

42 MR. SIMON: It's about travel. We
43 can't go on charter planes so we have to go on regular
44 flights. If there's a meeting in McGrath, like,
45 myself, I have to travel from Allakaket to Fairbanks,
46 and Fairbanks to Anchorage, then Anchorage to McGrath,
47 it's travel two days to get there, and travel two days
48 to come back for a day and a half meeting. And my
49 friend he was on -- he lives in Anvik, he has to fly

50

1 from Anvik to Aniak, Aniak to Anchorage, Anchorage to
2 McGrath, and if there was a charter from Anvik to
3 McGrath it would be about only 45 minutes, but he
4 traveled four days for a day and a half meeting.
5

6 I just wanted to mention that.
7

8 Thanks, Mr. Chair.
9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm totally in
11 agreement with that issue. This region is so huge, as
12 we're discussing, that four days of travel for me, I
13 have to get somebody to watch my house, we burn wood,
14 that's a big burden, I don't think that OSM seems to
15 realize not everybody's got all this automatic stuff,
16 and some people are leaving work for several days. You
17 didn't like your 30 day, or 35 day shutdown, guess what
18 we take a five day, basically per diem, we get to a
19 village, they give you like 20 bucks a day, or
20 something it doesn't even cover the cost of the food
21 there, go eat in Galena. And so the reality is we need
22 to have charters to go from -- if it's a southern
23 meeting, we need to have a charter from the north, we
24 all fly to Fairbanks and we charter down -- like we did
25 that many, many years ago and if you don't know how to
26 do it Vince Mathews back there in the back of the room
27 he's done it a lot of times for us, so we need to have
28 that charter ability. And we want -- if we can stick
29 that into this charter, that needs to be in this
30 charter.
31

32 Can that be stuck in there?
33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Shakes head
35 negatively)
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, well, then the
38 OSM's got to hear it every time that we need to have
39 charter ability to charter from one end -- the southern
40 members to the north, or the northern members to the
41 south, because of the way the flights work.
42

43 Go ahead, Karen.
44

45 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We've been
46 talking about that quite a bit and we're actually
47 coming up with some good information on how we can do
48 that and work with some of our agency partners to get
49 charter planes to get people because we recognize -- I
50

1 mean even -- because when you look at Ray Collins, I
2 mean he has to go from McGrath to Anchorage, to
3 Fairbanks to Galena to get to that meeting and so we
4 definitely recognize those limitations and the amount
5 of time that it takes to get folks there.

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted - dog barking)

9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: But we also are
11 looking at the same system that you were talking about
12 where we would meet in the larger hub community most of
13 the time in the winter because travel is a little bit
14 easier to get to the larger communities, and then in a
15 smaller community, perhaps a hub, or perhaps a non-hub
16 community depending on budget, in the fall.

17
18 And so those are some of the goals that
19 we have at OSM, but, again, we are always under a
20 budgetary restriction or expansion, we never know what
21 kind of funding we're going to have available.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tom.

24
25 MR. DOOLITTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 Tom Doolittle, Acting Assistant Regional Director for
27 OSM.

28
29 Yeah, I'm very empathetic to the travel
30 aspects and Karen is correct, I think that those
31 efficiencies that you're talking to is actually
32 probably a measure of budget efficiency because time is
33 money and one of the most important things because I
34 actually have to be in Southcentral tomorrow for the
35 close of that meeting with some issues down in that
36 part of the world, but I just wanted to make sure that
37 you know that the volunteerism and the heart of the
38 Federal Subsistence Program are the Councils. And the
39 devotion, and when I hear Ray Collins on the phone and
40 I travel throughout the State and I see the devotion
41 and I see the number of people that have applied to be
42 on Regional Advisory Councils, shows me full force that
43 subsistence on Federal public lands is alive and well.
44 And it goes to your heart that way.

45
46 But also you've given me a challenge no
47 matter the position that I'm ever in. And that
48 challenge is really that we should not look at budget
49 processes as an adversity, but a challenge to do
50

1 better, not just because of savings but also the
2 challenge of our needs. So I applaud the concepts of
3 putting in the additional Council members into the
4 charter as what you want to be because it also makes
5 sure that you're holding myself, as an administrator,
6 my feet to the fire, that we look at how do we
7 accommodate this program rather than always coming up
8 with excuses for programs. And that there is, of
9 course, no promises in the world of budgets, but
10 looking at those efficiencies and the needs to serve
11 the heart of our program, which is really the Councils.
12 This has been a bottom up process.

13
14 And when I looked at a book on my shelf
15 before I came here yesterday it was called Keepers of
16 the Earth, and I think about that from where my heart
17 was from the beginnings of my career in land management
18 and what it meant for people is that I want you all to
19 understand that we always can do a better job and that
20 that's what the -- if there's going to be any
21 commitment that I can try to make is to make things
22 easier on you and I understand the full force of
23 volunteerism and what sacrifices that you make on
24 behalf of managing Alaska's resource for its people.

25
26 Many thanks, Mr. Chair and the Council.

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate your
29 kind words and your commitment and heartfelt empathy
30 for the Regional Council members and the subsistence
31 users.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 Jenny.

36
37 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, also another
38 problem we do have is weather.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MS. PELKOLA: You know Don has missed a
43 lot of meetings due to flying in the day before and I
44 think, you know, Ruby is sometimes -- most of the time
45 is hard to get into, harder it seems like than other
46 villages that I know. So maybe even a day two day
47 advance for Don to make these meetings because it's --
48 the burden falls on the rest of us here and it seems
49 like when you don't have the full board there, part of
50

1 us, you know, we're missing and we're not -- I mean I
2 know he's on the phone and I know how it is to sit
3 through these meetings on the phone and it's just
4 boring but you have to sit there and, you know, you
5 want to participate.

6
7 So I think in cases like that, with Don
8 and whoever, maybe like even from Allakaket and even
9 from Bettles, Wiseman, I guess, you know, think about
10 that.

11
12 And also the charter, I think the
13 charter would work good, it would save a lot of time
14 from traveling so far.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: When you look at the
17 overnighting in the communities, like in Anchorage or
18 Fairbanks, north or south, versus the charter, it's not
19 that much for a charter compared to the overnighting,
20 the travel cost to those -- to Anchorage going to
21 Aniak, the hotel, the cabs, all the rigamarole that
22 goes along with that travel there's not a lot of
23 savings there. It might be just a little bit more but
24 it saves the Council members a lot of grief and two
25 days of additional travel.

26
27 Go ahead, Pollock.

28
29 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
30 it's okay with you I like to fly around, if I overnight
31 in Anchorage I like to shop and go to Bingo, but I just
32 want to mention it.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I think we've
39 covered this charter thing and I think we should have
40 goals for seats in the north, two seats north of
41 Hughes, one seat around GASH, at least two seats on the
42 Kuskokwim, and the rest of the seats in the middle
43 triangle, which would be Kaltag to Ruby to Hughes.

44
45 You have a comment, or question.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 I have a couple comments and maybe a suggestion.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Instead of actually
4 naming the number of seats you could just say equitable
5 representation in those four regions. So what you've
6 done is you've identified the regions that are
7 important for representation but you're not holding
8 yourself to a certain number because you never know,
9 either, if there's going to be long-term issues that
10 may come up where you might need more representation
11 from those regions, and so that might be a way to start
12 this process and see how it works. It's going to take
13 a year to get it through and then you'll have two years
14 to see how it works.

15

16 Somebody mentioned about having seats
17 filled before the next meeting cycle, and unfortunately
18 that cannot happen under the current system for your
19 fall cycle meeting. New appointees will hopefully be
20 completed by December 2nd and their service will begin
21 at the winter cycle meeting.

22

23 And so we will still have, at this
24 point anyway, one, at least one and possibly two
25 vacancies on this Council for the fall meeting.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Jenny.

30

31 MS. PELKOLA: I was just going to say,
32 so that would be -- if we had alternates that would
33 take care of that.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And we should -- I
36 would like to see inserted into this charter the
37 requirement for alternates, at least, two alternates in
38 the wings for lack of representation.

39

40 Tim.

41

42 MR. HONEA: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that you Don.

45

46 MR. HONEA: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

49

50

1 MR. HONEA: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Two points here.

3
4 I thank Jenny for bringing that up. I
5 mean we mentioned that before. Let's say if I was
6 brought in a day earlier, hey, I would have jumped at
7 that and would have did it, and I'd be at the meeting.
8 But I just wanted to go back and go ahead and do this
9 right now, if Tommy -- Tommy had a very good suggestion
10 to add at least one more and if that was in the form of
11 a motion I would -- I still like the idea of the
12 charter thing, we once met in Holy Cross and we came
13 right down in this thing here and we went to McGrath
14 and then went over to Holy Cross and everything, it was
15 really good, you know, so I like the charter idea. I
16 don't think that's going to mess up in our number of
17 expanding too much to 13, but I like the idea of 11.

18
19 If that is a motion I would second
20 that.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we're formulating
25 sort of a plan to this charter.

26
27 So one additional member to the
28 Council. I would be agreeable to that.

29
30 You got a comment, Tim.

31
32 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I like the idea of
33 11 or 10 is good. Do you want to -- in our guidelines
34 do you want to put on a number of seats to have women
35 filled.

36
37 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

38
39 MR. GERVAIS: I think that Jenny and
40 Eleanor and Shirley, they always bring in a different
41 take on the subsistence stuff and at this point I feel
42 our Council's lacking a lot on that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we won't put a
45 quota on but we would suggest women representatives as
46 RAC members also because they do bring a different --
47 we've had various women over time that have added a lot
48 of additional good information to this Council and I
49 appreciate that Tim.

50

1 So our recommendations would be for one
2 additional member.

3
4 Possibly two alternates in case we have
5 a member pass away or doesn't feel like coming or
6 whatever.

7
8 And then a goal of four areas that
9 should have representation, the upper portion of the
10 region from Hughes up, the middle area from Kaltag,
11 Ruby, Huslia, and then two or one on the GASH area --
12 or correction, just the GASH area, and then the
13 Kuskokwim area. Those are the regions that need to be
14 looked at for representatives on this Council.

15
16 And then we should also want to leave
17 -- call into question the hub thing if we have a
18 burning issue in an area, we should be able to travel
19 to a smaller community. If Donlin pops up and we need
20 to go to that area to hear, you know, like Holy Cross
21 or whoever is having a problem with this giant mine, we
22 need to be able to -- this Council needs to be able to
23 hear the subsistence concerns of those communities
24 because it's hard for them to charter -- or travel --
25 correction, travel to our meetings.

26
27 So that's something that OSM should be
28 thinking about also. Maybe not in the charter, but the
29 policy for regional hubs may not always work and so we
30 need to be able to go to Holy Cross or some smaller
31 community if need be, if we could demonstrate that
32 there's a need to go there.

33
34 Karen.

35
36 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37
38 Another thing is to be creative.

39
40 We had the Kodiak/Aleutians Subsistence
41 Regional Advisory Council that had not met out in the
42 Aleutian chain since its inception, I believe, and it
43 turned out there was going to be an Aleutian/Pribilof
44 Islands Conference out there and -- where all the
45 tribes from the different island areas and the
46 Peninsula were going to be present. So what we managed
47 to do, it takes some footwork, but we managed to be able
48 to get the Council to hold its meeting in Unalaska at
49 the same time that that conference was occurring so
50

1 that they would have the opportunity to meet with
2 community members from all over the region, in areas
3 that are literally impossible to go to for a Council,
4 quite frankly, because they're just so small, they
5 don't have the facilities, so these are things to keep
6 in mind, if TCC has a conference, or if you know of one
7 or an event that is occurring in one of these hub
8 areas, or village areas, let's be on top of that so
9 that we could potentially meet in conjunction with
10 those events and have the opportunity to meet one on
11 one with these tribal leaders and folks from those
12 communities.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be a
17 consideration. But sometimes there's only limited
18 facilities to facilitate all of the meeting -- a large
19 membership, or it distracts from the meeting, it draws
20 people away that would ordinarily -- they have to
21 divide their time between that meeting and our meeting,
22 or participating with our meeting.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: We were able to hold
25 our meeting -- through the Chair. We were able to hold
26 our meeting before the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands
27 meeting and so -- and we invited them to come and so
28 people came in early to be able to attend that meeting
29 and then our folks, since they were already there, were
30 able to go to the conference itself. So it actually
31 worked out well in that regard, other than weather,
32 which is also a very big issue down there.

