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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

FOUR COUNCIL MEETING

IN RE: Wildlife Proposal 24-28/29

DENA'INA CIVIC AND CONVENTION CENTER
Anchorage, Alaska
March 7, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

REGION 6 - Western Interior
REGION 7 - Seward Peninsula
REGION 8 - Northwest Arctic
REGION 10- North Slope

Thomas Baker, Northwest Arctic, Chairman

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/7/2024)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right thank you everyone. First on the agenda we have an invocation, would anybody like to provide that this morning.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seeing no volunteers, Raymond Woods, could you please give us an invocation, or is that a volunteer, Vern Cleveland. Vern, you want to give an invocation.

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So at this time it is 8:27 a.m., I will call this meeting to order. Represented today we have the Northwest Arctic, North Slope, Western Interior and Seward Penn RACs. Can we please get a roll call.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: How about we just go around, if we could start with the North Slope corner and just introduce ourselves.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk, RAC.

MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz from Utqiagvik for the North Slope RAC.

MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams, Anaktuvuk Pass, North Slope RAC.

MR. REAKOFF: Jack Reakoff, Western Interior Council Chair from Wiseman, Central Brooks Range.

MR. WALKER: Robert Walker, Western Interior RAC, First Chief of Anvik. Thank you.

MR. REYNOLDS: Patrick Reynolds, Savoonga.

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1 MR. MOSES: Robert Moses, Seward Penn
2 RAC from Golovin.

3
4 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Seward
5 Peninsula RAC, Brevig Mission.

6
7 MR. GREEN: Louis Green, Chair for the
8 Seward Peninsula, Nome region.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thomas Baker, Chair,
11 Northwest Arctic from Kotzebue.

12
13 MR. WOODS: Raymond Woods, Upper Kobuk,
14 Shungnak, Northwest Arctic RAC.

15
16 MR. SCHAEFFER: Bob Schaeffer,
17 Northwest RAC, Kotzebue.

18
19 MR. KRAMER: Vice Chair Mike Kramer,
20 Kotzebue, Northwest Arctic.

21
22 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk, Northwest Alaska.

23
24 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good morning. Elmer
25 Armstrong, Noorvik, Northwest Arctic RAC.

26
27 MR. CLEVELAND: Vern Cleveland,
28 Northwest Arctic, Noorvik. (In Native)

29
30 MR. HOWARTH: Wilbur Howarth, Northwest
31 Arctic.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did we miss anybody, I
34 think we covered everyone at the table. So we'll go
35 into No. 4, welcome and introductions.

36
37 Welcome everyone.

38
39 We already introduced ourselves.

40
41 So today our topic will just be on the
42 Wildlife Proposal regarding caribou, so if we can move
43 on to Item No. 5, review and adopt agenda, does anyone
44 have any issues, would anyone like to make a motion to
45 adopt the agenda.

46
47 MR. REAKOFF: Motion to adopt the
48 agenda to discuss the issues.

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1 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

2

3 MR. WALKER: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Motion by Jack
6 Reakoff, second by Attamuk Shiedt. All those in favor
7 please say aye.

8

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: And opposed, same
12 sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we will
17 go ahead and adopt our agenda and move on to Item No.
18 6. Deferred Wildlife Proposal, proposal overview with
19 OSM for Wildlife Proposal 24-28/29, reduce caribou
20 harvest limit to four per year, only one of which may
21 be a cow in Units 21D remainder, 24B remainder, 24C,
22 24D, 22, 23 and 26A.

23

24 Who, from OSM, would like to start us
25 off?

26

27 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
28 fellow other Chairs and Council members. My name is
29 Tom Plank and I'm a Wildlife Biologist in the Office of
30 Subsistence Management and I'm joined here with Dr.
31 Voorhees. We will be presenting a summary of the
32 analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP24-28/29 and these
33 proposals were submitted due to the continued decline
34 of the herd.

35

36 At your fall meetings, the Northwest
37 Arctic, North Slope and Seward Peninsula Councils
38 deferred the proposals to allow for discussion amongst
39 the affected Councils. This meeting is being held to
40 support that discussion. The Western Interior Council
41 did make a recommendation to support the proposal with
42 a modification to the area included which is given
43 towards the end of this presentation.

44

45 The analysis can be found in your
46 books. For the Western Interior it's Page 66. For the
47 Northwest Arctic it's Page 26. For the North Slope RAC
48 it's going to be Page 14. And for the Seward Peninsula
49 it's going to be Page 15. And the slides are also

50

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1 printed out on your tables there.

2

3 WP24-28 was submitted by the Western
4 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and requests a
5 reduction in the caribou harvest limits across the
6 range.....

7

8 (Pause)

9

10 MR. PLANK: Sorry, I forgot I had
11 slides, give me a second.

12

13 (Pause)

14

15 MR. PLANK: I'll go ahead and continue,
16 we're on Slide 2, but this is the information about the
17 proposals.

18

19 Like I said, WP24-28 was submitted by
20 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and it
21 requests a reduction in the caribou harvest limits
22 across the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd to
23 four caribou per year, only one which may be a cow, and
24 those specific areas include Units 21D remainder, 24B
25 remainder, 24C, 24D and all caribou hunt areas within
26 Units 22, 23, and 26A.

27

28 WP24-29 was submitted by the Northwest
29 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and
30 requests a reduction in caribou harvest limit to four
31 caribou per year, only one which may be a cow in Unit
32 23 only.

33

34 Next slide.

35

36 (Pause)

37

38 MR. PLANK: The Western Arctic Caribou
39 Herd, the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and the Central Arctic
40 Caribou Herd have ranges that overlap in Units 26A and
41 24B. The Teshekpuk Caribou Herd primarily occupies
42 Unit 26A and the Central Arctic Herd mostly occupies --
43 occurs in Unit 26B. There can be considerable mixing
44 of these three herds during the fall and winter.

45

46 The Teshekpuk Herd, for the last 10
47 years, the management objective for the Teshekpuk Herd
48 of 15,000 caribou has been met and in 2023 the minimum
49 count was approximately 61,000 caribou.

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1 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd
2 population has fluctuated over time from a low of
3 75,000 in the 1970s to a peak of approximately 500,000
4 in 2003 and as you all know the herd has been declining
5 since 2003.

6
7 Many of you have seen this slide
8 before, this is from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
9 Working Group presentation from Alex Hansen and the
10 2023 estimate is is 152,000 caribou. It is currently
11 managed at the preservative declining level of the
12 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group's management
13 plan.

14
15 In 2017 the bull/cow ratio was at its
16 highest since 1998 at 54 bulls per 100 cows and in 2021
17 that ratio fell slightly to 47 bulls per 100 cows,
18 which still exceeds the critical management level of 30
19 bulls per 100 cows. And in this graph here, the red
20 dotted line is the critical management threshold.
21 Adult female survival has been below the long-term
22 average, this is another slide from the Western Arctic
23 Caribou Herd Working Group meeting showing that the
24 adult female survival acquired from collared cows each
25 year. And although factors contributing to the decline
26 are not known with certainty, increased adult cow
27 mortality and decreased calf recruitment are -- and
28 survival are likely playing a role.

29
30 DR. VOORHEES: As we've heard from the
31 Councils over the years in the testimony you've given,
32 hunters often hunt for more than one household.
33 Generally many ore people use caribou than harvest
34 caribou because of the cultural value of harvesting and
35 sharing subsistence foods to provide for those who do
36 not have a hunter in the household. Subsistence
37 surveys conducted by ADF&G between 1982 and 2018 give
38 estimates on caribou harvest. Usually the results of
39 these surveys would take all the harvest by community
40 and divide it by every household in a community but if
41 we wanted to get a better sense of how many caribou are
42 being harvested by those households that might be
43 providing for a wider group of people we can just look
44 at the households that successfully harvested caribou.
45 And in Unit 22 the average number of caribou harvested
46 per successful households per year during this 1982 to
47 2018 window was 4.6, 4.6 caribou per successful
48 household. But this number did not include -- this
49 data does not include Nome. There are no data
50

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1 available for Nome for these surveys unfortunately.
2 For Unit 23, Northwest Arctic this number is 8.1
3 caribou and in Unit 26 plus Anaktuvuk Pass the average
4 number of caribou harvested per successful household
5 per year is 8.8. But of note, the proposal before you
6 suggests a reduction per hunter whereas these estimates
7 are per household, which is all that's available.

8

9 MR. PLANK: Unfortunately harvest data
10 is lacking and the best we can do is use estimates and
11 really encourage folks to report their harvest.
12 Household survey data demonstrates that local community
13 harvest (indiscernible) Western Arctic Caribou Herd
14 availability rather than population trends. And from
15 1999 to 2018 the estimate total harvest from the
16 Western Arctic Caribou Herd was 14,000 caribou per
17 year, ranging from 12 to 16,000 caribou per year.

18

19 With the current population estimate of
20 152,000 caribou, the estimated harvestable surplus is
21 approximately 7,300 caribou throughout the entire
22 range.

23

24 (Pause)

25

26 MR. PLANK: I've included the next
27 three slides for all of you. These are not my slides,
28 but I felt that it was a very important aspect brought
29 up by Alex Hansen at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
30 Working Group meeting and he has also presented this to
31 the Councils.

32

33 This slide here helps visualize the
34 importance of conserving cow harvest. The bar on the
35 left shows a hypothetically how no cow harvest may help
36 minimize the population decline in comparison to the
37 bar on the right which shows the potential with just
38 status quo.

39

40 This graph shows the reproductive
41 potential of one cow, if it survives into each year as
42 well as its surviving calves. This helps to really
43 hammer home how important it is to conserve cows.

44

45 Many of you have seen this slide as
46 well. Two things we really want to stress is the
47 importance of reporting the harvest and conserving
48 cows. Again, these last three slides are not my slides
49 but I felt it was important to include them here to

50

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1 emphasize the importance of conserving cows and
2 reporting caribou harvest.

3
4 The OSM's preliminary conclusion is to
5 support WP24-28 with modification to reduce the portion
6 of Unit 26A in which the new harvest limit would apply.
7 This would reduce impact to the eastern portion of the
8 Unit 26A that depends on other caribou herds.