33

34 So it turned out to be a good
35 experience and something that I think we could consider
36 anyway and keep an eye out for if the opportunity
37 arises.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

40

41 So we need to have a motion to submit
42 additions to this charter for one additional member,
43 have two alternates to this Council, and a guideline of
44 four areas for representation. North, middle, GASH and
45 Kuskokwim area.

46

47 Any other comments.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a motion.
2
3 MR. HONEA: I make a motion to that.
4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Motion to that
6 effect by Don.
7
8 MR. KRISKA: Second.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
11
12 Question.
13
14 MS. PELKOLA: Question.
15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
17 that motion signify by saying aye.
18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.
20
21 MR. HONEA: Aye.
22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You ever come back
24 on the phone Ray.
25
26 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'm back on now.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. You got
29 affirmative to that.
30
31 MR. COLLINS: Yes.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that
34 covers our charter.
35
36 So moving on in our agenda to approve
37 the annual report on Page 46.
38
39 <Pause>
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So these were issues
41 that the Council identified at the fall meeting in
42 Galena.
43
44 MR. GERVAIS: Jack, could we add
45 another subject on there.
46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, we can.
48
49 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. What about the
50

1 issue that Ray brought up during his report this
2 morning about they're looking at the pipeline route for
3 Donlin, that they can somehow get a waiver or
4 something on declassifying that black spruce as wet
5 land so they can place the pipeline (indiscernible)
6 rather than the transition to the foothills.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So are you hearing
9 what Tim's stating Ray, an annual report topic
10 regarding the Donlin pipeline.

11
12 MR. COLLINS: I am.

13
14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Did you want to
15 comment on that.

16
17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, that was the
18 initial excuse I heard, I don't know if that was a
19 later one. But yeah they're having a hearing here, I
20 guess, sometime April 15th or something, Ken Chase just
21 mentioned it to me. I didn't realize they were going
22 around to the villages again, and that's the BLM that's
23 doing that. I'm not sure who's sponsoring those
24 meetings. But I'm sure there'll be comments again.
25 But where they're proposing now is right along the
26 foothills and that's where all the movement of game is
27 and we know moose gather up there and move back and
28 forth along the hills. When the weather is bad in the
29 mountains they come down to the first of the spruce
30 down there and there's some bigger spruce along the
31 headwaters before you get into that black spruce
32 further down and there's shelter there.

33
34 So there's a lot of game movement along
35 there.

36
37 Plus the fact that Farewell is open to
38 any pilot that want to land there and they're
39 chartering in fourwheelers already and going out in the
40 immediate area around there on the Iditarod trail and
41 any other trail they can use and hunting out of
42 Farewell. Well, if they build that pipeline road right
43 along the foothills there, every drainage is going to
44 be accessible for the ones that want to charter because
45 they're not going to close -- they may not maintain
46 fully that pipeline road but once it's cleared the
47 fourwheelers will keep it open. And it would be a real
48 impact on the big game along the mountains there, put a
49 lot more pressure on it. The caribou summer up in the

50

1 mountains there and then they come down in the fall,
2 it's only a small caribou herd but it's significant and
3 we still harvest that locally. And then there's also,
4 as I mentioned, the movement of the moose down on those
5 lands.

6
7 So it's a very significant and
8 important area that should be protected right by the
9 foothills and they shouldn't create a road down through
10 there.

11
12 They're also going to put in an air
13 strip that will be abandoned, I suppose, I'm not sure
14 how that's going to happen. There'll be camps along
15 the way and when they're in operation, I don't know
16 whether they can keep everybody from -- anybody they
17 don't want there can -- they can close that I guess to
18 their landing, and I still -- as I mentioned the
19 sheefish spawning area is in the Big River, it's
20 critical -- because right now they spawn in the fall
21 after the streams start freezing up and closing and
22 that may be impacted by weather, too, if there's a late
23 freezeup because they're still -- from the mountains --
24 washing into the streams -- if they don't wait for that
25 clear water then the eggs could get smothered by silt.
26 So any activity that stirs up the dirt around those
27 rivers is going to have some impact.

28
29 So there's a lot of issues there.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate those
32 comments, Ray.

33
34 So you would like to insert a topic,
35 seven, concerns regarding the construction of the
36 natural gas pipeline for the Donlin Creek project.

37
38 Tim, go ahead.

39
40 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it should be moved
43 away from the hills down into the black spruce because
44 it would -- and that's a martin area maybe and grouse
45 and things like that, but it's not a very productive
46 big game area, that black spruce until you get a fire
47 going through then some of it like down by McGrath now,
48 it's become a good berry picking area and so on but the
49 black spruce up by the hills it's too far to go just to

50

1 pick berries.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Tim, do you want
4 to formalize your language.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: So the topic to address
7 for the annual report is this Council feels that the
8 location of the pipeline route to Donlin Mine needs to
9 be moved away from the foothills and down into the
10 black spruce and feel it's worth the consideration as
11 removing wet land designation to that black spruce and
12 potentially that it may be a technicality that that
13 black spruce is considered wet land -- I don't know
14 does that have -- it must have permafrost under it,
15 Ray, is that right.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, it has permafrost
18 under it.

19

20 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. So maybe see if
21 they could seek out some kind of exemption that just
22 because it's a permafrost area, that doesn't
23 necessarily mean it's like wet land that would be
24 impacting water fowl that much if it's heavily mossed
25 and not an area that has a lot of lakes and ponds.

26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any additions to
28 that Ray, does that sound good.

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, sounds good.

31

32 MR. CHASE: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, go ahead.

35

36 MR. CHASE: This is Ken. I just wanted
37 to comment on that. I talked to Ray earlier about that
38 and there's the Western Interior Bering Straits -- or
39 Bering Sea Western Interior Management Plan, I know
40 you're familiar with that, the one in the east that
41 they did, BLM's reclassification for the next 20 years,
42 et cetera. And the comment period is going to be
43 accepted until June 13th, 2019, so that 90 days and
44 they gave a list of communities that the Bureau of Land
45 Management, and Bonnie, I think, Million, is a field
46 manager for BLM, she had sent out the letter to our
47 cooperation here because we've been pretty active in
48 this review, and they're going to be holding hearings
49 in Nulato, McGrath, Chuathbaluk, Unalakleet, Crooked

50

1 Creek, Aniak, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Bethel, Grayling,
2 Holy Cross, Kaltag and Russian Mission. And these are
3 all during the month of April and probably into May.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, say, Ken.

6

7 MR. CHASE: Yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Bonnie's here and
10 she's going to be giving us an overview of this
11 tomorrow morning, are you going to be available to be
12 on the phone tomorrow.

13

14 MR. CHASE: Yes, I will thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So she's going to
17 give us.....

18

19 MR. CHASE: Thank you. I didn't
20 realize she was going to be there, so, yeah, that's
21 fine.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I thought
24 what you were going to say was related to this gas line
25 issue. But she's going to be here tomorrow and she's
26 actually in the room tonight -- or today, and so we're
27 going to be going over that whole -- those management
28 plans also.

29

30 So at this point we're going over our
31 annual report and so we -- I have concerns about
32 management of caribou that, you know, the perception of
33 what caribou eat throughout the annual cycle is
34 incorrect, resource monitoring and evaluation. This
35 statement should be clear as to the annual cycle of
36 caribou eating lichen in winter and then flowers --
37 basically we'll call it flowers and willow leaves in
38 the summer, needs to have an analysis because the
39 managers seem to think that caribou need lichen in
40 summer, they don't rarely eat -- they eat lichen, if
41 they see it they'll take a bite, but they're primarily
42 eating high protein foods in the summertime, springtime
43 through fall. So the management of caribou has to have
44 an evaluation of what caribou actually eat. So that's
45 what this resource monitoring evaluation, number 1, is
46 about.

47

48 Number 2, is Office of Subsistence
49 Management comments to the Alaska Board of Game. The

50

1 Council's concerned that OSM comments -- the Council
2 believes the OSM is facilitating an organization
3 therefore should not be submitted comments to the Board
4 of Fisheries or Game outside of the Regional Council
5 comments. Sometimes the comments have been in
6 opposition to the Councils. So I feel that the OSM
7 liaison to the Board of Game, Board of Fish should
8 actually be representing what the Councils have stated
9 on the record. So we're going back to this issue again
10 because I'm not quite satisfied with what was responded
11 to this Council regarding OSM comments to the Boards.
12

13 Number 3 is regulation of publication
14 deadline. The Council's concerned over the release of
15 the regulations of the wildlife cycle and so this
16 Council's concerned that the regulatory changes that
17 occurred by the Federal Subsistence Board and the
18 Secretary of Interior's office delayed those
19 publication until -- I didn't get this book until our
20 fall meeting, that was after the hunting season was
21 over, that should not be. The Secretary of Interior's
22 office has to be aware that this is a statutory
23 process, and that they need to publish these documents
24 and appointments on time.
25

26 National Wildlife Refuge's Staffing.
27 The Council's concerned about the wildlife Refuge
28 Staffing. Many Wildlife Refuges are way behind on
29 being able to -- with hiring freezes and so forth, and
30 so this Council would like the Federal Subsistence
31 Board to speak to the Secretary of Interior and the
32 National Wildlife Refuge systems, in particular, to get
33 those field offices Staffed properly.
34

35 National Marine Fisheries national
36 standards and fishery stocks. Do you want to speak to
37 that one, Tim.
38

39 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah. But do you want me
40 to carry it beyond.....
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The recommendation
43 of the Council.
44

45 MR. GERVAIS: Do you want me to carry
46 it beyond what's already written here.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, don't read the
49 whole thing but just paraphrase what it's about.
50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Okay.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Goodwin wasn't at
4 this meeting.

5

6 MR. GERVAIS: So this National -- North
7 Pacific Fisheries Management Council is a Federal
8 council that's in charge of -- not enacting -- but
9 regulating or taking the Magnuson-Stevens Act, which
10 covers marine fish harvesting policies and they set
11 allowable catches which are similar to guideline
12 harvest levels for various species and methods and
13 means, seasons and they're -- like their mission
14 statement and protocols, they have national standards
15 and this Council feels that this national standard
16 number 8, which regards communities is not being
17 followed correctly because all of our communities on
18 the Kuskokwim and Yukon, Koyukuk have had adverse
19 impact from the lack of king salmon abundance available
20 to subsistence and commercial users. And it's the
21 impression of some of the Council members, such as
22 myself, that when there was a change in the Magnuson-
23 Stevens Act that set up these groups called CDQ or
24 community development quotas that a lot of people in
25 the fishing industry thought that was like enough of a
26 give away where these communities which were within 100
27 miles of the coastline of the Bering Sea, they actually
28 were allocated 10 percent of all the groundfish and
29 shellfish, so that was like millions and millions of
30 dollars worth of fishing rights that these communities
31 got and when that occurred, I feel like people in the
32 industry and people on the Council, the North Pacific
33 Management Council, felt like since they gave away 10
34 percent of the fish and shellfish, that the fishing
35 industry could -- didn't have to pay as much attention
36 to their bycatch activities and also just because of
37 the demographics or geographic kind of isolation of the
38 Interior that these people on the North Pacific
39 Management Council and the trawl industry are not
40 realizing the significance of the impact of the bycatch
41 has in our communities. And another factor and they
42 may be they feel like that so many -- a relatively
43 small amount of the populations they affected and their
44 economic gain by not having to fish real clean, and
45 when I say fish real clean, I mean without bycatch,
46 that -- because we have small villages and finite
47 amount of people that it's not that significant of an
48 impact but my thought on it is that Seattle is no more
49 important than Galena or Ruby or Allakaket, there's

50

1 like -- we have the right to have our fish not be taken
2 as prohibited species of bycatch.