9
10 The Western Interior Regional Advisory
11 Council made the modification to exclude the portion --
12 the eastern portion of Unit 26A with the harvest limit
13 reduction. The Council is supportive of the exclusion
14 of the eastern portion of Unit 26A from this proposal
15 as those areas are frequented by the Teshekpuk and
16 Central Arctic Caribou Herds, which are not declining
17 and are relied upon for subsistence needs by residents
18 of the North Slope region. However, the Western
19 Interior RAC also wanted to discuss and receive input
20 on this modification from other Councils, particularly
21 the North Slope Council.

22
23 The Board of Game acted on the western
24 portion during their meeting in Kotzebue. They adopted
25 proposals with modifications to the individual harvest
26 limit of 15 caribou permit per year by registration
27 permit only, only one which may be a cow and to reduce
28 the area in which the new harvest restrictions would
29 apply. These modifications included Unit 22, Unit 23
30 and Unit 26A but excluding a portion of Unit 26A from
31 the harvest limit reduction and this area is east of
32 the green shaded area. The Board of Game will consider
33 the eastern portion of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
34 range in Units 21D and 24 at their March meeting.

35
36 And I know this was a lost of
37 information, there are several other alternatives
38 listed in the analysis as well for your consideration.
39 And I want to thank you for allowing us the time to
40 present this all to you together at once and we would
41 be happy to field any questions and remain here to help
42 you as needed.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Tom.

45
46 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

49
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1 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior Regional
2 Advisory Council reviewed the original proposal. We
3 modified the proposal as you see in this slide. We
4 delineated, basically -- we had Alex Hansen sitting
5 right there and we delineated where the Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd lived, where the majority of Teshekpuk and
7 Central Arctic live and we -- so we drew a line
8 downward and so Wainwright takes -- according to the
9 North Slope Borough Biologist Brian Person, he said
10 Wainwright actually takes around 1,000 caribou
11 annually. They can hunt on both sides of that line.
12 The only real impacts would be to Point Lay and Cape
13 Lisburne. You know those would have impacts for this
14 reduction.

15
16 So I wanted to clarify that for this
17 working session, that Western Interior took action to
18 delineate this line as this is just to get -- and we
19 stated, it would be further delineated by North Slope
20 Regional Advisory Council and the Board of Game. This
21 is what the Board of Game did, something kind of
22 similar, but by drainage. So that's just
23 informational.

24
25 And so thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. So at this
28 time I'd like to just kind of open up the discussion
29 and I'd really like to hear from the North Slope RAC on
30 any of the options that have been put forward, whether
31 it's the Western Interior, the Fish and Game Board of
32 Game version, but I think it really kind of -- because
33 we're talking about changes to your area as well as
34 ours we should hear from you first.

35
36 MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz, North Slope
37 RAC. So what I was -- what I've collected from Brian
38 Person there over at the North Slope Borough,
39 Department of Wildlife Management, and also their Fish
40 and Game Management Committee meetings, they did meet
41 and we discussed with them in detail and it looks they
42 would want to counter the proposal and utilize, it
43 looks like the drainage method there for Wainwright,
44 Point Lay and Point Hope. So 26A, the western portion
45 of it, and also that portion of 23, which has Point
46 Hope in it, and modify that to 15 caribou per year of
47 which only one can be a cow for those three villages,
48 26A, the rest of the other portions would remain as
49 they were, I think it's five a day, because they --
50

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1 they're doing okay with the other herds there and
2 really don't have access to the Western, and we're
3 mindful of it. But I think that would be good.

4
5 And if we needed, we have a detailed
6 description and map of what we're -- what we would like
7 to propose of this kind of countering the one that's at
8 hand though.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.
13 It was brought to my attention that we're supposed to
14 be following the process on the back of our name plates
15 so now that we've had the introduction we'll move on to
16 Item No. 2. I really appreciate that though, Mr.
17 Frantz, we'll definitely circle back to that. So
18 report on Board consultation from tribes and ANCSA
19 Corporations.

20
21 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultations on Northwest
23 Arctic region proposals were held on November 16th,
24 2023 regarding Proposal WP24-28/29. A NANA
25 representative shared that protection of their
26 subsistence foods is the highest priority for use on
27 their lands as about 70 percent of people's diets
28 within the NANA region are made up of subsistence
29 foods. There are strong concerns about making people
30 criminals by creating such intense limits on caribou.
31 Everyone is feeling the pressure of declining caribou
32 herds and it's important to work with communities to
33 find solutions.

34
35 People have noticed disturbance of the
36 herd related to aircraft activity. It's very expensive
37 for people to go out and subsist. The traditional and
38 cultural use of these resources is critical to
39 maintaining a way of life. The specific bag limits are
40 concerning and NANA hopes to continue discussions to
41 find solutions going forward as well as a solution for
42 transporters.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Does that conclude
45 tribal and ANCSA Corporation consultation?

46
47 DR. VOORHEES: That does, Mr. Chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Dr.

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1 Voorhees. And we'll move on to agency comments and
2 starting with the Department of Fish and Game, if
3 anyone's available.

4
5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, do you just want
6 to know, it's in the analysis. (No microphone)

7
8 MR. WOODS: Can't hear you.

9
10 MR. WALKER: Can't hear you.

11
12 MR. PLANK: This is Tom Plank, the
13 ADF&G comments at the end of the analysis under
14 comments in your books.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you could go ahead
17 and highlight those for us as people start going
18 through their books.

19
20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, through the
21 Chair, this is Lisa Grediagin. And we're not prepared
22 to speak for the State by any means but in the
23 executive summary you will see that ADF&G supports the
24 proposal with modification. They didn't explicitly
25 state what that modification was but, again, their
26 comments are included at the end of the analysis and
27 they're not here to speak to their comments and we're
28 not prepared to speak on their behalf.

29
30 And this is Lisa Grediagin, Wildlife
31 Division Supervisor for the record.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. So my
36 request was just to have somebody read out what the
37 recommendation is not.....

38
39 MS. GREDIAGIN: Oh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER:not speak on
42 behalf of the State. So if someone could just read
43 verbatim what it says as people get to their books.

44
45 (Grediagin - away from microphone)

46
47 MS. GREDIAGIN: All right, Mr. Chair, I
48 just found it. Their position is several pages long,
49 and I will just start off with the two paragraph of

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1 their position and if you want me to continue I can.
2 But it says:

3
4 The Alaska Department of Fish and Game
5 supports with modifications. Opportunity to harvest
6 caribou will still be provided while an attempt to
7 reduce harvest specifically female harvest is
8 appropriate due to the declining in abundance. The
9 importance of caribou conservation to local users was
10 demonstrated by the Kotzebue Advisory Committee during
11 the 2022 fall winter meeting where they drafted a
12 proposal to reduce the bag limits to four caribou per
13 year of which only one may be a cow in Unit 23. The
14 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group followed suit
15 a few weeks later during a December meeting drafting a
16 similar proposal. The WACH Working Group unanimously
17 voted to use the same bag limit proposed by the
18 Kotzebue AC but opted to include the entirety of the
19 WACH range. The WACH Working Group is made up of
20 various stakeholders including subsistence users from
21 communities within the WACH range. Hunters outside the
22 range of the herd, conservationists, hunting guides,
23 reindeer herders and transporters.

24
25 (Pause)

26
27 MS. GREDIAGIN: I need to sit -- can you
28 guys hear me okay, is this better -- sorry.

29
30 Okay.

31
32 The WACH Working Group is made up of
33 various stakeholders including subsistence users from
34 communities from within the WACH range, hunters outside
35 the range of the herd, conservationists, hunting
36 guides, reindeer herders and transporters.

37
38 The ADF&G recognizes and supports the
39 readiness of these groups to take conservation measures
40 to address the decline in abundance.

41
42 At the Alaska Board of Game meeting in
43 Kotzebue January 26th through 29th, the Board of Game
44 modified these proposals to reduce resident harvest of
45 the WACH to 15 caribou a year, only one of which may be
46 a cow with season dates July 1st to June 30th. This
47 action encompasses Unit 22, Unit 23 and Unit 26A. The
48 Board of Game heard from residents across the region
49 over their concern for the WACH and where conservation
50

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1 measures need not apply because of the predominance of
2 adjacent caribou herds. The Teshekpuk and Central
3 Arctic that are at high population levels. This
4 cumulated in an amendment submitted by the North Slope
5 Borough, Department of Wildlife Management and Kotzebue
6 residents that took everyone's concerns into account
7 and the Board of Game passed this amendment and
8 subsequent proposal unanimously. The Board of Game
9 will address the portion of the WACH range that falls
10 within the Division of Wildlife Conservation's Region 3
11 purview at the upcoming March 15th through 22nd
12 meeting.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That concludes
15 their -- the State's comments under their position
16 section and they have a lot more information concerning
17 background, you know, the biology, harvest information
18 on the herd, the regulations, enforcement issues,
19 amount reasonably necessary for subsistence. So
20 there's some other information there but that was the
21 summary of their position.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, thank you,
26 Lisa. So with that we'll move on to Federal agencies.
27 Do we have any Federal agencies in the room ready to
28 speak on this topic.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is anybody ready to
33 speak on this topic this morning?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: It doesn't feel like
38 it.

39

40 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. I would like
41 to go back to Brower's comment there. North Slope has
42 a delineation by drainage, does it look like this map
43 that the Board of Game actually adopted for Unit 26A
44 and 23? It's in the back of your packet here. It
45 shows -- what the Western Interior did was sort of lay
46 out a line to the west and then we encourage that line
47 to be delineated by Board action. We didn't draw the
48 line, but we wanted the line to not interfere with
49 Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Utqiagvik and all those
50

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1 drainages and everything to the east that have
2 Teshekpuk and Central Arctic and Porcupine Caribou keep
3 pushing further and further west. They want to go
4 west. They're stacked up against the Dalton Highway
5 like a fence the last five years. They're right there
6 right now. They're like a line for a hundred miles or
7 -- there's 218,000 caribou wanting to go west. Raymond
8 Paneak of Anaktuvuk Pass, before he passed away, kept
9 calling me and asking me, you seeing any Porcupine
10 Caribou, the elders over there knew the Porcupine
11 Caribou should be showing up. They want to go over
12 there but the road is an impedance. That's what's
13 happened right now.