3
4 And so in our annual report here we're
5 referencing this national standard number 8, that
6 standard is listed here in a paragraph.

7
8 So saying that the North Pacific
9 Management Council provides sustained participation of
10 such communities to the extent practical minimize
11 adverse economic impacts on such communities.

12
13 So I'm saying that the adverse economic
14 -- or this Council is saying the adverse economic
15 impacts of this bycatch situation is significant and
16 substantial and there's people on the North Pacific
17 Management Council and in the industry that says, well,
18 to the extent practical, and that gives them leeway and
19 so they're saying they're not violating the standard
20 and we are telling them, the Federal Subsistence Board
21 a significant economic impact and also a significant
22 cultural impact.

23
24 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Federal
25 Subsistence Board -- the Council's speak to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board, the Federal Subsistence Board has a
27 voice with the North Pacific Fisheries Management
28 Council to bring this to the attention that the
29 national standard number 8 is not being adhered to,
30 this Council feels it is not, and it's having
31 significant socio-economic impact to the local
32 communities.

33
34 So I fully agree with that.

35
36 Number 6 is the effects of hatchery
37 fish on wild stocks. And the Council feels that
38 releasing hundreds of millions of chum and pink salmon
39 fry into the marine environment is having a significant
40 impact on wild stocks and the Council believes that
41 it's critical that the responsible agencies manage the
42 potential impacts of hatchery fish to insure the
43 conservation and sustainability of wild stocks on
44 Alaskan salmon.

45
46 And then number 7 will be added the
47 location of the natural gas pipeline for Donlin Creek
48 Mine, we suggest that it be moved away from the Alaska
49 Range foothills into the black spruce low lands away
50

1 from the prime big game habitat to have the least
2 adverse impact on subsistence users that should have
3 been drawn out in the .810 analysis.

4

5 MR. COLLINS: Jack.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, go ahead, Ray.

8

9 MR. COLLINS: There's another aspect of
10 that too, if they moved it down it would make it more
11 feasible for some of the villages to perhaps tap into
12 that and use it as a fuel source for their power
13 generation instead of the high cost to deliver fuel all
14 the way up the river, you know, to the head waters.
15 But keeping it clear out at the pipeline makes it
16 prohibitive for any of the communities, McGrath or any
17 of those communities to really think about tapping into
18 that as a source of power while it's in operation.

19

20 So there's an economic negative on the
21 community by keeping it where it is too.

22

23 I don't know if you want to mention
24 that in there or not, but.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That would be
27 outside the purview of this Council to talk about the
28 economic.....

29

30 MR. COLLINS: Yeah. Yeah.

31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I think we will
33 stick to the impact to prime big game habitat along the
34 foothills of the Alaska Range.

35

36 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

37

38 MR. GERVAIS: And put in there
39 potentially that that black spruce habitat be not
40 classified as wet lands.

41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes, and reclassify
43 the black spruce as not wet lands, it's not actually
44 wet lands, it's a peat bog is what it really is and it
45 primarily doesn't have water cover for the majority of
46 it. So reclassification of the black spruce wet lands.

47

48 MR. GERVAIS: Any more comments.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

2

3 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, I would like other
4 Council members to comment on that and an eighth topic,
5 if they're interested.

6

7 I feel like this Council should
8 recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board that in our
9 region we're seeing our rate of warming is too rapid
10 and it's creating a lot of adverse effects for our
11 wildlife and for the subsistence users and I would like
12 to see a national energy policy that is more responsive
13 to potential impacts of global warming.

14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, it's.....

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Well, that was.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray.

20

21 MR. COLLINS: Yeah, some of those
22 Federal monies that were coming back too were used like
23 to fund the Salmon River weir, which is being -- people
24 in Nikolai have cooperated in keeping that going. And
25 by having the early closures biologically those salmon
26 come in early and they go the furthest and we've seen a
27 tripling of the escapement, even in the bad years, in
28 the Salmon River because of that weir being able to --
29 so keeping some of those Federal funds, I think the
30 Governor was talking about cutting those out, or taking
31 them by the State. And I don't know what the source of
32 that is, whether it's the National Marine Fisheries
33 money or what the source of that money is.

34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're referring
36 to -- Tim was talking about a category eight as rate of
37 warming in our region is having significant impact to
38 subsistence users, and you wanted a national
39 standards.....

40

41 MR. GERVAIS: I was asking if the other
42 Council members would comment if we could mention to
43 the Federal Subsistence Board that we'd like the
44 Federal government to address this with their national
45 energy policy or have the Secretary of the Interior
46 communicate to the Secretary of Energy to communicate
47 to President Trump that the rate of warming in our
48 region has adverse effect.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We could request
2 that the Federal Subsistence Board does that, that they
3 bring that to the attention of the Secretary of
4 Interior. The Federal Subsistence Board is an arm of
5 the Secretary of Interior's office, and that this
6 region is having -- the rate of warming is having a
7 significant impact on subsistence resources and users.
8 And that national policy needs to reflect those impacts
9 to the northern -- to Alaska. And so the Federal
10 Subsistence Board can convey that under this topic.

11
12 So is that okay with the Council.

13
14 (Council nods affirmatively)

15
16 MR. KRISKA: Yep.

17
18 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then the other
21 issue is the weir funding on the -- but we addressed a
22 lot of those issues for weirs at our fisheries meeting,
23 Ray.

24
25 MR. COLLINS: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So I don't know that
28 this is -- we have eight items here right now.

29
30 MR. COLLINS: Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does this annual
33 report -- we're going to be -- we'll make a motion to
34 adopt this annual report to be transmitted to the
35 Federal Subsistence Board -- Pollock.

36
37 MR. SIMON: Yeah, I'd like to make a
38 little comment, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead,
41 Pollock.

42
43 MR. SIMON: For hundreds of years, if
44 not thousands, we live by the river and take as needed.
45 And that's always worked good for us. That king salmon
46 almost return then the Feds and the State took over
47 management and we lost the king salmon so that's why we
48 are being restricted along the river for taking king
49 salmon, so it's not our fault that -- it's not my fault
50

1 that I was restricted to taking king salmon because the
2 State and the Feds made poor management.

3
4 Thanks, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks Pollock.

7
8 So the Chair will entertain a motion to
9 adopt the annual report with the amendments that are on
10 the record.

11
12 MR. SIMON: So moved.

13
14 MS. PELKOLA: Second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Pollock,
17 seconded by Jenny.

18
19 Further discussion.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called,
26 those in favor of the annual report as modified to be
27 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board signify by
28 saying aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

33
34 MR. HONEA: Aye.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I got Ray and Don on
37 the phone, so motion passed unanimous.

38
39 So Alaska Board of Game call for
40 proposals and did you -- you were talking about
41 adjusting the, Tommy, the winter hunt seasons.

42
43 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is
44 Tom Kriska. I was just more like seeing if we could
45 adjust the winter hunt to -- instead of in March when
46 the -- winter is almost over and I don't really see a
47 point in getting a moose in March, more of it to see
48 that it happens in October or November would be more
49 useable to me, you know, for the people.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we had Glenn
2 Stout here, but he apparently -- what time is it, nope,
3 it's past quitting time.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So it would have
8 been nice to talk to him about that one. But that's
9 the new hunt is under -- it just passed the Board of
10 Game this winter to allow a -- I'm not exactly clear
11 about the regulatory language, it's in Game Management
12 Unit 21D and it's a winter hunt from March 15 to
13 March.....

14
15 (Teleconference interference -
16 participant not muted, music interruption from hold
17 line)

18
19 MR. KRISKA: It's from March 1st to
20 March 15th right now.

21
22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: March 1 to March 15,
23 okay. March 1 to March 15 is the current season for
24 moose and it's in the delineated area and I don't have
25 the regulatory language in front of me.

26
27 MR. KRISKA: It was from March 1st to
28 March 15th or either, if whenever 25 moose were shot,
29 if it was done before the 15th, then it'd be shut down.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you would like
32 the Council to submit a proposal to the Board of Game,
33 which is under call for proposals that should be
34 submitted by May 1 to have the opening of the.....

35
36 (Teleconference interference -
37 participant not muted, music interruption from hold
38 line)

39
40 OPERATOR: This is the Operator, did
41 you press star zero for assistance.

42
43 REPORTER: I did. I need you to
44 disconnect the line that's put themselves on hold -- go
45 ahead, Jack, I'll take care of this.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So you're requesting
48 that the available season for the winter hunt within
49 the delineated Kaiyuh Flats hunt would be from -- a

50

1 starting date of when?
2

3 MR. KRISKA: Maybe say just the 1st of
4 December to December 20th so that we could give time
5 for the river to freeze up.
6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah. So a State
8 proposal.....
9

10 MR. SEMAKEN: So yeah you could get the
11 moose.
12

13 REPORTER: Goodwin, microphone.
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: You got to turn your
16 mic on there.
17

18 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, it's the only place
19 you can catch the moose is on the other side of the
20 river.
21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Tom Kriska
23 and Goodwin feel that the current season, State season
24 which allows harvest of up to 25 moose and what I would
25 refer to as the Kaiyuh Flats moose hunt, which is
26 delineated in regulatory language should be the -- the
27 starting date should be from the 1st of December --
28 it's a 15 day hunt right now so you don't want to say
29 the 20th or something, so the 15th of December -- 1st
30 of December to the 15th of December, and the reason --
31 the justification would be that the current hunt is
32 occurring too late in the winter to utilize the meat
33 before breakup and that a season December 1 through
34 December 15 would allow access across the Yukon River
35 and the drainages should be frozen up enough to access
36 the 25 moose within the designated moose hunting area.
37

38 So is that clear to the Council.
39

40 (Council nods affirmatively)
41

42 MS. PELKOLA: Uh-huh.
43

44 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, and I have heard
45 other hunts in other units that start December 1st so
46 that shouldn't be a problem for the Board to go forward
47 with December hunting.
48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. Not that I'm
50

1 not highly appreciative to the State of Alaska
2 developing this hunt and getting it through the Board
3 process in such a timely manner, as to get it through
4 this year, but I do think it's worth the Board of
5 Game's time to analyze the other aspects of hunting
6 moose earlier in the winter where the meat can be kept
7 for a longer period of time or even eaten up throughout
8 the winter.

9

10 So that would be the basis of the
11 proposal. I can work with OSM Staff on developing that
12 proposal going through the regulatory form which is on
13 line and all that.

14

15 So that's the basis of the proposal, is
16 basically moving the Kaiyuh Flats moose hunt starting
17 date to December 1 through December 15th for a 25 moose
18 quota as in regulation now under State regulations.

19

20 So any further comments on that State
21 proposal to be submitted from the Western Interior
22 Council.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Do we have a
27 question.

28

29 MS. PELKOLA: Question.

30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called on
32 submitting a State proposal for the Kaiyuh Flats winter
33 moose hunt to change the starting date to December 1
34 instead of March 1, with an ending date on December 15.
35 Those in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

40

41 MR. HONEA: Aye.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we got Don
44 and Ray on the phone also.

45

46 Any other State proposals.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Call for State Board
2 of Game proposals.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So don't hear any.
7 And it's about 10 to 5:00 and we have to leave this
8 room at 4:00 o'clock tomorrow so we want to -- I would
9 like to have this meeting go through 6:00 o'clock this
10 evening with agency reports starting now.

11
12 So you got a comment there, Karen.

13
14 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 You did add another item to new business which is a
16 letter to the DOI, Federal Subsistence Board regarding
17 OSM Staff and appointment letters.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, right.

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: And we also have
22 individuals from the National Wildlife Refuge and the
23 National Park Service who are here, thank you very
24 much, and willing to give their agency reports this
25 evening.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you. Okay.
30 So there were two points that I feel that Pollock Simon
31 represented the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee but
32 he's not on that committee, but he also was
33 representing this Council to the Western Arctic Caribou
34 Working Group, WACH, it's known as WACH, so I feel that
35 Pollock should continue to be on that work group for
36 continuity; does the Council agree with me on that.

37
38 MS. PELKOLA: I'll make a motion.....

39
40 MR. HONEA: Yes.

41
42 MS. PELKOLA:to reappoint
43 Pollock.....

44
45 REPORTER: Jenny.

46
47 MS. PELKOLA: Oh, I make a motion that
48 we appoint Pollock Simon to represent our Council on
49 that Arctic Caribou Herd.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Work group.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Second.

4

5 MS. PELKOLA: Work group.

6

7 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.

8 Those in favor of Pollock continuing to represent the

9 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council to the

10 Western Arctic Caribou Work Group signify by saying

11 aye.

12

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14

15 MR. HONEA: Aye.

16

17 MR. COLLINS: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Then we wanted to
20 have a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board with our
21 concern about the appointments not coming through in a
22 timely manner from the Secretary of Interior's office
23 and the Secretary of Interior's office not paying close
24 attention to the statutory requirements of these
25 Regional Councils and the Office of Subsistence
26 Management's involvement with the Councils under Title
27 .805. And so I feel that the Secretary of Interior's
28 office should be aware that the Councils are very
29 concerned about the appointment process being delayed,
30 Council members don't know if they're actually on the
31 Council or off the Council until after the December 2nd
32 deadline, those applications have been in there for
33 months previously, there's no reason for the Secretary
34 of Interior's office to delay that any further. They
35 should make timely appointments.

36

37 I'm also very concerned about the OSM
38 Staffing. When the Assistant Regional Director stepped
39 off in July and we still do not have leadership
40 appointed, published an appointment of Assistant
41 Regional Director. Tom Doolittle's doing a great job,
42 it would be great if he was running OSM, but we don't
43 know is -- this process is still being delayed,
44 delayed, delayed. I asked about this last fall and it's
45 still in delay. So I feel that the Secretary of
46 Interior -- the Federal Subsistence Board should also
47 tell the Secretary of Interior's office, as the arm of
48 the Secretary, that it's very important that the Office
49 of Subsistence Management has proper leadership and

50

1 that they have proper staffing. So hiring freezes and
2 so forth are really delaying the ability of these
3 Councils to work effectively for the resource and the
4 resource users, the subsistence users that are stated
5 in Title VIII of ANILCA.
6

7 So I would like that letter to be
8 transmitted directly to the Federal Subsistence Board
9 so that they can review that in their April meeting.
10

11 And so that's what I would like.
12

13 (Laughter)
14

15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I don't feel
16 that they should not be able to do that.
17

18 (Laughter)
19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So does the Council
21 feel in agreement with that, that a letter will be
22 drafted and transmitted to that effect.
23

24 MS. PELKOLA: I also have a suggestion,
25 this letter that I got from Secretary of the Interior
26 was signed by David Bernhardt, and I think he's under
27 Tara Sweeny so I don't know, I thought Tara Sweeny was
28 the Secretary of the Interior.
29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: No, Zinke, he's out
31 and so there's a -- is he acting, Bernhardt.....
32

33 MS. PELKOLA: He's acting.
34

35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:is acting right
36 now.
37

38 (Off record comments)
39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Bernhardt is now
41 appointed.
42

43 (Off record comments)
44

45 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, so he's still
46 acting, Zinke is actually out.
47

48 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.
49
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But that's a
2 peripheral issue, the main letter to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board is about the, again, the Federal
4 Subsistence Board -- go ahead Pollock.
5

6 MR. SIMON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 just want to say thank you for the vote to support me
8 to be back on the Caribou Working Group. I'll do my
9 best to support everybody.
10

11 Thank you.
12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, I appreciate
14 your work all this time on that Board and the work
15 group and we want to continue that continuity.
16

17 Thank you.
18

19 So this letter to the Federal
20 Subsistence Board regarding the appointment process and
21 the Staffing issues with OSM is a very important issue
22 and we would like the letter to be at the Federal
23 Subsistence Board for their review at their April
24 meeting which is forthcoming.
25

26 So Council comments on that letter,
27 anything additional, to the importance to those
28 appointments.
29

30 (No comments)
31

32 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none do I
33 have a question on the motion to transmit that letter
34 -- to draft and transmit that letter with my signature.
35

36 MR. GERVAIS: Question's called.
37

38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question's called.
39 Those in favor of transmitting that letter of
40 appointment, regarding appointments and Staff of OSM
41 signify by saying aye.
42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.
44

45 MR. HONEA: Aye.
46

47 MR. COLLINS: Aye.
48

49 REPORTER: So, Jack, you don't have a
50

1 motion on the floor.

2

3 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I did have a motion,
4 didn't I.

5

6 REPORTER: No, you had a motion on
7 Pollock's reappointment and then you went into this
8 issue.

9

10 MS. PELKOLA: I didn't hear any motion.

11

12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I thought I had a
13 motion for Jenny.

14

15 REPORTER: She made a motion for
16 Pollock's reappointment, but she brought this issue up
17 as well.

18

19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

20

21 MR. GERVAIS: I'll make a motion to
22 transmit the letter to the Federal Subsistence Board
23 regarding OSM Staffing and appointment of Council
24 members as Jack has discussed, the content, previous to
25 this.

26

27 MS. PELKOLA: I'll second.

28

29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So we have
30 that motion.....

31

32 MR. HONEA: I'll second.

33

34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We got a second from
35 Jenny first there, Don.

36

37 MR. HONEA: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, okay, excuse me.

40

41 REPORTER: Now take the vote.

42

43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Now we can take the
44 vote.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Those in favor of
49 transmitting that letter to the Federal Subsistence

50

1 Board regarding appointments and Staffing signify by
2 saying aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 MR. HONEA: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are you still there
9 Ray.
10
11 MR. COLLINS: Yes. Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Unanimous on
14 that one. So now we're going to go to agency reports.
15
16 We have a maximum of 15 minutes and so
17 the first one is tribal governments, and we had
18 considerable discussions with tribal governments this
19 morning. Native organizations, we also had Tanana
20 Chiefs, and special actions, what's that -- is there
21 special actions?
22
23 Is there any special actions?
24
25 MS. MAAS: No, I think that's just a
26 standard thing on the agenda.
27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's just a standard
29 format.
30
31 MS. MAAS: Yeah.
32
33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I didn't know if
34 there was one.
35
36 So U.S. Fish and.....
37
38 (Off record comments)
39
40 MS. MAAS: I don't know anything about
41 fisheries.
42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh, okay, that
44 special action on the Kusko, 19-02.
45
46 (Pause)
47
48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So, Greg, introduce
49 yourself, thank you.
50

1 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. Members of
2 the Council. My name is Greg Risdahl, I'm the new
3 Fisheries Division leader at OSM.

4
5 I'm still kind of getting my feet wet
6 in this new position, but we do have a pending special
7 action that was put forth by the Native Village of
8 Akiak and there will be a public hearing for that on
9 Thursday in Bethel from like 5:00 o'clock in the
10 evening until 8:00 o'clock in the evening. And myself
11 and several other Staff members will be attending that
12 meeting shortly after we leave Fairbanks from this
13 Council meeting.

14
15 This is a special action that's been
16 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board for several
17 years in a row now. I'm not that familiar with it.
18 It's very long. I started looking at it and it's over
19 156 pages, but they've been asking for a number of
20 different things each year. And that will be reviewed
21 again at this public hearing. And at that time
22 basically OSM will only be taking comments from the
23 public on that and then the Board will act on that
24 during their April Board meeting.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And the special
27 action is requesting closure to non-subsistence users
28 in the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge affected lands.

29
30 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, that is correct.
31 And they're also acting that the closure include a
32 Section .804 analysis. Apparently this is something
33 that's been done in the past and so it'd limit the
34 opportunity for this fishing for only these villages
35 that were found to be in greatest need.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the
38 Council members have been aware of this issue
39 previously. We have new -- Goodwin is not aware of
40 that process and so we deal with Kuskokwim issues also.

41
42 MR. SEMAKEN: Okay.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so there's
45 limited numbers of king salmon on the Kuskokwim River,
46 they've been basically regulating it -- and only the
47 local people that utilize the resource, and there's
48 only limited amounts to be harvested. And so we've
49 been -- this Council has been supportive of that
50

1 special action. And so does the Council feel that they
2 need to vote in support of that special action request
3 to limit the amount to -- to eliminate non-subsistence
4 users and only allow .804 qualified or specifically
5 people that customarily and traditionally use that
6 resource.

7

8 Do you feel you need to vote on that?

9

10 Tim.

11

12 MR. GERVAIS: Greg, can you define --
13 so which communities are in and which communities are
14 going to be excluded on this with this special action.

15

16 MR. RISDAHL: Through the Chair. Tim.
17 Let me see if I have a piece of paper that has -- have
18 you got that memorized.

19

20 MS. KENNER: May I help you.

21

22 MR. RISDAHL: Please. Please do so,
23 thank you.

24

25 MS. KENNER: Thank you so much. So
26 actually what we're looking for are the communities
27 that are most traditionally dependent on chinook salmon
28 in the Yukon River drainage. And they requested.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Kuskokwim.

31

32 MS. KENNER: Excuse me. Where am I?

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MS. KENNER: In the Kuskokwim River
37 drainage. And they ask that the Section .804
38 determination that had been implemented two years ago
39 be implemented and that is for all the residents of the
40 drainage and residents of the four communities of Kwig,
41 Kong, Chefornak and Kipnuk which are along the coast,
42 altogether I think that's 32 communities.

43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim.

45

46 MR. GERVAIS: So the special action is
47 trying to like exclude the people that live in
48 Anchorage and non-Federally-qualified users?

49

50

1 MS. KENNER: Yes. The customary and
2 traditional use determination includes all the
3 residents of the Kuskokwim Management Area, which is
4 out to Nunivak Island, Nelson Island, and southern
5 Kuskokwim Bay, like Quinhagak and Goodnews, and so it
6 excludes those Federally-qualified users and all other
7 users of the state, yeah, it's closed.
8

9 MR. GERVAIS: All right. So it is
10 those people on Nunivak and further up the coast are
11 going to get excluded based on this special action?
12

13 MS. KENNER: Yes, uh-huh. Based on the
14 request, yeah.
15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But this is exactly
17 the same request that was passed by the Federal
18 Subsistence Board last year, right?
19

20 MS. KENNER: Thank you for the
21 question, Mr. Chair. For the record this is Pippa
22 Kenner with OSM. Actually the Board ended up not
23 implementing, not approving the Section .804
24 determination last year, but between -- in all years
25 from 2014 through 2017 it has.
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.
28

29 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.
30

31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Tim, go ahead.
32

33 MR. GERVAIS: I don't know enough about
34 the issue to state, you know, how -- I don't know how
35 -- you know these Nunivak and Scammon Bay and these
36 other areas, I don't know how impacted they were on
37 that harvest and how significant it is for them to be
38 excluded on it so I don't -- without some kind of more
39 local testimony about it, I don't feel comfortable
40 taking action on it.
41

42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So the
43 Council is aware of the special action request. It
44 primarily affects the YK Delta region and so Council
45 members don't feel comfortable taking a position at
46 this time.
47

48 I feel the Federal Subsistence Board
49 has made appropriate -- taken appropriate actions, what
50

1 the special action request, but did not delineate under
2 the .804 last year, so there was a harvestable surplus
3 and so they were looking to allocate that a little more
4 widely apparently.
5

6 So we're not going to take -- I don't
7 feel comfortable, myself, taking action on it because
8 it's primarily within the YK Delta region is where this
9 action is going to take place, here in pink. But we do
10 like to keep apprised of that. We do have customary
11 and traditional use in the Kuskokwim River but most of
12 the harvest occurs, for our region, outside of Federal,
13 I mean.....
14

15 MR. GERVAIS: Mr. Chair.
16

17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.
18

19 MR. GERVAIS: I think we should check
20 with Ray if he's still available since he is affected
21 by this.
22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Hello, Ray.
24

25 MR. COLLINS: Yes. I would be
26 concerned if that allows them to start fishing earlier
27 down there because it's basically an intercept fishery
28 then. So somehow that needs to be weighed into the
29 equation, not that they're just dependent on that
30 resource, but all the fish that come into the river go
31 by those villages, so they have more choices than the
32 ones up river. As you go up the runs diminish and
33 Nikolai just got the (indiscernible) actually, they had
34 to stop their traditional weir up there -- the year I
35 came, or the year after I came, 1963, they were -- they
36 had to stop because of the decline of the king salmon
37 escapement in Salmon River and that was because of
38 commercial fishing and heavy utilizing existing down in
39 the lower river so their harvest opportunities changed
40 down there. They don't harvest like they used to
41 originally. They used set nets and fences out from the
42 shore away with traps and so on but they didn't fish in
43 the main river. So I don't know how all that will
44 weigh together, to manage that. So I don't know how
45 this issue would affect management of that resource
46 river-wide.
47

48 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Say, Ray, were you
49 satisfied with the management last year on the
50

1 Kuskokwim River.

2

3 MR. COLLINS: Yes, that worked okay
4 last year, we had good escapements still.

5

6 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So basically the
7 Council's comment on the special action is that they
8 would maintain a similar harvest strategy to maintain
9 the elimination of early harvest on the chinook run to
10 achieve up river escapements and harvest for up river
11 users. That would be the main position of the Council,
12 correct, Ray?