14

15 And so this map, is this what North
16 Slope was talking about or something kind of like this?

17

18 MR. FRANTZ: It's almost verbatim from
19 what I'm looking at. It's a little more detailed on
20 the Board of Game modification, it's more -- yeah,
21 yeah, just some of the nooks and crannies on there are
22 not as straight or, sorry, yeah, not as squiggly as
23 this but it's almost verbatim, the map there, yes. I
24 got it here if you want to look at it.

25

26 MR. REAKOFF: So that's what I wanted
27 to clarify, that's an important part of this proposal,
28 is the -- and the modification that the Western
29 Interior Council modified. We intended to further
30 refine this at this spring meeting with the other
31 Councils. In fact, I requested these other Councils be
32 together.

33

34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.
37 Reakoff. Thank you, Mr. Frantz. So, again, any
38 Federal agencies.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any tribal agencies.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Advisory group.

47

48 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk, Enoch Shiedt,
49 Northwest Alaska. We Northwest Alaska is voluntary

50

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1 taking a reduction. I could understand North Slope
2 because they got different, other caribou, but the
3 State endorsed the Caribou Management Plan we put
4 together at the level of numbers it's under
5 conservation and, yet, the State say they -- we -- they
6 could take a lot more than what we are proposing for
7 Northwest Alaska. I wish the State was here on the
8 table listening to us that we -- that they could hear
9 what we're saying. And I feel that we, from Northwest
10 Alaska, feel that -- and depend a lot on the caribou
11 because I used to -- when I used to work at Maniilaq I
12 took surveys for 14 years in the Northwest Alaska, how
13 many caribou does it take for Natives to survive. That
14 was when the population was a lot smaller than what it
15 is today. So it's going to be hard for me because I
16 feel for North Slope, they got lot a caribou, they got
17 different -- we could tell the difference between
18 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and Teshekpuk Herd by
19 looking at them and seeing what they are and, yet, how
20 are we going to preserve our caribou if one area say
21 they could take so much and one area they would take
22 all they want, yet, we're talking about the same herd.

23

24 Think about it.

25

26 We need to get together and we need to
27 agree with North Slope, Seward Penn and Northwest
28 Alaska, and we need to state here, listening to what we
29 say, instead of the State said this and the State said
30 that, no, they should be speaking for themselves.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

35

36 MR. SCHAEFFER: I wanted to.....

37

38 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Hold on Jack, Bobby

41 was first.

42

43 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I wanted to sort
44 of give a historical perspective. Because I guess what
45 I wanted to do is try to portray the emergency
46 situation that we're dealing with with the Western
47 Arctic. And I've been tracking it for quite awhile and
48 I've worked closely with Alex and trying to put into my
49 observation reports so that people can read them, to

50

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1 where the caribou are.

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3

4 So a couple years ago, back in 2022 I
5 kept tabs of where the caribou locations were and it's
6 really strange, you know, because they're an animal
7 that wanders and in 2022 was the toughest year we had
8 because only 10 percent of the herd migrated south of
9 the Brooks Range. And it was really difficult for us
10 because they wintered in the upper Kobuk and had been
11 part of -- part of the herd, about maybe 10,000 or so
12 went over to -- over towards the Buckland Hills. But
13 that was all there was and then since people didn't
14 have caribou everybody flocked to Shungnak and
15 everybody flocked to Buckland trying to find a caribou,
16 you know, because that's -- you know, I'm talking about
17 people from Koyuk and that area and folks from Kotzebue
18 and the Noatak were trying to find something and going
19 long distances just to try to put food on the table.
20 But, yet -- and then 80 percent, or 90 percent of the
21 caribou wintered up on the upper parts of the Brooks
22 Range and this -- it was something that was out of the
23 ordinary for us because normally for -- for a long,
24 long time they'd come down in late August, early
25 September and we would hunt but, you know, because of
26 global warming and because of the changes in the
27 climate and the weather, they're getting just as
28 confused as us, you know, and so every year it's a
29 little different. It's always a, you know, it's like a
30 new adventure, a new story.

30

31

32 And this year, all of a sudden they --
33 we -- Fish and Game expected some to remain up north,
34 but I wanted to also say that the majority of the herd
35 in 2022 was north of Point Hope and then flocked all
36 those hills all the way to Point Lay and they summered
37 in that area and so those folks and in those villages
38 were able to go out and harvest animals quite readily
39 any time they needed -- they needed meat on the table.
40 So they stayed there the entire summer.

40

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42 And then of course in 2023 they
43 migrated kind of to our surprise, the entire herd,
44 migrated south.

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45 So from one year to the next it's so
46 hard to tell which way, or what they're going to do.

48 This year 100 percent of them all of a
49 sudden showed up, you know, and they went through the

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1 areas, late. It wasn't early enough, you know, to get
2 the bulls, you know, it was late and some of the bulls
3 were already out of runt and that's what most of the
4 hunters in the villages around Kotzebue and the Kobuk
5 areas were able to harvest but -- but some shot females
6 because they were the fattest. And then, yet, on the
7 other hand, you know, we're all concerned about the
8 health of the herd because we know it's dwindling.

9

10 And when I come here from Kotzebue and
11 I look at the -- the North Slope and -- and folks from
12 the Interior and from the Nome area, you know, they're
13 moving further down south again this year so more than
14 likely you're going to see, you know, folks from your
15 areas hunting -- hunting caribou, you know.

16

17 And, yet, on the other hand, you know,
18 we -- we all have to work together and I think if we
19 had the situation where -- where -- in 2022 where there
20 was even a big herd that went over and met up with the
21 Teshekpuk Herd and they -- they grazed the entire --
22 the area, for quite awhile, some even went over towards
23 the Haul Road. So you can't tell from one year to the
24 next where the Western Arctic Caribou Herd is going to
25 go. Most of them went back, I don't know if there was
26 any -- if the Teshekpuk Herd ever adopted some of them,
27 too, I don't know, you know, but it's hard to tell.
28 Yet, on the other hand, so they met up with the
29 Teshekpuk Herd and then went further and met up with
30 the Central Arctic Herd as well. So, you know, you
31 can't tell what's going through their minds, what's
32 going to happen from year to year.

33

34 So, anyway, what I was trying to say is
35 I think -- I think, you know, the Teshekpuk Herd and
36 the Central Arctic has been healthy. Their populations
37 have been stable and -- but our population has
38 swindled, you know, it's a quarter -- a quarter of the
39 population left, it used to be the largest herd in our
40 state but now it's -- it is not and I think when we
41 were asking for your help and your assistance in trying
42 to preserve our herd, that you feed off as well, you
43 know, it's important that we get your help.

44

45 We look at you as not only as Inupiaq
46 people that live together for so many years and, you
47 know, we're all interrelated in some way, you know.
48 You know, yet, on the other hand I think we're looking
49 for your help on something like this to where, you

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1 know, if something happened to Teshekpuk Herd and
2 you're asking for our help we would say, yes, of
3 course, you know, we'd be glad to help in any way we
4 can, you know if they migrated to our area. But it's
5 -- it doesn't happen that way. I think it's the same
6 with the Porcupine as well. You have a wide -- you're
7 sort of in a central area where you got the -- all the
8 herds that sort of converge into -- into the Arctic
9 Slope, and it's getting worse because what's happening
10 with global warming is that most of the herds don't
11 stay on the hills anymore, they head north to where the
12 conditions are cooler and to get away from the bugs and
13 then -- and we've noticed that and looking at the range
14 -- where -- where the caribou have ranged the last 20
15 years.

16
17 So things are changing because of
18 global warming. And I'm not sure exactly where global
19 warming is going but it's probably going to get worse
20 and maybe you're going to see more shifting of the
21 herds as time goes on.

22
23 But I think we're -- from my
24 perspective I come here thinking that maybe we -- maybe
25 we -- we should as a group, you know, come to a
26 consensus so we can help each other and, you know, I
27 think it's really important that we -- we are Inupiaq,
28 we have always helped each other, that's how we
29 survived for thousands of years and I just want to -- I
30 just want to plea to you that, maybe, if we could come
31 up with a consensus, if it's four, that will help
32 tremendously, you know, because we've got -- the -- the
33 predation of that -- of that -- all your herds, you
34 know, we're always concerned about the -- the -- the
35 over population of wolves and the brown bears and now
36 we got the polar bears with no more ice and so they're
37 moving in and probably are going to become caribou
38 hunters too sometime, you know, you never can tell.
39 But they have to have -- but -- they have to eat as
40 well. And, you know, in our area, you know, I think
41 the population of our brown bear is finally getting
42 into check. I think, you know, the people have -- have
43 killed enough to where, you know, the -- there -- it's
44 not going to be an issue. But, you know, the brown
45 bear is one of the smartest animals, it's just like the
46 wolf, they know exactly when -- when the females are
47 going to fawn, and they're always there waiting, you
48 know, it happens every time. Just like with the
49 Teshekpuk and the Central, it's the same, they're a
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1 smart animal.

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4 So -- but, anyway, I just wanted to
5 bring that out. I just think that, you know, if we
6 come up with a consensus, it shouldn't be that hard. I
7 think we're all concerned about our herds and food
8 security when it comes to caribou.

8

9

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob. At
this time I'd like to ask that we just hold the
discussion for a few minutes so we can get through this
process so that by the time we do get to that
everything will be legal and any action we take will be
through the proper process.

Did we have any tribal entities that
wanted to comment.

MR. VENT: Darrell Vent, Huslia Tribe.
I went to the Northwest Caribou Working Group meeting.
The thing that bothers me is that, you know, we're
trying to work together and then we got the State
undermining us by them increasing the -- you know,
their hunting pressure on these caribou and so we're
seeing late caribou or the caribou are not following
the regular migratory patterns. This happened in our
area when they put that Pipeline road in, the diversion
was bad. We didn't even see caribou after that. So we
have to be careful with how they put the pressure of
their hunting in that area because we're all starting
to argue amongst ourselves when we should be working
together. This is the problem that the State wants,
look at, say, okay, you know, undermine what we're
trying to do. We know how to take care of the caribou.
We've been doing that for years. Our area there was a
lot of caribou, we had no problem. I'm from the
Caribou Clan but we have no more caribou. We have to
depend on you guys now so we have to learn to work --
you know, to all work together.

You know, after the hunting pressure
slowed down you start seeing those caribou come back.
We know when they (indiscernible - garbled) the herd on
the other side, they don't even want to come there to
rest no more, they were getting wiped out. And that's
what's going to happen if they -- if they run out of
that Fortymile Herd, they're going to be going over to

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1 the Northwest Arctic and that's what they're trying to
2 open up so we don't need that. They voted against what
3 we proposed, you know, Vern was there when we asked
4 them to -- no more non-local hunters, that was our
5 process, you know, we thought we were going to slow
6 them down so we could get that caribou back but they
7 don't want that, they want that hunting pressure, they
8 want that horn. That's not what we want.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. It was
13 brought to my question that -- is there a Quincy Adams
14 from North Slope RAC trying to raise their hand online.

15

16 MR. ADAMS: Here on the North Slope
17 that we wanted to keep the hunting regulations but we
18 also conserve at the same time and when we do go hunt
19 caribou we -- we don't just hunt for ourselves, you
20 know, we go out hunting -- when we go out hunting we do
21 it for the elders and we also do it for the widows and
22 for people who don't have hunters in their family.

23

24 I can understand the conservation needs
25 of reducing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd harvest but
26 on the North Slope we have different -- different herds
27 that we can rely on and that's what really helps us out
28 and so that's why we came up with that decision. It
29 wasn't just the State Board of Game, it came from us on
30 to putting the numbers of 15 caribou per hunter per
31 year for the villages of Point Hope, Point Lay,
32 Wainwright, which is in 26 and 23, but we also asked to
33 be removed from 26A because we have different herds
34 that we rely on. And we're always constantly sharing,
35 sharing our catch. You know we don't just keep it for
36 ourselves, we don't go out hunting every day and try to
37 get 15 all the time because that's a lot of work. You
38 know that's a lot of work of, you know, skinning the
39 tutu, taking care of the meat, making sure that the
40 meat is processed right and taking care of it so it
41 doesn't spoiled so we don't go out hunting all the
42 time, every day, we only hunt we need and what need to
43 sustain ourselves, our families, our elders and our
44 people. I just wanted to point that out.

45

46 You know, when I heard one of the guys
47 saying the State should be there, you know, up here
48 when our Teshekpuk Herd crashed we were able to sustain
49 our needs, still go out hunting, but also reduce the

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1 hunting on the females because those are the ones that
2 breed, those are the ones that carry our babies around,
3 carry the babies around, so we were able to sustain our
4 needs but not overharvest to where the population keeps
5 declining.

6
7 Another thing that we do really good up
8 here is predator control. There's so many wolves and
9 so many wolverines and bears that are hunting as well
10 because they got to eat as well, too. If you think
11 about it, one wolf, he can eat through 15 to 20 caribou
12 a year, and through the whole pack, you know, you
13 multiply that by how many there is in that pack. So
14 one of the things that we talked about was predator
15 control, but also we had talked about sustaining our
16 needs, our subsistence needs to feed our families and,
17 you know, what really helps us out is we use just about
18 every bit of the animal. You know we use the skins.
19 When we're out whaling, we'll use the skins to sleep on
20 in our tents or put them on our sleds to sit at the
21 water's edge waiting for the whales to come. But we
22 also use that caribou meat to feed our crews and our
23 family. And, you know, we got a real good feast in
24 June for our Blanket Toss Festivals but we all -- and a
25 lot of people really on that caribou and the caribou
26 fat when you make the Eskimo ice cream for them.

27
28 But, yeah, I just wanted to point that
29 out that we're constantly sharing up here but we also
30 hunt to sustain our needs, but also keep the population
31 stabilized.

32
33 I just wanted to point that out, and,
34 thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Adams.
37 So with that, were there any other tribes or ANCSA
38 Corporation -- are you representing a tribe or are you
39 representing your position on the Council -- Mr.
40 Walker.

41
42 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
43 name is Robert Walker. I'm also the First Chief of our
44 tribe. And I have it written down here, in 21E known
45 as the GASH area, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy
46 Cross. We had encounters with the Western Arctic
47 Caribou Herd 1999 and 2005. In 1999 they came down to
48 Anvik and Grayling and it was just like some kids came
49 back to the village and said, hey, there's some little
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1 moose running on the Yukon River, and they got --
2 somebody went out and looked and here there was
3 caribou. We knew what they were but the kid didn't so
4 we immediately shot them all and divided up among the
5 people. And this was a blessing because just that
6 summer and that fall before was kind of like hard
7 hunting because the water was so high, and this came to
8 us at the right time.

9
10 And, again, in 2005, when they came
11 back again, it was the same thing, we got all we needed
12 and the State Wildlife Trooper came and showed up, 1999
13 and he said you guys can't kill these animals because
14 they're not on the regulation. Well, really, well,
15 what are we going to do with all these dead caribou
16 here and he just -- he just like had a fit, this
17 Wildlife Trooper, he said, I'm going to go back to
18 McGrath and I'm going to call the administration and
19 we're going to get this straightened out and we're
20 going to bring back more Wildlife Troopers and we're
21 going to have to arrest all of you guys because you're
22 killing these without -- it's not even on the game
23 book. He never showed up next day. So we called and
24 we asked, you know, I thought the Wildlife Trooper said
25 he was going to come back with more Wildlife Troopers
26 and arrest us all, well, there's nothing on the game
27 book saying that you can't kill a caribou for food.
28 And this really struck us, too, because we have a new
29 food source besides moose.

30
31 This was really a crucial point because
32 when we looked at it, the Grayling people got into it,
33 too, and there used to be caribou behind Anvik 70 years
34 ago, the wolves and bears killed them all, so, and that
35 was a herd that traveled between the Crater Mountain in
36 McGrath back and forth. They would swim across the
37 river, swim across the Yukon River and go back to Anvik
38 River. These were migrant at that time. Either that
39 or they moved all the way over to the -- but we have
40 encountered caribou and we have utilized it.

41
42 And the point is, nobody took the
43 antlers, they just left them right there. They took
44 the hide and they stretched it on their cache and they
45 used that for sleeping mats when people came to visit.

46
47 So with the two things that we have
48 done with this, you know, I really feel for you, all
49 you people how you live with caribou because that's
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1 what you have, and that's what you were raised with.
2 So we would support anything that you would do.

3

4

5 And another thing, too, when I talked
6 to Jack and in our GASH area, we went right to the RAC
7 Board, Byersdorf, Geoff Byersdorf was the biologist,
8 and we asked if we could put a special action in for
9 the moose so we could just hunt -- the local villages
10 only could hunt in 21E and we got that special action.
11 And I think you can't do that now with caribou, I'm not
12 sure if you can just get local people and do that, in
13 your Game Management Unit.

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So that's just something that, you know, I'm just going to throw this at you, and I'm going to support where you're going to go from there.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Chief Walker. Anyone else representing a tribe or an ANCSA Corporation, any other Native entities, tribal entities.

MR. WOODS: You said tribe?

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yeah.

MR. WOODS: Raymond Woods here with Shungnak Tribe and also with the RAC from Kotzebue. Only thing I'm here for is to represent my upper Kobuk people. We already know it's about the caribou situation. We already know, we hear a lot of lectures and a lot of presentations on caribou. We know where that is.

Here today, the Northwestern RAC is here today, why. our next neighboring Inupiaq (In Native), North Slope, is not agreeing with us with what we're trying to do to try to preserve the caribou. And sometimes it's really hard to try to have a meeting together when there's a lot of other distractions here.

The caribou are still going to migrate. The land is still going to be out there for us to live. But we need to help them to preserve. We need to make decisions together, to work together. So when we came out with making proposals to limit our caribou killing for our harvest in the fall, or for the winter, we

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1 sacrificed some of our people on the Kobuk, on the
2 Northwest Arctic Herd Committee, but when our
3 neighboring Inupiaq (In Native) are saying, well, we
4 live a different life, we got a different caribou or we
5 rely on that too but we need to go this way, and then
6 we looked at the Board of Fish and Game, we look at our
7 caribou biologist. Guys, I just came out from caribou
8 hunting a couple days ago, yes, I got my hands bloody
9 and it takes awhile to preserve and butcher a caribou
10 and try to keep it for the rest of the year for your
11 family. How many of us on this table did that two
12 weeks ago and still talk about caribou. If you guys
13 want to talk about culture, live your culture,
14 represent your culture and that's what I'm doing.

15

16 When we talk about Board of Fish and
17 Game, we got hunters, they're in that -- they -- it was
18 also rejected when we tried to close the Federal or
19 State area for outsiders to hunt, Board of Fish and
20 Game rejected, so the Arctic RAC right now, we're
21 fighting two issues. We're trying to agree with our
22 Inupiaq (In Native) from the North Slope to agree with
23 us to preserve the caribou and I think today I hope we
24 come up with a solution to solve that today so we can
25 continue on to preserve our caribou.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Raymond.
30 And if we have any tribes online, on the phone, you
31 press star, five. Again, if we have any tribes online,
32 any tribal Native entities press star, five, so you can
33 provide your comment.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Are you representing a
38 tribe or are you representing as a member of the
39 Council?

40

41 MR. HOWARTH: Mr. Chair, Wilbur
42 Howarth, Noorvik. And with the RAC here. Our tribe,
43 we try and discuss in the schools now about our
44 caribou. Every day I get somebody stops me and asked
45 me what are -- what are we going to do with our caribou
46 herd that are coming through, either late, real late in
47 the year when they're migrating, and the point is what
48 I want to hear from leaders is to -- and the Fish and
49 Game and these beautiful peoples that comes up to our

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1 area and listen to us is, they -- all these young
2 generation now, they don't even know what the caribou
3 feeds on. And the migration pattern of the caribou and
4 when I go out there and I don't see the lichen, what
5 they feed on, and migration, we won't see them if
6 there's no food. So education and I kind of want, like
7 our Northwest Arctic, four caribou, or four bulls and
8 one female, because 15 caribou -- the most you could
9 have in the house is six, seven people, but -- and six
10 -- well, four caribou, I always say and I tell my
11 brothers and sisters and my kids that four caribou
12 bulls you could live on for a whole year, you know,
13 because we have fish and we have other stuff we live
14 off the land and stuff.

15

16 It's just what I hear in all these
17 meetings and I'm glad this is where we gather with our
18 area, with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, is you got
19 to pay attention.