13

14 MR. COLLINS: Yes.

15

16 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. So that would
17 be the comment to the Federal Board on the special
18 action that we would like a similar action and
19 management regime to achieve the same escapement timing
20 into the upper drainage which is within our region.
21 How they do that that's up to the Federal Subsistence
22 Board and they did it last year, so don't reinvent the
23 wheel.

24

25 So Pippa.

26

27 MS. KENNER: I don't want to continue
28 the conversation much longer than you want to but I
29 feel like at this point we should tell you that one of
30 the components of the special action request is that
31 there be an allocation process with the villages and
32 that's all part of controlling and reducing harvest.

33

34 This isn't an action item, it was
35 basically to alert you and the public to the existence
36 of this public hearing that's going to occur but we're
37 always glad to hear the Council's comments on these
38 proposals.

39

40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, our .805
41 statutes directs that anything that affects subsistence
42 is a topic for this Council so this action is going to
43 affect subsistence in our region and we would like the
44 Federal Subsistence Board to act along the same line of
45 regulation and restraint on the chinook run to maintain
46 the same effect that they had last year.

47

48 So that's as far as we want to go on
49 comment. Does that suffice for comment?

50

1 MR. GERVAIS: Yeah, we don't need to
2 make a motion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right, no motion.

5
6 So now we're at the U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife reports, preliminary 2019 Yukon River
8 preseason outlook for U.S. Fish and Wildlife and ADF&G.
9 Oh, we have Gerald here, oh, good.

10
11 So Gerald Maschmann for U.S. Fish and
12 Wildlife is going to give a presentation on the
13 preliminary 2019 Yukon River preseason outlook. He's
14 passing out papers here, Don and Ray, so lots of
15 papers. One is titled Yukon River salmon winter RAC
16 meeting packet, one is entitled the Alaska Department
17 of Fish and Game Yukon area fall season summary for
18 2018, and then the ADF&Gs 2019 Yukon River salmon
19 fisheries news release Board of Fisheries actions.

20
21 So, Gerald, go ahead.

22
23 MR. MASCHMANN: My name's Gerald
24 Maschmann. I'm the assistant Federal in-season manager
25 for the Yukon River. I work for the U.S. Fish and
26 Wildlife Service here in Fairbanks.

27
28 Yeah, just briefly the handouts. At
29 your fall meeting we gave a pretty detailed overview of
30 the 2018 Yukon River salmon season so I'm not planning
31 on discussing 2018 unless you have specific questions
32 about it. I did include a summary starting on Page 2
33 of this handout here, this is essentially the Federal
34 handout, if you'd like to review it.

35
36 Also last fall I handed out the Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game's summer season summary.
38 The fall season summary was not yet ready at the time
39 so I've included that in your packet today. So if you
40 were here last fall and you're here this spring you
41 have both the summer and fall season summaries. Those
42 give really good detailed summaries of the season. So
43 if you've got questions I would say that's the place to
44 go. These are both available on line as Department
45 news releases if you want to go find more copies.

46
47 So unless you have something specific
48 about last year's season I'd like to briefly discuss
49 the 2019 preseason outlook.

50

1 Starting on the middle of Page 3, the
2 complete analysis and formal acceptance of the outlook
3 will not be finalized until after the joint technical
4 committee meeting which they just had in the US/Canada
5 River Panel meeting which is coming up here pretty soon
6 in April. However, the preliminary 2019 chinook and
7 summer chum outlooks are for runs similar to 2018,
8 which means conservation measures will be implemented
9 for chinook salmon. You know, meanwhile at the same
10 time there will be an available surplus of summer chum
11 salmon for normal subsistence harvest as well as
12 commercial and other uses. This outlook has set up the
13 same challenge that we've had the last several seasons
14 of trying to conserve chinook salmon while also, you
15 know, providing a harvest opportunity on the abundant
16 summer chum at the same time.

17
18 Management strategies and options will
19 be discussed with fishermen prior to the season,
20 however it's likely that the strategies will be similar
21 to those that have been implemented the last few
22 seasons. And these strategies have included a
23 combination of reduced windows schedules, period
24 closures and various gear restrictions. The managers
25 will be working to try and provide opportunities to
26 harvest summer chum, you know, with selective gear
27 while limiting the harvest of chinook salmon.

28
29 We're going to, you know, try and
30 spread out subsistence harvest opportunities for
31 chinook out over the entire run to try and prevent
32 overharvest on any one stock. Some subsistence harvest
33 opportunities with 7.5 inch gear could be allowed if
34 indicators show an abundance of chinook salmon that is
35 similar to the last few years.

36
37 So I guess if I was a subsistence
38 fishermen I would be preparing, you know, the
39 opportunities to harvest chinook salmon are probably
40 going to be limited and if you can harvest more chum,
41 if that's an option in your area, that you should
42 probably try and harvest chum. Again, they'll probably
43 be an opportunity here and there to get some king
44 salmon too. But we're going to try and -- it depends
45 on how the run comes in and if it's looking better than
46 we anticipate there'll be a little more opportunity for
47 chinook. If it's not as good as we anticipate there'll
48 be a little bit less opportunity on that chinook, but
49 we are going to try and provide as much summer chum
50

1 opportunity as we can. And we know that not every one
2 in every area like summer chum or the summer chum are
3 edible in their particular area, so we'll be taking
4 that into account and trying to provide, you know, fair
5 and equitable opportunities that we can.
6

7 The preliminary fall chum and coho
8 salmon outlooks are for both runs to provide for normal
9 subsistence harvest with a surplus available for
10 commercial and other uses. And, again, similar to, you
11 know, particularly if chinook salmon opportunities are
12 limited we know that a lot of folks, particularly in,
13 you know, District 4 and District 5 like to maybe make
14 up for their lack of chinook harvest with some of those
15 bright fall chum and so we'll be taking that into
16 account that we're trying to get more fall chum up to
17 the upper Yukon so they can have subsistence
18 opportunity on those brighter fall chum.
19

20 The YR DFA preseason fishermen's meeting
21 will be held in Fairbanks on April 25th and we'll be
22 looking for input from fishermen at that time, and
23 would like to ask the Council if they have any input on
24 potential management strategies for the 2019 season.
25

26 Is there anything you thought worked
27 well last season.
28

29 Is there anything you thought didn't
30 work well.
31

32 Is there anything you'd like to see
33 different or the same.
34

35 We'd like to hear that.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Council member
38 comments. Management would like to know how fishing
39 went last year, did you feel like you met your
40 subsistence needs.
41

42 Goodwin.
43

44 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah.
45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Turn on your mic
47 there.
48

49 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, the commercial
50

1 fishing was really good and what I gather they're going
2 to be back there, this is about the fifth year, I
3 guess, buying fish there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And did you feel
6 like you caught your subsistence fish, kings and chums?
7

8 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, we get the kings
9 first by drifting. We don't catch that many and we
10 don't even bother those that catch in the
11 (indiscernible) because they're all river -- they're
12 going up the side creeks, they're on this side of the
13 Yukon, and we drift on the other side of the Yukon.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh.

16
17 MR. SEMAKEN: That's the ones that's
18 going way up to the.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: The south bank.

21
22 MR. SEMAKEN: Yeah, okay, there you go,
23 south bank, yeah.

24
25 (Teleconference interference -
26 participants not muted)

27
28 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So -- who's on
29 there, on the phone.

30
31 (Teleconference interference -
32 participants not muted)

33
34 MR. KRISKA: It sound like Ray.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Is that you, Ray.

37
38 MR. COLLINS: No.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. I was hearing
41 somebody there. You got a comment Jenny.

42
43 MS. PELKOLA: Yeah, I just have a
44 little concern. When we get that late fall chum it's
45 -- the weather is -- it's wet, it's rainy and stuff.
46 And they still close it down, you know, from 4B and C,
47 up from -- they still close it and there's really no
48 need to so we -- you know, I don't know what they can
49 do about it but.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gerald.

2

3 MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, I seem to recall
4 that pretty much fall season was open pretty much 24/7
5 with 7.5 or less gear. So I'm not sure which closure
6 you're talking about.

7

8 MS. PELKOLA: I think I'm talking about
9 the last, you know, when commercial is all done and
10 then they still keep that open two days and closed on
11 Wednesday, and then, you know, I don't see why they
12 don't go to seven days right away so the fishermen that
13 are subsistence fishing there -- that we, that are
14 subsistence fishers can get our fish done in like four
15 days instead of two weeks.

16

17 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair. This
18 is Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and
19 Game, if I might chime in.

20

21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Deena.

22

23 MS. JALLEN: Yeah, this is Deena Jallen
24 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I'm the summer
25 season assistant manager.

26

27 And, yeah, I think as soon as it kind
28 of switched over to fall season, it looks like last
29 year they go to like a five day a week schedule in
30 District 4, and, yeah, that's certainly something where
31 if you feel it's getting in towards fall and all those
32 summer fish are gone, you know, give the Fairbanks
33 office a call and let that fall season manager know
34 that, you know, it's time for fall season fishing to
35 come in, I think they're usually pretty good about
36 switching to that five days a week kind of right after
37 the summer run goes by and I don't see when they
38 switched to seven days a week, but, you know, we should
39 get back to five days a week once that fall season
40 kicks off.

41

42 And there was a Board of Fish proposal
43 that concerned opening up subsistence fishing in 5A, B
44 and C and so that's the kind of proposal that did pass
45 through the State regulations and it'll be interesting
46 to see if that works out well, if that's the sort of
47 regulation that other areas might try to consider.

48

49 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks, Deena.

50

1 Other comments, Jenny.

2

3 MS. PELKOLA: No.

4

5 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments
6 on the summer management coming up.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Anybody else.

11

12 Tim.

13

14 MR. GERVAIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Gerald, or Deena, do the summer chum and the fall chum,
16 do they spawn in different places?

17

18 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
19 Yeah, they kind of do, they spawn in similar drainages
20 but it seems like the fall chum key in quite a bit on
21 these upwelling areas throughout the drainage but --
22 whereas the summer chum have a little more spread out
23 and don't quite key in on the upwellings but there's
24 definitely a distinction on how the summer chum and
25 fall chum behave and where they're spawning
26 specifically does seem like there is some overlap.

27

28 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. And then on a
29 commercial basis are the summer chum and the fall chum
30 that are processed down in Districts 1 and 2, are they
31 of different value?

32

33 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
34 What do you mean by different -- do they get a
35 different price for fall chum versus summer chum?

36

37 MR. GERVAIS: Yes. Is the quality or
38 size different enough that one is worth more than the
39 other to the processor?

40

41 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm not sure if maybe
42 Deena can answer that. But there is commercial fishing
43 data in your fall and summer season reviews, so if
44 Deena doesn't know right off the top we can dig that
45 out and figure it out.