20

21 And the Fish and Game, they're doing a
22 lot of work, they're going out and they're studying.
23 And from the past, maybe since 2004, I used to be a
24 Commissioner, me and Tim Towarak from Unalakleet, and
25 listening to all these, and the migration of the
26 caribou is they're not going to come through that area
27 all the time, or your area all the time, they're always
28 moving. Back in the '60s and '70s we had to go 200
29 miles from Kotzebue to hunt caribou and we're doing
30 that with dog teams so the migration of the caribou is,
31 the roads or anything is not hurting them, it's the
32 food that they go through. And it takes eight years
33 for lichen to grow. We all need to know that and
34 educate our kids on these -- or the younger generation.

35

36 It's something we need to -- I always
37 think we need to educate our children on the caribou
38 because they're going out -- these young generation
39 now, you can see them, I mean you see them zooming up
40 and down the river and stuff and getting stuck on sand
41 bars and stuff and what in the world's going on but it
42 happens all over the place. But I think education --
43 and I like the four bulls and one calf -- I mean one
44 female per family a year. 15 caribou a year and one
45 family area -- or one -- it's too much, because I know
46 how far four caribou could go a year for a family, you
47 just put it away the right way and it's good. So I
48 think educating our generation and explaining -- I like
49 the way Fish and Game put collars and we tracked the
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1 migration herd and what they feed on. Because in our
2 area we don't see them for years, come by, and then all
3 of a sudden they're just running right through the town
4 and, wow, the caribou are back. But how they migrate
5 and stuff, they don't use the same pattern every year
6 because they just eat up the whole -- their food --
7 they have to move, so they're always moving, and that's
8 why we need to educate our younger generation.

9

10 And, thank you, Mr. Chair.

11

12 I have -- I could tell you guys stories
13 from way back and not only in our village area, I sit
14 and talk with the elders from Noatak and they tell us
15 that they had to go miles and miles to hunt and they --
16 they hunt them and they herd them. Because I grew up a
17 reindeer herder myself and I know what the reindeer and
18 the caribou feed on and -- and it's -- we just need to
19 educate our younger generation on migration and bag
20 limit.

21

22 I want us -- I missed the meeting --
23 well, most of us did because of the bad weather, we
24 were supposed to meet in Kotzebue and the Arctic Slope
25 was down there in Kotzebue and I missed that meeting
26 and I hope they got a whole bunch of information but I
27 was wishing I was there to explain and just educate
28 because a caribou will be back. Be patient. God is
29 good.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
34 Any tribal entities on the phone hoping to make a
35 comment.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: No one's raising their
40 hand so we will move on to Advisory Group comments.
41 Did we have any comments from other Regional Councils
42 outside of the four represented here. Mr. Plank.

43

44 MR. PLANK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Tom
45 Plank for the record. There are two other Councils
46 that did take these proposals up that are not in the
47 room.

48

49 The first one was the Yukon Kuskokwim

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1 Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, and the
2 Council supported WP24-28/29 as modified by OSM. The
3 Council noted that the significant decline in the size
4 of the herd requires conservation measures be
5 implemented. The Council hopes a temporary reduction
6 in the harvest limits will help the herd recover so
7 that subsistence users can continue to harvest the
8 animals they need.

9
10 And, additionally, the Eastern Interior
11 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council took this
12 up and the Council supported WP24-28/29. The Council
13 noted that a precipitous decline in the Western Arctic
14 Caribou Herd and the conservation concerns that
15 currently exist. The Council supports a temporary
16 reduction in harvest until the herd has a chance to
17 recover and recommends that the targeted harvest of
18 cows be strongly discouraged by the Board and managers
19 through public outreach.

20
21 And that concludes the two others that
22 are not in the room.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Plank.
25 Any Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

26
27 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, Koyukuk River
28 Advisory Committee. I'm the Chairman of the Koyukuk
29 River Advisory, Darrell's on there. We took up the
30 State proposals that mirrored, from the Western Arctic
31 Caribou Herd Working Group, but the Board had already
32 acted on the 15 caribou, one cow, and so -- Darrell's
33 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, I
34 personally supported the four caribou with one cow, but
35 the Board took action, and that action entails most of
36 the herd's range. We can't do anything about that now.
37 They're going to visit the rest.

38
39 So at this point the Koyukuk River
40 Advisory had to support the modified proposal for this
41 delineation of this line in 26A, that's a really
42 important thing, and we supported the 15 caribou with
43 one cow. We need to get the cow harvest down. People
44 take what they need, you know, and what we have to work
45 on is a household bag limit. This whole individual bag
46 limit is not working out with the public, we need to
47 have a household bag limit so it's just like dipnetting
48 in the Copper River. There's a harvester and they got
49 so many fish per person in that household and so then
50

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1 they can achieve their subsistence needs. So the
2 household leader has seven households he's harvesting
3 for, that person signs up, they harvest caribou for
4 those households, they got their household bag limit
5 and then it's real easy to get the data. Because we
6 don't have any harvest data so it's way easier to do
7 that.

8

9 A long time ago they used to call up --
10 for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, they used to call
11 up Nome, say I'm registering for the Western Arctic
12 Caribou Herd and they would send you a letter in the
13 spring, a little typed out letter, how many caribou did
14 you get in the fall and how many caribou did you get in
15 the spring and so you sent it back in, that was a lot
16 better harvest reporting when you had that kind of
17 harvest reporting.

18

19 So the Koyukuk River Advisory supported
20 what the Board did, we don't like it. We also
21 supported the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
22 Group's proposal to eliminate non-resident harvest and
23 we spoke quite a bit about why we were supporting that.
24 Because right now the Department of Fish and Game
25 doesn't do any composition data work on the Western
26 Arctic Caribou Herd. They don't know how many small
27 bulls, medium bulls, or large bulls, and large bulls
28 are super important for breeding. We need to have --
29 everybody knows that but apparently the Department of
30 Fish and Game doesn't know that. Reindeer herders have
31 to have between six and seven large bulls five years
32 old, those are those big ones that got the thick fat
33 reserves, those big fat ones, needs six or seven of
34 those per 100 cows in the breeding season, not before
35 the breeding, in the breeding season so that you could
36 have proper reproduction. So they don't know how many
37 large bulls there are and they're guessing that there's
38 300 to 350 of those bulls to support non-resident
39 harvest, that's a huge-- that's non-scientific data.
40 The Board of Game has no science to support non-
41 resident harvest because they're shifting all of the
42 harvest for residents to 15 -- 14 bulls with one cow,
43 they're shifting a lot of harvest by the resident
44 hunters, the subsistence hunters out of the bulls.

45

46 I'm super unhappy with the Board
47 guessing at management. Non-scientific management has
48 got to stop with the Department of Fish and Game.

49

50

0029

1 Nelchina Herd got wiped out because
2 they killed all of the bulls over there in 2020 and
3 then in 2021 they shot 60 percent of the harvest, cows,
4 lots of cows were killed. The herd has fallen from
5 54.5 to 7,800, a moratorium closure, I don't want to
6 see our caribou herds keep being destroyed like that.

7

8 Mulchatna.

9

10 Nelchina.

11

12 Central Arctic has a proposal for five
13 caribou bag limit, cows and bulls, by the Department of
14 Fish and Game. There's no way that herd can support
15 that. Thousands of hunters come up that road. 3,000
16 hunters I estimated last year. We had a checkpoint at
17 the Yukon River bridge, there were 2,000 hunters in
18 2000 and 2001 [sic] and they only counted them on
19 weekends. There are thousands of hunters come up the
20 road and there's no way the Central Arctic Herd of
21 35,000 can support that kind of cow harvest. You can't
22 have huge cow harvest on caribou because they only have
23 a calf after three and they only have one calf, they
24 never have twins.

25

26 And so that's what the Koyukuk River
27 Advisory -- we supported the 15 caribou, one cow, but
28 we don't like it but that's the way it's gone and so
29 the Board is not going to change that position. They
30 cut a deal with North Slope. That's what we got to
31 work with.

32

33 So that's what Koyukuk River did.
34 That's the AC report.

35

36 Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.

39 Reakoff.

40

41 MR. VENT: I told the State, and then
42 -- you know, this is what's going to happen, once they
43 knock out this Western Arctic Herd we're really going
44 to see a big increase of hunters coming over towards
45 the Northwest. So the State wanted to open it up, you
46 know that's going to hurt us if they do. How do we
47 prevent that? We have to work together, you know, we
48 have to put something in and let them know we're
49 worried about our herd. They're not worried about our
50

0030

1 herd. They're worried about how much money they're
2 going to put in their pocket. That's what we're
3 working against. And if we -- we -- you know, if we
4 nit-pick about what we're doing in our areas, you know,
5 I don't get nothing in my area. Maybe we come over and
6 visit and you guys invite us into your home and we eat
7 caribou, we have to live on moose. I don't want to go
8 out there and take something that's, you know, there's
9 not enough of. We're like you guys, we want to
10 conserve but we have nothing, you know, it's hard. You
11 know some of the people that they catch some, maybe
12 probably six per year and that's it. Before that we
13 used to have caribou just coming right down the middle,
14 there was a lot of caribou. I remember that in the
15 1970s. Now, we're talking about, you know, how these
16 people are operating with this money business they're
17 doing and it's coming and if we keep stepping on that
18 -- I think the number one thing we got to do is, is we
19 got to stop the State from putting those non-locals in
20 there, that's going to hurt us. If we don't stop it
21 then we're going to be left with -- you know, you guys
22 are going to be like me, not eating no caribou.

23

24 So remember that, because we used to
25 have caribou in our area. We have a lot of lichen over
26 there but they're not coming back. We have a lot of
27 lichen over there, you can see it from the air but
28 there's no caribou.

29

30 Mr. Chair

31

32 MR. FRANTZ: I just wanted to, I guess,
33 comment on some of the discussion here. You know as
34 part of the North Slope -- Brower Frantz for the North
35 Slope RAC for the record.