46

47 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. I saw that to
48 where you have the prices.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Deena.

2

3 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair. I'm
4 trying to look that up but if you've got those summer
5 season summaries handy that should say what the price
6 per pound was that they paid the fishermen. I'm kind
7 of recalling off the bat I think it was 60 cents per
8 pound across the board but that doesn't take into
9 account what the processors might do with that fish
10 post season and how they might market it. I haven't
11 looked at their website to see if they're marketing
12 those fish in any different manner to try to have one
13 be more of a high quality product versus more of a
14 processed product so that would be something that the
15 processor takes into account. I'm sure they're trying
16 to sell the fish at the highest quality value that they
17 can get, you know, for the quality of fresh that they
18 get. That being said, they do take quite a lot of
19 summer chum in that commercial fishery in Districts Y1
20 and Y2, and then up in District 4 for roe. So
21 someone's buying a lot of summer chum.

22

23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

24

25 Tim.

26

27 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. My final comment
28 is I would just like the State and Federal managers to
29 try and minimize the amount of catch and release
30 fishing on the kings with the beach seines and the
31 dipnets. I don't -- I'm not on board with the 100
32 percent survival rate for the released kings when
33 there's not a specific protocol or research data
34 indicating that you're getting good survival on catch
35 and release for those -- for those two gear types and I
36 don't know, is there any catch and release king
37 practice going on with fishwheels or has that gotten
38 taken out of regulation.

39

40 MR. SEMAKEN: You got to release them.

41

42 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair. This
43 is Deena Jallen with Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 again. I'm sure Gerald can answer this, too.

45

46 But there was just a regulation passed
47 at the last Board of Fish cycle in January that
48 requires during times of conservation, so for example
49 if it's a conservation time for kings, king salmon have
50

1 to go immediately from the wheel to the water alive and
2 they must go from the basket of a fishwheel to the
3 water by means of a chute, a net or a tote. They may
4 not go into a live box and be held in a live box for
5 any period of time because we've heard from fishermen
6 that when fish are in live boxes they get stressed out,
7 they may be held there for minutes or hours so there is
8 a regulation that just went into effect saying that
9 those fish have to go back to the water immediately.

10

11 MR. GERVAIS: Okay. But I'm sure some
12 of that stress the fish are under is just from the
13 process of getting caught in the fishwheel basket and
14 bounced down the chute. So I hope that at some point
15 soon the Department or Fish and Wildlife Service can
16 make some kind of tagging effort or project to get some
17 numbers on the survivability of these caught and
18 released king salmon.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I will also state,
23 Deena, that I'm concerned about beach seining king
24 salmon and the mortalities, there's no indices about
25 when you catch kings in a beach seine and drag them up
26 on the beach like that, anybody knows that if you're
27 handling sport caught fish you don't drag them up on
28 the beach and so that's fairly hard on them. And
29 talking to Orville Huntington, he's actually observed
30 that and he was skeptical as to the survivorship of
31 those. Is the Department planning to do any kind of a
32 esophageal transmitter survey on survivorship or any
33 kind of like tagging, even colored tags on kings that
34 were beach seined as to their mark and recapture ratios
35 any way to get an indices on that, that's making a big
36 assumption that they're actually living.

37

38 MS. JALLEN: Through the Chair. We
39 don't have a project like that in place at this time.
40 One of the issues with any sort of project like that is
41 it's very hard to separate the effects of just tagging
42 a fish versus any other effects so, you know, you'd
43 want to compare fish tags from a beach seine versus
44 fish captured and tagged in some other way. So it's
45 very hard just to actually determine what sort of
46 handling might be causing that effect, just the act of
47 handling them may cause an effect. So, you know, the
48 act of putting in a tag or, you know, esophageal tag or
49 anything.

50

1 But, yeah, and one of the things with
2 beach seines is the proposal to allows beach seines
3 more wide spread for commercial fisheries did not pass.
4 Right now beach seines can only be used during those
5 commercial openings when it's a conservation concern,
6 so when it's dipnets and beach seines, commercial just
7 for summer chum only, kings have to be released.

8
9 And just as kind of an aside or
10 reminder, beach seines are a legal subsistence gear so
11 people can use beach seines for subsistence. I don't
12 think it's a very wide spread practice but that is a
13 legal subsistence gear throughout the drainage.

14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thank you.

16
17 Any further questions on this coming
18 2019 season -- escapements were made for chinook into
19 Canada last season what was the -- go ahead, Gerald.

20
21 MR. MASCHMANN: Through the Chair.
22 Just one of the other handouts I gave you was a Fish
23 and Game news release that summarizes the Board of Fish
24 changes that concern the Yukon so that's in your packet
25 too.

26
27 And before I conclude I wanted to
28 inform you that the Federal Subsistence Board will be
29 taking up a handful of Yukon regulatory proposals at
30 their next meeting in April and those are found on Page
31 14 of the handout I gave you. The first five are
32 consensus items, while the last one is a non-consensus
33 item. You've already discussed these proposals at your
34 fall meeting but I just wanted to let you know that the
35 Federal Subsistence Board is moving forward with them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. And
38 regarding.....

39
40 MR. COLLINS: Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Ray. Go
43 ahead.

44
45 MR. COLLINS: I have a question. Is
46 anybody doing any timing study on these runs, I find it
47 hard to believe that these are intermixed throughout
48 because I think it depends on where they're going,
49 whether they're going on the Anvik River or up the

50

1 Koyukuk River or heading to Canada that there would be
2 different timing on those fish. So if we don't know
3 that I think it's hard to figure out what the impact is
4 of any of these fishing periods on salmon, which salmon
5 are you catching, and what are you letting get by.

6

7

I think those are critical studies.

8

9

10 I know that turned out to be on the
11 Kuskokwim, but for years I argued that the headwater
12 fish came in early and strong, and they did all their
13 inter -- they come in throughout the season and so on,
14 and that didn't turn out to be the case at all, there
15 was strict timing on some of those depending on the
16 distance they had to go.

16

17

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Right. You got a
18 response to that Gerald.

19

20

21

MR. MASCHMANN: Yeah, through the
22 Chair. Yeah, I think we're -- for the most part the
23 run is pretty mixed throughout the season but we
24 definitely know that there's three or four main pulses
25 of chinook that go by each year and, you know, Canadian
26 fish are found throughout the run, not just in the
27 first pulse like a lot of people tend to say, that it's
28 just the first pulse, but the first pulse tends to be
29 proportionally a little more Canadian than the other
30 pulses, proportionally, not necessarily abundance-wise
31 but there's still a lot of Canadian bound chinook in
32 the middle and third pulse.

32

33

34

You know we do know that lower Yukon
35 fish like on the Andraefsky, they tend to come in a
36 little later. Subsistence fishermen and traditional
37 knowledge also tell us that, you know, those bright
38 early fish tend to be going farther up river and later
39 fish in the run tend to be hitting the lower Yukon.
40 And kind of tying in with the -- you know, the concern
41 with dipnetting and the potential mortality with that,
42 you know, we have done I think two or three seasons in
43 the early 2000s, NOAA did that telemetry study and
44 they, for three seasons, you know, radiotagged chinook
45 salmon, they stuffed the radio transmitter down their
46 throat and then stuck a spaghetti tag through their
47 back and I don't recall the specific survival rate but
48 I think it was well into the 90s, so, you know, is a
49 chinook caught in a dipnet and then released, is that
50 100 percent survival, I don't know, but it's hard to

50

1 believe that it would be very high. But again those
2 telemetry studies were pretty revealing on where the
3 fish were going, their timing, you know, what stocks
4 were timing, and it's helpful for the managers but
5 then, again, they're so kind of mixed up anyway
6 that.....

7
8 We just try and spread the harvest out
9 over the whole run. We try not to hit, you know, folks
10 on the -- subsistence fishermen on the Yukon they all
11 tend to want to hit those early fish and that's the
12 best drying weather, those are kind of the fattest, and
13 oily, and the brightest fish but there's not enough
14 early fish for everyone to get all the early fish they
15 want and so we try and spread that out. We give some
16 people a little nibble on this pulse, and a little
17 nibble on that pulse and hopefully we spread the
18 harvest out and I think we've been pretty successful
19 the last few seasons of being able to give everyone a
20 little taste of everything, but at the same time they
21 don't necessarily get to fish when they want with the
22 gear they want but they have been getting some of what
23 they can get.

24
25 Some fishermen who can fish hard are
26 really good and have a good spot, they do a little
27 better than some, and some people still complain.

28
29 So I think with these low runs, you
30 know, we're giving as much opportunity as we can and
31 we're spreading it out and hopefully, you know, we'll
32 see -- you know, we're optimistic that the fish are
33 going to come back -- keep coming back but, you know,
34 it's up to the fish I suppose.

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, I mean the
37 managers have got it pretty close the last few years
38 and spread the harvest somewhat equitably so I think
39 the managers have learned that the pulse timings and
40 how to prosecute subsistence fisheries so I'm much more
41 satisfied with current State and Federal management
42 than I was 10 years ago with inadvertent harvest of
43 20,000 chinook salmon and huge commercial sales and bad
44 things were happening 10 years ago.

45
46 So I think we've covered the preseason
47 outlook.

48
49 We're at 5:36, we're going to have the
50

1 Refuges update. We have Kanuti up here first on our
2 list.

3

4 Tina.

5

6 Thanks so much Gerald.

7

8 Go ahead, Tina.

9

10 MS. MORAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
11 Council members. My name is Tina Moran. I'm the
12 Deputy manager for Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge.
13 I've filled in the acting manager position since Mike
14 retired about a year ago last January.

15

16 You have a written report in front of
17 you in the booklet on Page 53 that covers a lot of what
18 we did last year and what we hope to do this coming
19 year. But I'll cover a few highlights and some new
20 things that I wanted to share.

21

22 First of all, the biggest news is we do
23 have a new manager for Kanuti Refuge, and that's Joanna
24 Fox. She is currently the deputy manager for the
25 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. But prior to that she
26 was the deputy for Kanuti for about eight years, so
27 she's very familiar with the Refuge so we're happy to
28 have her back, and I'm happy to have her back for some
29 help.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MS. MORAN: So she should be coming on
34 board around mid-May and so that's when we're expecting
35 her to be full-time, mostly for Kanuti.

36

37 Also just a few extra things on the
38 biology end of things.

39

40 We're hoping to do a full waterfowl
41 survey for the Refuge this year, working with our
42 Migratory Bird management colleagues.

43

44 We're also going to do an elodia survey
45 on some of the lakes that the transporters and other
46 recreational floatplanes land on the Refuge. Just to
47 check some concerns on that invasive weed.

48

49 And then last year we weren't -- we did

50

1 not do a fall moose survey but we, and I confirmed with
2 Glenn today, that we do plan to do a moose survey this
3 fall, weather permitting and all that goes with that.
4 But that is -- with all the concerns that everybody has
5 been saying with the snow and some other concerns
6 that's definitely on our plan for this fall.

7
8 For patrols, our Fish and Wildlife
9 Officer Pilot Brandon Bosch, who is here, he was able
10 to patrol again this past moose season and we plan to
11 have him patrol again this moose season with a fixed
12 wing plane, but also to answer PJ's question, we are
13 intending to use a helicopter for a few days, and
14 Brandon partners with the Wildlife Troopers with that
15 endeavor and that's usually towards the end of the
16 season to check on some things that he couldn't get to
17 with the fixed plane. So that is on there.

18
19 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Question on those.

20
21 MS. MORAN: Sure.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Are there more --
24 were there more hunters seen on the Kanuti Refuge
25 outside of the controlled use area than previous years?

26
27 MS. MORAN: I can have Brandon answer
28 that in a little bit more detail than I.

29
30 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yeah, from the
31 horse's mouth.

32
33 MS. MORAN: Yep.

34
35 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So go ahead,
36 Brandon.

37
38 OFFICER BOSCH: Hello, Brandon Bosch.
39 Through the Chair. Yes, Mr. Reakoff, I did -- I have
40 noticed more sporthunting, specifically on the
41 Southfork, Koyukuk, there's been more airboat activity
42 down there and a few more animals harvested at that
43 point. Same activity on the Bonanza Creek, it's a
44 level usage area. Kanuti River is also up slightly.
45 There is more talk of people going out there but I
46 haven't seen the large numbers of people coming out
47 there quite yet. I just slowly -- there was about two
48 more groups on that river from the year prior. So I
49 expect it to be higher this year.

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, we heard
2 testimony in Allakaket that there was a significant
3 increase in the number of hunters out there flying to
4 the Refuge, over the Refuge and et cetera, but I always
5 like to substantiate and cross-reference and that kind
6 of thing.

7
8 OFFICER BOSCH: We do have guides
9 operating there through aircraft but -- and there has
10 been more people down there but not necessarily using
11 the Kanuti River itself but being further south near
12 the raise. So not on the river itself. Also I might
13 attest that I've been flying frequently over in that
14 area as well and differentiating between my aircraft
15 and other patrol aircraft, people may associate that
16 with a higher volume of aircraft as well.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, there's a
19 fairly significant portion of the Refuge outside of the
20 controlled use area so it would stand to reason that
21 there'd be -- could be increasing activity just outside
22 of the controlled use area.

23
24 MS. MORAN: Through the Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

27
28 MS. MORAN: If I may followup. And we
29 do have three transporters and one air taxi that was
30 permitted to transport hunters on to the Refuge last
31 year and it looks like it'll probably be about the same
32 number this year and last year they transported 21
33 clients on to the Refuge outside the controlled use
34 area, but only five moose were taken from the reports
35 and followed up with Brandon.

36
37 And we do have one guide that did not
38 operate on the Refuge last year and we'll see how that
39 goes this year.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

42
43 MS. MORAN: And also while Brandon is
44 here, to also answer PJs request weather permitting
45 we're hoping to have a steel shot clinic in Allakaket
46 tomorrow. Brandon will be working with a couple other
47 folks to pull that off. We were hoping to do it a
48 couple weeks ago but weather delayed it so hoping that
49 doesn't happen this time around.

50

1 And also with the Henshaw Creek weir,
2 we're going to be working with TCC again, hopefully, if
3 weather allows again to have the science culture camp
4 go on this year. We weren't able to do it last year
5 due to some limited Staff and also flooding in that
6 area, so we're hoping to do it this year.

7
8 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Any other questions
13 for Kanuti.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I'm appreciative all
18 the work that Kanuti does, always have been
19 appreciative of Kanuti's -- for a small Refuge it gets
20 a lot of things done. And I -- but I am hearing more
21 and more people talking about airplanes flying over the
22 Kanuti Refuge and either private or -- not just air
23 taxis but possibly private aircraft. So we want to
24 kind of track that amount of use near the Refuge.

25
26 But other than that I don't have any
27 more questions.

28
29 Tommy.

30
31 MR. KRISKA: Is that a controlled use
32 area a fly zone or a no fly zone?

33
34 MS. MORAN: So the controlled use area
35 and Brandon can correct me if I misspeak, but, yeah,
36 there is no aircraft allowed for moose hunting in the
37 controlled use area, and that's just for the purpose of
38 moose hunting or transporting moose.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Other questions.

41
42 MR. KRISKA: No.

43
44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay, thanks so
45 much.

46
47 Okay, Vince.

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. I need to
50

1 share something from the regional office, we didn't do
2 it last fall that I remember so I'll ask someone to
3 pass around an apology letter and then I'll cover that
4 real quickly.

5

6 This is concerning migratory birds, the
7 spring hunt. And I know that you guys don't have
8 jurisdiction under that, yours is with wildlife and
9 fish but it's part of the subsistence lifestyle.

10

11 I'm Vince Mathews. I'm the Refuge
12 subsistence coordinator for Kanuti, Yukon Flats and
13 Arctic. Once you get the apology, this apology was made
14 officially at the bi-annual gathering of the Alaska
15 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council on September 13,
16 2018. You probably saw it -- it had pretty good paper,
17 newspaper coverage. This reconciliation did not happen
18 over night. We are on a long journey to continue to
19 reach as many as people as possible with this apology.
20 So I am honored today to share with you the copy of the
21 apology letter and I'll just briefly go over that.

22

23 As many of you probably know in the
24 early 1900s the bird populations in North America were
25 severely depleted because of commercial hunting so the
26 Migratory Bird Treaty Act signed in 1918 wanted to get
27 those populations of birds to rebound so they had a
28 closure for birds and their eggs between March 10th and
29 September 1 across North America.

30

31 However, these regulations failed to
32 recognize the importance of migratory birds for
33 indigenous peoples.

34

35 As you know very well the spring
36 harvest of birds and eggs is a crucial part of the
37 seasonal cycle of subsistence activities and the
38 harvest closure period was the only time in many places
39 that the birds were present. So after the Treaty was
40 enacted, the Alaska Native Peoples were forced to
41 unlawfully hunt birds to feed their families and carry
42 on their traditional way of life causing extreme
43 hardship for many.

44

45 The apology, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
46 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
47 together, want to reconcile the past and acknowledge
48 that those regulations harmed hunters and your
49 families, and we seek to continue to rebuild

50

1 relationships with Alaska's indigenous peoples who were
2 affected by the unintended consequences of this past
3 harvest regulations.

4
5 So on behalf of the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
7 please accept our sincere apology for the harm that
8 past harvest regulations has caused to you and your
9 families. Our predecessors' regulations were
10 shortsighted in that they caused long term and
11 unnecessary pain.

12
13 We ask for your forgiveness and we
14 continue our journey for healing together. Learning
15 from past mistakes, we look forward to continue to work
16 together with Alaska Native peoples for the
17 conservation of the bird resources that are dear to all
18 of us and to support traditional subsistence cultures
19 and ways of life.

20
21 And it was signed by Greg Siekaniec on
22 September 13th, he's the Regional Director for the U.S.
23 Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region and signed by
24 Sam R. Cotten for the Alaska Department of Fish and
25 Game.

26
27 So if you have any questions I could
28 answer but it's basically bringing you up to date that
29 there was an apology effort.

30
31 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Any comments
32 or questions.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks so much,
37 Vince. A long time coming.

38
39 So we're at Koyukuk/Nowitna
40 presentation. We have a sheet on the table that was
41 handed out.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MR. REBARCHIK: Okay, that works. I
46 want to introduce myself. My name is Bob Rebarchik, I'm
47 the Deputy Refuge Manager for the Koyukuk/Nowitna and
48 Innoko National Wildlife Refuges.

49
50

1 I'll bring you up to speed on
2 personnel. Our current Refuge manager Kenton Moos is
3 going to be leaving the Refuge shortly, in the next
4 month or so. He's going to be moving down to the
5 Togiak Refuge in Dillingham and will be the deputy down
6 there and I'll take over at that point and be the
7 acting Refuge manager until we get a new one. Kind of
8 same situation Tina's been in for the last year.
9

10 I wanted to express my appreciation for
11 your support of our need for Staffing for our field
12 stations and update you. We have been able to hire a
13 park ranger in McGrath at a GS9 level, her name is
14 Kelly Pearce and we're really glad to have her on
15 board. But our station is still and will remain
16 understaffed at this time.
17

18 We do have plans to try and hire
19 another RIT, Refuge Information Technician for the
20 Galena area and we've got information, or packages into
21 our personnel office right now and hopefully get
22 approval for that to fill that position within the next
23 six months. That's our hopes.
24

25 We were supposed to get a law
26 enforcement officer this year, actually this last
27 month, that person actually took a job in eastern
28 Montana and so we're still lacking for law enforcement
29 support. We will have to rely on Brandon and other
30 officers that are in Alaska and we've also made
31 requests to bring up officers from the Lower 48 to
32 support us with our fisheries law enforcement and also
33 hunting season, our primary times that we really need
34 help.
35

36 We did have three areas, two on the
37 Koyukuk -- actually five areas. Two on the Koyukuk,
38 two on the Nowitna and one on the Innoko that we had
39 advertised for guide perspectives for new guides for
40 those areas. We've received applications. Those
41 perspectives are being reviewed this week and we hope to
42 be able to offer guide permits to the folks that
43 applied as early as -- within the next couple of weeks.
44 I can't, I guess, relay any other information other
45 than that at this time.
46

47 I wanted to mention that it wasn't in
48 the biological report that Brad Scotten put together
49 but we did fully support the emergency order for the
50

1 hunt that you actually brought up today, earlier, and I
2 think we would support an earlier date for that, it
3 makes sense in my mind. Yeah, hunting this late, the
4 animals are in poorer condition than you might like.
5 And you brought up the point about being able to
6 utilize that meat through the winter, which is critical
7 for the subsistence users up here. So that hunt is
8 actually, I think identified for a total of 30 animals
9 at most, no more than 25 of those could be cow or
10 antlerless. Last numbers I had and I was hoping Glenn
11 was here, but I think there were only 11 permits issued
12 and I believe seven total animals were harvested out of
13 those 11 permitted permits that were issued. I don't
14 have the final numbers so I don't know that those are
15 the actual numbers. I'm hoping to get that information
16 from Glenn.

17
18 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: How many permits can
19 be issued?

20
21 MR. REBARCHIK: Up to 30.

22
23 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Up to 30.

24
25 MR. REBARCHIK: But no more than 25 of
26 those can be antlerless. I think that's the way the
27 emergency order is written.

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay.

30
31 MR. REBARCHIK: And it is in -- the
32 reason this year that this hunt occurred when it did,
33 the State was scrambling to try and get all of the
34 ducks in line and to have all of the available on the
35 permit system and so there was -- that's the main
36 reason I think that it occurred at the date it did this
37 year but I believe it would be appropriate to make a
38 request as you're indicating.

39
40 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I don't think it was
41 adopted until December.

42
43 MR. REBARCHIK: Right. They were
44 scrambling to try and get the hunt to actually happen
45 this year.

46
47 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So now the Board has
48 time to review a proposal to adjust the season opening.

49
50

1 Go ahead.
2

3 MR. REBARCHIK: Along environmental
4 education lines, we had an employee who was on some
5 extended sick leave and she actually has returned.
6 She's working on migratory bird calendar judging this
7 week and then those winners will actually get passed on
8 to the regional office, or the statewide project here
9 next week. She'll be supporting a spring school out
10 program, it's the -- the theme -- or trophic levels,
11 producers, consumers, arnivores, carnivores, or the
12 food chain basically, she'll be working with that in
13 the school on that.
14

15 We are also collaborating with UAF on
16 an extended ice thickness study that Karen Bedoni is
17 actually working with UAF on this. And they're trying
18 to get both local knowledge and then future that with
19 measurements over the next few years to try and look
20 more at this global warming process that's happening.
21

22 So that's pretty much our summary.
23

24 If you've got questions I'd be happy to
25 try and answer them.
26

27 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Appreciate that
28 summary. There's a lot of projects under way. I see
29 that your snowmarkers are being monitored, are they
30 paying close attention to the depths?
31

32 MR. REBARCHIK: We are. That's done
33 monthly, usually in the last three to five days of the
34 month and we've been monitoring that over the last
35 number of years and plan to continue that.
36

37 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It'd be almost a
38 critical piece of information as to when the snow
39 declines below the 70 centimeter depth which is
40 restrictive to calves.
41

42 MR. REBARCHIK: Yep.
43

44 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So as it comes
45 closer to -- it's important to know when the break up
46 or when the snow declined to where the moose were
47 actually freed from the snow.
48

49 MR. REBARCHIK: Right.
50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So possibly have the
2 opportunity to see how many dead moose are lying about
3 before they get eaten up by bears and wolves.

4
5 MR. REBARCHIK: And we haven't been
6 able to get that kind of information yet. They're not
7 -- the snow markers are in specific locations and we're
8 looking at overall conditions everywhere that they fly
9 but we haven't gotten any kind of numbers of dead
10 animals, things like that, we don't have any of that
11 information.