36

37 So a lot of this -- I hear some
38 disagreements here about why but we have a really good
39 handle on where these herds are. We've got tagging
40 going on, we've got our biologist that keep a finger on
41 the pulse here for all of the herds on the North Slope.
42 We know exactly when that Western Arctic Caribou Herd
43 shifts and goes south of the Brooks Range and actually
44 a lot of the time when to where there are active
45 harvest of cow, that Western Arctic Caribou Herd is
46 south -- well south of the Brooks Range around that
47 time. So it's -- we do know there are three villages
48 there, that's why we wanted to move that selection and
49 exclude the rest of 26A and make it mirror the Alaska

50

0031

1 Board of Game modification. So that -- the last page
2 here is realistically what we were going for.

3
4 But you got to remember, too, these
5 three villages that we are effectively opening to
6 modifying this to 15, it sounds like a lot but we were
7 at five a day for all year and we have selected to
8 modify that to 15 per year. So what we can currently
9 do fix -- or not fix, but feel what the proposal says,
10 is we can hunt for three days and fill that and still
11 be legal to hunt another day, five the next day. So we
12 are open to accepting 15 per year. That is a massive
13 change from what we are. And why are we even doing
14 that to begin with, though, because we have subsistence
15 priority, why are we not discussing sporthunters, why
16 are we not discussing non-residents but we're open to
17 this. We're sitting here and we are in agreeance with
18 this.

19
20 So these villages, though, it's -- four
21 a year, it's not -- that is not even close to feasible
22 for these villages. Over in Wainwright that is their
23 main diet, is whale and caribou. I mean they -- every
24 single day, it's not, you know, like a selective thing
25 to where it's once a week we'll have caribou, they eat
26 this every day. We don't have roads up there.
27 Wainwright, sometimes they don't even have a post
28 office that's open. They're really reliant on a lot of
29 the stuff that a lot of people take for granted. You
30 know I'll catch a couple caribou a year, but in Barrow
31 we have Sam and Lee's, we've got AC, (In Native), the
32 villages that we're talking about here are so remote
33 that these are their main diet sources and, you know,
34 we're the ones discussing, you know, what they can and
35 can't do. It's hard on them. So I mean these are our
36 relatives. My direct relatives, you know, that we're
37 talking about, taking food away from them. It doesn't
38 sit well with me but we're open to this modification.

39
40 So I just wanted to make sure that
41 everyone around these tables are aware of the changes
42 that we're open to. Accepting these is a big change.
43 You know 15 sounds like a lot but realistically it's
44 not. It's not. So I mean from what it was to what
45 we're open to changing it to, even with subsistence
46 priority. I mean everybody around here should -- you
47 know we went through the training yesterday for
48 subsistence priority. Why are we expressing that but
49 not utilizing it. It blows my mind. So please be
50

0032

1 aware of these, these are life changing things that
2 we're addressing here.

3

4

5 And the other thing is, is the Western
6 Arctic Caribou Herd, once, again, is not our main herd
7 that goes up through the North Slope. We have caribou
8 walking around Barrow right now through town as we
9 speak, you know, there's hundreds of thousands -- well,
10 yeah, hundreds of them, thousands around town, right
11 now, so you're -- I could see where the concern is
12 coming from but it just doesn't match what we need and
13 what we use. So I mean we're open to that change and
14 that's where we sit.

14

15

Thank you.

16

17

18

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Frantz.
Mr. Williams, are you representing a tribe?

19

20

MR. WILLIAMS: No.

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRMAN BAKER: So right now we're
going to stick to -- excuse me, are you representing a
Fish and Game Advisory Committee, because that's who we
were on.

26

27

MR. WILLIAMS: No.

28

29

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Do we have any Fish
and Game Advisory Committees on the phone that were
hoping to comment. If you are please press star, five.

33

(No comments)

34

35

36

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Did someone just raise
their hand.

37

38

Mr. Kramer.

39

40

41

42

43

MR. KRAMER: Mike Kramer, I'm on the
Northwest Arctic RAC. Also on the Fish and Game
Advisory Council.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The reason why we are taking -- wanted
to limit ourselves is because Kotzebue, NANA region is
the heart of Western Arctic Caribou Herd. You know
Fish and Game should be here, if they're not here,
anything that they have to provide and put up on the
table should not even be on there. If they're not

0033

1 going to be here and be represented and answer our
2 questions, somebody needs to get on the phone and get
3 their toot-toot over here because that's ridiculous
4 they're not here. This is a serious issues within
5 these game management units, why aren't they here.
6 That's a big problem. I'll never look at Fish and Game
7 the same ever again if they don't show up within the
8 next 20 minutes, or call on the phone.

9
10 They should be representing themselves
11 and they should be on the phone because this is a very
12 serious matter.

13
14 You know, North Slope, if you guys want
15 to decimate your caribou herd and have nothing after
16 that's on you guys. That's a dicey roll, but we, in
17 Northwest Alaska, we want to see these caribou continue
18 to stay within our region. Our Western Arctic Caribou
19 Herd spends more time in the Northwest Arctic region
20 than any other region, the second one is North Slope.
21 Last July, July 15th we started getting hunters into
22 Kotzebue, guess where they were going, North Slope, but
23 they were passing through us. That means these
24 aircraft got to fly across from Kotzebue to above the
25 Wulik and up into your guys neck of the woods to go
26 harvest these caribou. Why are they leaving Kotzebue,
27 they should be leaving from Barrow, Wainwright, they
28 should have these guide operators (indiscernible) so we
29 don't have to deal with them. We have enough problems
30 already in our region. And the bad part about that is
31 when these people are hunting caribou in your region,
32 they're dumping their meat in our dumpsters. It's been
33 well viewed in the city of Kotzebue. A complaint even
34 came from the garbage, how do you say that, the refuse
35 center or whatever it is, that they were getting game
36 bags, and game bags of rancid meat and, yet, these
37 caribou hunters are going home with antlers. If I was
38 the Governor today there would no longer be guiding in
39 Northwest Alaska, North Slope, wherever there is a
40 caribou herd that is on the verge of, you know, serious
41 decline, yeah, it would all be shut down. Because
42 that's a total disrespect.

43
44 According to ANILCA when a caribou, or
45 a subsistence resource gets below a certain threshold,
46 it's Federal law that all commercial services are
47 dismissed. They do not exist. They will not operate
48 within that area. 2. Land Enhancement. 3. Predator
49 Control. We already know what predator control is, it
50

0034

1 just went right out the back door. That caribou herd
2 is dropping, it's declining. Next year might be 20,000
3 more, that makes it what, 130, 110, and what's next
4 another 20,000 and then we'll be at 80,000, then what.

5

6 We want to protect our herd.

7

8 I spoke to an individual in Kotzebue
9 and he said that he took National Geographic up to our
10 Western Arctic Caribou Herd's spawning, or what is
11 that, when they -- their birthing grounds, their summer
12 range, and they said they saw a lot of caribou that
13 would just take off running because either a group of
14 flies caused them to go on a rampage but 10 or 20 --
15 you know, five to 10, maybe 20 fawns were left behind
16 and those young caribou were killed. Mom and them
17 didn't come over the hill until a couple hours later
18 looking for their fawns. So the difference between
19 back in 2003 when we had 400,000 to today, the mother
20 cow caribous, they're bad moms.

21

22 I think there needs to be a lot more
23 agencies out there in the field. Our corporations
24 should be helping provide more biologists. So we have
25 local biologists in these colleges, UAA, UAF, we need
26 more local biologists. Because we can't just depend on
27 Alaska Department of Fish and Game anymore. A lot of
28 people have lost all respect for them because prior to
29 that Board of Game meeting he was all for conserving
30 caribou and the next time you know it he was against it
31 and he was up for 15 per day.

32

33 I think Fish and Game needs to be here.
34 I give them half an hour, if they're not here within
35 half an hour to defend themselves I'm sorry you're
36 right out my book. I just lost all respect for Alaska
37 Department of Fish and Game.

38

39 You know, we ran into a lot of issues
40 when those caribou came through Kotzebue this late
41 fall, November, December, October, a lot of people got
42 tickets. They got a lot of fines, local people. A
43 kid, got his first caribou taken away that he was going
44 to give to his anna, his grandma, got it taken away and
45 confiscated and I believe maybe his rifle also, people
46 got cited because they didn't mark their harvest ticket
47 out there in the field. Tell me, Jack, do you want to
48 take your pen out at 40 below zero and mark your
49 harvest ticket out there where you just killed a
50

0035

1 caribou, no, that stuff's got to change, that stuff's
2 got to go away, and if you look on our harvest tickets,
3 it's in real super fine print, you need actually a
4 magnifying glass to read that, that states that you got
5 to mark that tag out there in the field at the hunting
6 area. That's not going to happen anymore. We need to
7 dismiss that. They're just trying to find any little
8 nook and cranny to consider us as criminals. That guy
9 probably gave more tickets to local people than he did
10 to non-resident hunters. My suggestion is if we're
11 going to have non-resident hunters, they hunt during
12 the prime of the rut, they ain't taking no dang meat,
13 they're going to take them antlers, but it's a waste, a
14 simple waste of a subsistence resource.

15

16 That's all.

17

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Time's up.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I was trying to
21 think where I was at now I'm getting so lost.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Fish and Game.

24

25 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, Fish and Game, you
26 know, these other agencies need to start getting out of
27 their offices, no more FaceBook. You got to do that,
28 you got to go do that out in the field, let them know
29 what kind of studies you guys got going.

30

31 I think if I was the Governor today I
32 would request every single Fish and Game office within
33 the region, all the biologists get together and start
34 going out there and studying why, you know, is there
35 icing, why are these young calves getting killed, will
36 it continue to affect the herd down the long run.

37

38 I want to see caribou. I want to see
39 my youngest boy, he's three years old, a couple more
40 years I'm going to take him out to go get his first
41 caribou, if I can, if there is any. This is the first
42 time, last fall we had seen caribou come through
43 Kotzebue in about three years and, man, talk about
44 craziness, you could hear gunshots all day long back
45 behind town. People were filling their freezers.
46 People were -- I seen a guy roll up into Kotzebue and
47 he had two cows and two yearlings in his sled and I
48 seen Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife say, hey, we need
49 to conserve the cows, I simply commented on their
50

0036

1 FaceBook, they could get whatever they want, they could
2 get five a day. Until there's a regulation they could
3 get five a day.

4
5 I tried to put in a special action
6 request a few years ago, or a year or two ago to allow
7 a special action request to have three caribou, one
8 bull -- or one cow -- three bulls, one cow or four
9 bulls but it was shot down by the Federal Subsistence
10 Board and then also our RAC. I wanted to protect the
11 cows a long time ago and now we're at this. And what
12 are we going to be at next year and the year after.
13 How much is our -- you know, you guys say you guys
14 depend on caribou all the time what are you going to do
15 when they're gone. What are those agencies going to do
16 for you when they're gone. They've done nothing for us
17 with the sheep. In my mind what's the reason for
18 having them there if they don't -- have nothing to
19 monitor or study, go out there and do some biology.
20 You know, I was listening in on the Board of Game
21 meeting in Kotzebue and there was a guy there from
22 Selawik Fish and Wildlife and they were asking him all
23 kinds of questions, who does your guys' study, they
24 point at Fish and Game. Who does your guys' this, they
25 point out National Park Service. And after that they
26 were like, do you guys do anything, it's time for all
27 these agencies to get out there in the field and start
28 crackalakin and get some work done because if not,
29 there's no sense in you being there.