12
13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well they pop up in
14 the spring. Most of them -- a lot of times I first
15 find moose that -- they died in a big snow storm and
16 you don't even see them.

17
18 MR. REBARCHIK: Right.

19
20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And then the snow
21 starts melting and here's all these dead moose laying
22 around.

23
24 So any questions for Koyukuk.

25
26 Tommy.

27
28 MR. KRISKA: A lot of those -- for this
29 year there's a lot of those moose that, like I was
30 saying they kind of got in the deep snow, they got wet
31 and I think died of hypothermia or just pneumonia or
32 whatever, there's a lot of those and this year the snow
33 was so bad that they died and the same night they're
34 under cover of six inches of snow.

35
36 MR. REBARCHIK: Yep.

37
38 MR. KRISKA: So there's a lot of moose
39 out there that they haven't even been touched, they're
40 still under that snow.

41
42 MR. REBARCHIK: They're under the snow,
43 yep.

44
45 MR. KRISKA: Yep, they're under the
46 snow.

47
48 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah.

49
50

1 MR. KRISKA: And I have a concern that
2 during that hunt this winter we had a moose taken from
3 the locals because what -- there was a misunderstanding
4 and I don't even think -- I don't know if you know or
5 the Trooper that took the meat knew where the -- even
6 for me, I still kind of have a hard time with it, so
7 where does the boundaries lie, does it lie with the
8 water level or the tree line for -- because they shot a
9 moose about here to that door from the willow line on
10 top of the bar so it was the south bank but the Trooper
11 still took it from them because he said that it needed
12 to be 15, 20 feet more over there and then it would
13 have been legal, so he took the moose from them, gave
14 it to the elders -- we gave it to the elders, and then
15 while they're there another cow moose walk out 50 feet
16 from them behind his chopper and he told them, well,
17 that one is legal right there, you could shoot that one
18 and then they said, well, we can't, we don't have no
19 ticket any more.

20
21 MR. REBARCHIK: You don't have a tag.

22
23 MR. KRISKA: So I was just kind of --
24 that would be a good thing to kind of figure out, where
25 is the boundary. Is it the tree line, or the water
26 level because once I heard it was the water level and
27 then another time I heard on top of the bank, but they
28 were on top of the bank so I don't know what was the
29 big thing behind it.

30
31 MR. REBARCHIK: Okay. This is the
32 first I've heard of this situation.

33
34 MR. KRISKA: Yeah.

35
36 MR. REBARCHIK: So I don't know about
37 it. I really don't know if I can make a comment. In
38 most cases it's the high water mark.

39
40 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, that's what I
41 thought.

42
43 MR. REBARCHIK: That's utilized under
44 law. But I don't know anything about this
45 specific.....

46
47 MR. KRISKA: It just happened.....

48
49 MR. REBARCHIK:so I can't address
50

1 it. I don't -- I can't answer your question.

2

3 MR. KRISKA: Okay. Well, you'll hear
4 about it anyway.

5

6 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah. I will.

7

8 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, I told them just
9 don't -- you know, plead just not guilty because I know
10 there's something in there where it was on top of the
11 sand bar, 15 feet and it was fairly far enough back
12 from the, you know, the water line, so.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Would there have
15 been any little willows showing.....

16

17 MR. KRISKA: Well, see, that's what
18 we're waiting for. When that thaws out.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But I mean would it
21 be willows there, any kind of a brush?

22

23 MR. KRISKA: Well, the snow was so deep
24 that the willows are there but they were 15 feet away,
25 that's what they -- they should have dug it up but
26 we're waiting, we're going to go over there and take
27 pictures of willows that tall.

28

29 MR. REBARCHIK: Right.

30

31 MR. KRISKA: I don't know, I mean still
32 I know you can't -- nobody owns land from the top of
33 the bank down, on anybody.....

34

35 MR. REBARCHIK: From the high
36 water.....

37

38 MR. KRISKA:on any Native
39 allotment or any one of those places, if the moose is
40 down the bank you could shoot it but if he's on top of
41 the bank it's considered Native allotment. So I'm
42 thinking that goes the same for the water, I mean
43 that's just the way it was in regulations before so I
44 don't know.

45

46 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah. One point I
47 would bring up, one of the reasons that we actually got
48 the State and asked the State to run this hunt is that
49 area is so checkerboarded by land ownership, that if it
50

1 would have been a Federal hunt it's very difficult for
2 people to identify where they're at on the ground. If
3 it was just a Federal hunt, you couldn't hunt on the
4 State land, you couldn't hunt on the tribal lands or
5 private land, only on the Federal land under a Federal
6 hunt, and that was why we requested the State actually
7 run this hunt and do the permitting and the whole nine
8 yards because then it's open for any of the land, State
9 land, Federal land, tribal land if the tribe authorizes
10 that, and we were trying to get away from the land
11 ownership issue with this hunt to afford more
12 opportunity.

13
14 This is a -- it's a law enforcement
15 question and I can't answer.

16
17 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, for me I'm going to
18 wind up looking into it and finding out because I need
19 to know for myself and everyone else.

20
21 MR. REBARCHIK: I would like to see the
22 information on that, yeah.

23
24 MR. KRISKA: Yeah, because I think it's
25 happened more than once.

26
27 MR. REBARCHIK: Well, yeah, and it
28 could happen in other hunts.....

29
30 MR. KRISKA: Okay, thank you.

31
32 MR. REBARCHIK:and we want to get
33 it addressed so that we have the right outcome, and
34 appropriate answer. I can't answer it.

35
36 OFFICER BOSCH: If I may, Mr. Chairman.

37
38 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah, you bet, have at
39 it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead.

42
43 OFFICER BOSCH: Sir, the issue is kind
44 of complicated. The actual term is mean high water and
45 it can be very subjective at times depending on where
46 you view the flood level and the vegetation. As you
47 were saying the vegetation, you get trees and willows,
48 you're most likely above the high water mark and you
49 are on either Refuge land or a Native allotment land,
50

1 anything below that is going to be ownership of the
2 State and subject to State hunting regulations. The --
3 my recommendation is to dig underneath the snow and to
4 prove the vegetation is there and to have the Trooper
5 document as well as the hunter, and more so than not
6 that'll give you a definitive answer of who's land
7 you're on at any given time.

8
9 I forgot the second issue you guys were
10 talking about, what else was there.

11
12 MR. GERVAIS: Having used their permit
13 and not being able to shoot the second moose.

14
15 OFFICER BOSCH: Correct. If you have
16 filled your tag you've filled your tag. Hopefully
17 there might be somebody else in your party that can
18 take the second animal. But at that point it'd be
19 determination if you filled your tag, I -- yeah.

20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. Your
22 interpretation as an enforcement officer, if there was
23 vegetation and what -- I've heard this mean high water
24 thing for decades now, unfortunately I've been here for
25 decades.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF:and they've
30 always said the agreed consensus was where the
31 vegetation starts, where the willow line begins is the
32 mean high water mark. So is your interpretation the
33 same way, and that should be stated by the agencies and
34 Fish and Wildlife Protection for the State, where the
35 mean high water mark -- if it's below any kind of
36 vegetation it's outside -- it's below the mean high
37 water mark, if it's vegetated it is, let's come to an
38 agreement with these enforcement -- your interpretation
39 might not be exactly what the Trooper's interpretation
40 is, he might want 10 feet tall willows or something.
41 There's no telling what his -- in his mind what this
42 is. We need to get a definitive answer as to where --
43 and the easiest thing to do is where the grass and the
44 willows grow. If it's no willows, then it's sand, then
45 it's below the mean high water mark.

46
47 Tommy.

48
49 MR. KRISKA: Before we really get into
50

1 this a long ways, you know, just to protect everybody,
2 everybody that hunts, kids, the other races, our Native
3 people and everything, I would really like to see that
4 clarified in this book, the mark. I mean you have so
5 many pages in here I don't think one more page would
6 hurt to clarify your boundary on the beach. Because I
7 know right now as a transporter or when we guided, if
8 there was a moose down the bank from an allotment, you
9 still could shoot that moose regardless if it was -- if
10 it's not on their land, because what they said before
11 is like he's saying, the vegetation, where it starts,
12 but if somebody didn't understand that, and, you know,
13 come by and do all kinds of paperwork for nothing. But
14 I'd really like to see that in this book just to
15 protect the whole of Alaska and everybody in it, I mean
16 for everyone that hunts.

17
18 OFFICER BOSCH: I would agree. That
19 would help the hunter and it would help me quite a bit,
20 too. I would love to have a definitive
21 description.....

22
23 MR. KRISKA: Yes, and then you would
24 have no arguments.

25
26 OFFICER BOSCH:of what it means.

27
28 MR. KRISKA: Yep, thank you.

29
30 OFFICER BOSCH: I try my best to
31 educate people of the concept of the high water mark
32 and where I would interpret it with different examples
33 in the terrain we're in, I mean this is all going to
34 change with different terrains and different
35 vegetations, that will be on any given bank, and, more
36 so than not, I'm just incentivising people to go on
37 their hunt because they're afraid that they won't be
38 able to make their own determination and so I agree
39 with the Chair and you, Sir, a more definitive
40 description in the book would be helpful for both
41 sides.

42
43 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Excuse me. Special
44 action -- or correction, annual report topic nine, the
45 Federal Subsistence Board should be aware that there's
46 -- we feel that the mean high water mark is where
47 vegetation begins, grass, willows, whatever the
48 vegetation is and that anything that doesn't have
49 vegetation is below the mean high water mark and the
50

1 Federal Subsistence Board shall work with the State of
2 Alaska to set a definitive -- a useable definition that
3 the subsistence users can use as to what is the high
4 water mark.

5

6 Did you have something Lisa.

7

8 MR. REBARCHIK: Yeah, I was going to
9 just say that the mean high water mark is used for
10 defining navigable waters, it's not used for defining
11 the land and so that, I think, is part of this issue.

12

13 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, the Troopers
14 are writing tickets on the high water mark. So that's
15 kind of a problem.

16

17 So navigable -- one way or another, the
18 navig -- you got an answer Lisa.

19

20 MS. MAAS: Yeah, it's the call for
21 Federal wildlife proposals so you could put in a
22 proposal to define mean high water mark and under State
23 regulations, next year is the statewide cycle, so this
24 time next year you could put in a proposal to the State
25 to define mean high water mark. So I mean it's just an
26 option rather than putting it in the annual report, you
27 could just submit a proposal and anything -- you know,
28 any issues surrounding that will come out through the
29 analysis but just last year we defined scent lure, and
30 now there is a definition for scent lure under Federal
31 regulations.

32

33 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the Chair will
34 entertain a motion to submit a Federal subsistence
35 proposal to delineate the high water mark as the
36 vegetated, grass, willows or other vegetation,
37 ecoseams, that have vegetation is above the high water
38 mark and anything that does not have vegetation is
39 below the high water mark for hunting and fishing
40 regulations.

41

42 Do we have a motion to that effect.

43

44 MS. PELKOLA: So moved.

45

46 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Moved by Jenny.

47

48 MR. KRISKA: Second.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seconded by Tommy.
2
3 Those in favor of that proposal signify
4 saying aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 MR. COLLINS: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Don. Ray, I got
11 you, are you still there Don.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We lost Don. So
16 okay any further comments on the Koyukuk/Nowitna's
17 presentation, Innoko.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Seeing none, thanks
22 so much, appreciate it. Good discussion.
23
24 And so we're going to recess to 9:00
25 a.m., sharp tomorrow morning. We have a lot of work to
26 do before the end of the day and we have to be out of
27 this room by 4:00 o'clock, so we'll recess until 9:00
28 a.m., sharp. We'll start the meeting if you're here or
29 not, if I got quorum we're going to start the meeting.
30
31 MS. PELKOLA: Couldn't we start at
32 8:30.
33
34 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 9:00 o'clock sharp.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: 9:00 o'clock sharp.
39
40 MS. PELKOLA: Okay.
41
42 CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: We're recessed.
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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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 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the WESTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 26th day of March 2019 at Fairbanks, Alaska;

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 12th day of May 2019.

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