30
31 That's all I have for right now.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Any other Fish and
34 Game Advisory Committees wishing to comment. On behalf
35 of the Committee?

36
37 MR. VENT: Koyukuk River Advisory,
38 Darrell Vent. I agree with, you know, what he's
39 talking about. I've been, you know, arguing with them
40 for years on our moose. I mean we had a problem over
41 there, same thing he's having with, the only problem is
42 ours went a little further. It started in our
43 dumpsters and went to Galena and Galena got tired of
44 it, went to Anchorage and Anchorage got tired and then
45 Seattle got tired of it. I mean you can see how far
46 they can go with that. They want that horn, they're
47 not after the meat.

48
49 The thing that I see, what the problem
50

0037

1 is now is you guys got transporters and that's a hard
2 subject going. I've been working against that for
3 awhile because there's not a lot of regulations on
4 transporters. It's good with guides. Guides will
5 bring you the meat, if you need the meat they're going
6 to bring it to you. If you work with them. But the
7 transporters, I wouldn't want to go there. I mean it
8 gets worse when you start going there because we see
9 that in our area. We asked them for that meat, we see
10 it's good and prime but they wouldn't let us near that
11 meat. And then when they come to us six days later
12 with that meat and say, you want that meat, it's too
13 late. They don't follow any kind of regulation. They
14 don't have to. That's a State thing, you know. They
15 put you in a position and they make you argue about it,
16 and that's what we do, that's what we did in our area,
17 we argued about it.

18
19 We have to come together and work with
20 what we got because we know how to take what we need.
21 We know not to take the big bulls or the cows that's
22 leading in, the State doesn't know that. They know it
23 because we tell them, but we're advisory only. They'll
24 shoot that front end out just so those other ones will
25 stand there and it'll be easy picking. That's how they
26 do it. They're effective hunters. When we tell them
27 something, they do the opposite, so be careful what you
28 tell the State. And I know what this guy is talking
29 about, he's frustrated I've been there, it hurts.
30 Because, you know, we look at our area we had a full
31 plate, we had a lot of food on that plate, that was in
32 the '70s. Now you look today, about 20 percent on that
33 plate and we see a lot of our people dying, there's
34 cancer all over. It hurts to see one of your elders --
35 I'm just losing a friend now that's in the hospital.
36 You know, I went there and visited him yesterday, you
37 know, he's not in good shape and it's hard to see that
38 but that's what it's turning in to because we're having
39 to start eating a lot of more non-local food. So we're
40 fighting for something that's going to make us survive.

41
42 So we got to remember that. This is
43 about our kids. We're arguing for our kids.

44
45 So that's something that I always think
46 about, you know, when I grew up and I was a little kid
47 I seen that caribou, I knew how to work on it, our kids
48 don't even know what a caribou is no more. They
49 wouldn't even know what to do with it. That's how bad
50

0038

1 it is from where I'm at.

2

3 So we got to be careful what we do.
4 The State is going to undermine us.

5

6 That's all, thanks.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any final
9 comments from Fish and Game Advisory Committees before
10 we move on to the Subsistence Resource Commissions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone raising their
15 hands online.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay.

20

21 MR. REYNOLDS: The Fish and Game should
22 require that any non-resident hunters have a local
23 guide. The local guide would make sure that the non-
24 resident hunters salvages all the meat, the hide and as
25 well as the horns that they take, the antlers that the
26 hunter wants.

27

28 That's all.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.
31 Reynolds. Attamuk.

32

33 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Attamuk, Enoch
34 Shiedt. I respect what the North Slope is saying.
35 When I was young, 67 years ago, people from all over
36 used to go through Noatak to harvest caribou. I've
37 seen friends from Shishmaref go up north to go harvest
38 caribou and now they migrate all over. What I'm saying
39 is this, our reduction is hurting because we depend
40 heavily on caribou and, yet, North Slope is in a bind
41 because they got other caribou and our Western Arctic
42 Caribou Herd that would go there. I was taught -- Levi
43 Mills, old man, when he was senior center, he called
44 and he let -- believe it or not he let the police go
45 get me, I said what'd I do, no, I'm taking you
46 somewhere and he took me to the senior center, Old Man
47 Levi said, worry about the calving grounds where the
48 caribou reproduce at North Slope. That's the beginning
49 of our caribou. I had to say that because he's the one
50

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1 that -- and I thought I was picked up for something
2 else, and what I'm saying is this, the State has no
3 respect for us because they make so much money out of
4 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd that they get over 26
5 million in hunting permits and license because I asked
6 this when I called Juneau, I said how you get it, I
7 said, it's amazing what the computer could do for you
8 nowadays. They wanted to know how I get the
9 information, it goes through the General Fund. And
10 I'll tell you last summer I go hunt and, yet, my grands
11 call me and they said, dada can you make soup, we go
12 eat soup and I said yeah I'll make you soup, but friend
13 of mine from Kobuk send me moose and my granddaughter
14 is 19, my grandson is 17, I cook moose, they walk in
15 the door, my granddaughter smell it and she said that's
16 not caribou, what are you cooking. My wife started
17 laughing. She said your dadas making moose. 20
18 minutes later here comes my grandson, same thing, he
19 could tell the difference just by smelling it, what I
20 was cooking.

21

22 I mean that's how much we depend on
23 caribou.

24

25 You're in a bind, North Slope, because
26 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd go up there, they
27 migrate all the way to Unalakleet and we need our
28 caribou, we're taking a big sacrifice because when I
29 used to do surveys and Jim Dau and me, me and him
30 worked together, collar caribou at Onion Portage, they
31 go to Slope all the way to Unalakleet and, yet, when
32 they first build the road they couldn't cross it, I'm
33 talking about the Red Dog Road, it took us years. So
34 we negotiated to stop of the road -- trucks in the
35 road, and it takes caribou three days to decide to
36 cross the road with a little help from Natives to urge
37 them over and it took years for them to do that. And
38 we are hurting. And I respect what you're trying to
39 do, yet, our people are trying to sacrifice our take,
40 our reduction, voluntarily, what we need. Because I've
41 seen the State Trooper take rifles away from adults,
42 that rifle that's taken away not only take caribou, it
43 takes oogruk and seals and bears and sheep but when you
44 take a rifle away from someone that has no income, how
45 you going to feed your family. They're making
46 criminals out of us, yet, the caribou don't go to
47 Juneau and yet they regulate us. They need to sit here
48 on the table because I tell you I can't go without
49 caribou at my age, I depend on it heavily. Sure. I
50

0040

1 get a per diem and I eat something different in
2 Anchorage when I go to meetings, my stomach is full,
3 later on, two hours later it's hungry because it's not
4 eating caribou.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Attamuk.

9 Any final Fish and Game Committee comments.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that we will, at
14 this time, take a 10 minute break. It is 10:07 and
15 we'll come back at 10:17.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, if we could
22 come back to our seats, we exceeded our 10 minute break
23 but we'll get back on the record here shortly.

24

25 (Pause)

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: All right, it is now
28 10:41 we'll go ahead and get back started. At this
29 point we're on Subsistence Resource Commissions and the
30 good lady from the Park Service, if you could state
31 your name and say what you have to say.

32

33 MS. CREEK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
34 name is Emily Creek. I am the Subsistence Coordinator
35 for the Park Service in the Kotzebue office and I work
36 with the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource
37 Commission and the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource
38 Commission. And at their October meeting the Kobuk
39 Valley SRC did write a letter to the Northwest Arctic
40 RAC as well as the Federal Subsistence Board so for
41 those of you on the Northwest Arctic RAC the letter can
42 be found on Page 115 of your book, but for the rest of
43 you, if it's okay, I'll just read the letter. And,
44 again, this was written on October 31st, 2023, so
45 several months ago.

46

47 So Dear Northwest Arctic Resource
48 Advisory Council and Federal Subsistence Board.

49

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0041

1 To address the Proposal, WP24-28/29 the
2 Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Commission opposes
3 the proposal as written. Kobuk SRC supports a
4 meaningful reduction in caribou harvest to protect the
5 longevity and health of the declining Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd. The Commission is very concerned about
7 the ongoing decline, however Commission members are
8 concerned that the number is too drastic and will not
9 be maintained in communities. Furthermore, this
10 reduction in harvest to four per year per hunter does
11 not align with our value of sharing. The food security
12 of the villages that this Commission represents is of
13 great concern. Smaller villages have less opportunity
14 to earn outside income beyond a subsistence economy,
15 fuel in our villages can reach \$18 a gallon, obtaining
16 non-subsistence foods is incredibly expensive, and the
17 late migration affects which caribous can be hunted.
18 The Kobuk Valley's SRC supports a reduction but asks
19 that you consider implementing a community harvest
20 quota to better reflect the value and way of life in
21 the region. This -- we ask the Board to do an
22 assessment regarding feasibility of a community harvest
23 using the sustainable harvest limit which last we heard
24 was 7,300 animals, most recent subsistence data and the
25 current population of each village to determine the
26 quota. We request that the Federal Subsistence Board
27 conduct tribal consultations in each village in person
28 to determine what villages would like.

29
30 Finally, we do support the reduction of
31 the harvest in cows and think that one cow per year per
32 hunter or the percentage equivalent to that in each
33 village is good and that it reduces cow harvest but
34 allows leeway for hunters who may have no other choice
35 in harvest opportunity.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 The Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource
40 Commission.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Ms. Creek.
43 So are there any other Subsistence Resource Commissions
44 that had any comments or questions at this time.

45
46 Mr. Reakoff.

47
48 MR. REAKOFF: I'm the Vice Chair of the
49 Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Commission and we
50

0042

1 deferred this proposal to the regions and so we didn't
2 take action on it.

3

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
6 Mr. Reakoff. Seeing no others in the room, do we have
7 anyone on the phone raising their hand for a
8 Subsistence Resource Commission.

8

9

(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seeing none, I don't know if Staff would like to address this but we do have the letter from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group that I'd like to address before we move on to written public comments.

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is Hannah Voorhees and I can read a summary of that letter.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, please.

DR. VOORHEES: On January 22nd, 2024, the Office of Subsistence Management received a letter from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. In the letter the working group reaffirmed their support for Wildlife Proposal 24-28, which they submitted. The group also indicated that they do not support WP24-29, which would only apply the new harvest limits to Unit 23 since they believe the harvest reductions should be implemented across the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Dr. Voorhees. So if there's no questions or comments we'll move on to summary of written public comments.

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair. I have a summary of the recent listening session held on these proposals.

A public listening session was held on February 22nd, 2024 by teleconference. Four people testified including a Northwest Arctic Council Member from Kotzebue, residents of Unalakleet, and Anaktuvuk Pass and a member of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.

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1 The Council member emphasized the need
2 for studies to understand what is happening with the
3 Western Arctic Herd. He said that he's learned that
4 agencies don't do anything for the people when a
5 resource is lost. The Council has asked for reductions
6 to harvest of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in the
7 past when they knew there was reason for concern and
8 the Board has not always listened.

9
10 The resident of Unalakleet took issue
11 with continuing harvest by non-locals and felt that
12 this should come to an end given the conservation
13 situation. He also felt that regulations should be
14 aligned with the State limit so that everyone can take
15 the same amount.

16
17 The resident from Anaktuvuk Pass
18 explained how central caribou are to the community's
19 existence. She stated that the proposed reduced
20 harvest limit could cause starvation.

21
22 The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
23 Group member wanted to make sure that everyone realizes
24 the proposed harvest limit is per hunter, rather than
25 per household. In many cases the fact that each hunter
26 could take four would mean there might not be a
27 hardship as a result. The main difference is the limit
28 on cows that can be taken. It is very important to
29 conserve cows. It will also be very important to
30 report your harvest so that ADF&G can understand what
31 is happening with the herd.

32
33 The Northwest Arctic Council Member
34 added that there are means to hunt for others such as
35 proxy hunting, which as an aside is known as using a
36 designated hunter under Federal subsistence
37 regulations.

38
39 And that concludes the summary, thank
40 you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Dr.
43 Voorhees. Next on the list is public testimony. Do we
44 have anyone wishing to provide public testimony, if
45 there is, we will have to cap that to two minutes per
46 testifier. Do we have anyone in the room wishing to
47 testify at this time.

48
49 (No comments)

50

0044

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seeing none, do we
2 have anyone online.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If we have someone
7 online can you please press star, five and identify
8 yourself and then we will give you two minutes for your
9 testimony.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Anyone on the phone
14 for public testimony.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Final call for in the
19 room public testimony.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Final call for over
24 the phone -- Mr. Moses.

25
26 MR. MOSES: Robert Moses from Seward
27 Penn RAC. Subsistence way of life was passed down from
28 generation to generation, all the way from the fish to
29 the caribou. We learn our knowledge from our elders.
30 I lived with my gram. She said when she was little the
31 caribou came around and then they died off, like
32 they're cycle is, and she said they'll come back and
33 they did come back in the '90s by the thousands.

34
35 I have some comments to everything that
36 has to do with fish and game, all the way from the fish
37 at False Pass to up North to where we hunt, how come
38 everybody's not at the table with those two right
39 there, and everybody else from Alaska is here, why
40 isn't all the other entities that has everything and
41 anything to do with fishing and hunting in Alaska.

42
43 And another thing that them boys
44 brought up about hunting license. I've been hunting
45 for 45 years and providing. Out of all those times
46 I've only bought two licenses and I ask myself why do I
47 need a license when I never grew up hunting, that's how
48 young I started hunting, and I just go use money to go
49 buy shells instead. Along with subsistence comes our
50

0045

1 customs that certain people in our region, from
2 different regions have certain customs and our way of
3 customs of hunting, anybody in our village that catches
4 anything the first time they have to give it away,
5 whether it's fish, seal, wolf, wolverine, fox, blue
6 fox, white fox, anything that they first start hunting.
7 And why did the Fish and Game take away that young
8 kid's caribou, he was giving it to his grandmother, his
9 first one to sustain his family on his side. And maybe
10 they took his gun away too, and, why, he was only 14, h
11 didn't require to have no license. That's wrong. And
12 that ptarmigan story, too, they took one little
13 ptarmigan away from that, that kid and his gun, that's
14 wrong too. That was part of subsistence way of life
15 for everybody in Alaska. Alaska is a big state and it
16 involves money, that's why people come here, that's why
17 Alaska is unique. We have everything here. We have all
18 the animals.

19

20 And it takes -- it takes time over
21 time, you know, to see the changes and we're seeing the
22 changes now in our lifetime, climate change. How come
23 FWST ain't sitting in with these two guys and everybody
24 else that should be here, Fish and Wildlife State
25 Troopers, they should be flying around Kotzebue writing
26 them tickets, that five mile corridor. That's wrong
27 too. They should be following up and doing their job
28 to maintain that corridor. How come they're not. How
29 come they never give me a ticket when I go hunting
30 every spring, fall and winter. To this day I don't buy
31 no license and I provide for -- at home, we have a
32 small community, only 150 people and we're kind of
33 related to everybody. I hunt for seven or eight widows
34 that have no hunters or no fathers, you know, and I
35 give the elders first after myself and then I try to
36 give to the families with the most kids. And when the
37 young kids are growing up we try and, you know, after
38 -- when they're babies after they're being weaned we
39 try and give them Native foods so they could have a
40 taste while they're -- so when they get older in case
41 there's nothing left no more they could say that they
42 had that taste of that meat or that fish when they were
43 growing up.

44

45 And another thing comes with global
46 warming. Everything is being pushed tighter and
47 tighter and closer together. We all see the changes,
48 the permafrost, the wind, and the rain, we get snow in
49 January one year. In the Fish River there was this

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0046

1 much water on the ice in January, it was like a creek,
2 that was part of global warming. Everything involves
3 money in this Fish and Game subsistence thing. Not
4 everyone in the village has money like some people do.
5 Some people hold more than one job in our village. And
6 it's tough to see some people struggle.

7

8 And another thing with the -- like the
9 guy said over here, those couple hundred caribou, it
10 takes them how long to pass that road. Jim Dau in Nome
11 did a study for over 20 years with the Red Dog Mine
12 that limited our caribou coming down to Seward
13 Peninsula and why didn't they do a study on the road
14 system along with the caribou, you know, that pass that
15 road -- they don't want to pass that road now up north.
16 The Red Dog Mine stops most or all -- some of the
17 caribou from going down Kotzebue region to Seward
18 Peninsula and Jim Dau did a study on that and he
19 provided proof. Like it means nothing now. And why
20 did they not build that road when they knew the
21 caribou, that was their route.

22

23 And that's all I have to say, thank
24 you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses.
27 Do we have anyone, Lisa, online, hoping to provide
28 public testimony.

29

30 MS. GREDIAGIN: No.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses.
33 Final call for a member of the public, not a member of
34 the table here, for public comment.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So hearing none we
39 will.....

40

41 MS. GREDIAGIN: (No microphone) star,
42 five.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if there is anyone
45 that is on the phone and trying to provide their public
46 comment, please remember to press star, five. You have
47 five seconds before we move on.

48

49 (No comments)

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1 MS. GREDIAGIN: We got one.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: There's somebody's hand.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Please identify
6 yourself and we will give you two minutes for public
7 testimony.

8

9 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning, this is
10 Carmen Daggett and I am testifying on behalf of myself
11 and my comments to not reflect Fish and Game's position
12 or anything like that.

13

14 But I just wanted to let people know
15 that I'm listening and have heard everything that
16 you're saying, it's important. And there's specific
17 direction for Fish and Game's participation in this
18 meeting from the Commissioner's office and so that's
19 why you're not seeing a lot of Fish and Game
20 participation in this meeting but I'm still listening.
21 And that is all.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Ms.
26 Daggett. Do we have anyone else online. I'll do what
27 worked last time, you have five seconds to press star,
28 five, if there's anybody else for public testimony.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Last call, going once.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Going twice.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that we'll
41 close public testimony. At this time we are at
42 Regional Council recommendation. Would anyone like to
43 make a motion.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Frantz.

48

49 MR. FRANTZ: Brower Frantz with the

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0048

1 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. I would like to
2 move to support the Alaska Board of Game modification
3 as amended to exclude the eastern portion of Unit 26A
4 from the harvest limit reductions and to change the
5 harvest limit to 15 caribou per year, only one of which
6 may be a cow in Units 22, 23 and western portion of
7 26A. We'll consider Units 21D and Unit 24 at the
8 Interior Eastern Arctic Regional meeting in March.

9
10 So that's what I would be in approval
11 to support is the Board of Game modification.

12
13 MR. REAKOFF: Second. Western Interior
14 Regional Council second.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So we have a motion
17 from Brower Frantz, North Slope, and a second by Jack
18 Reakoff to support the Alaska Board of Game
19 modification. Lisa were you raising your hand for
20 clarification?

21
22 MS. GREDIAGIN: I just wanted to
23 mention that there could be opportunity for Councils to
24 address this in your individual Council meetings but if
25 it's the wish and will of the Councils here to make a
26 motion and act on it at this joint session, you know,
27 all together, that's fine, but it's also a possibility
28 to discuss this together at this session as a Council
29 and then at your individual Council meetings to act on
30 it individually. So just mentioning that process-wise.
31 So if you're not able to act on it all together, you
32 know, we could do it individually as well.

33
34 Thanks.

35
36 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman, I'd like
37 discussion.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Reakoff.

40
41 MR. REAKOFF: I've considered the Board
42 of Game's action. In reality we saw a presentation
43 that the Northwest, Unit 23, is almost nine caribou per
44 household, and North Slope is around 8, Seward Penn's
45 less In reality what the Board of Game did is actually
46 better than the four caribou bag limit because if
47 you're going to harvest eight caribou, the current bag
48 limit, if you shoot your four caribou and shoot one cow
49 and your kid shoots four caribou and one cow, that's
50

0049

1 two cows, to get to eight. If you have the current
2 Board of Game bag limit of one cow and 15 caribou, all
3 that harvest is going to come out of that -- you're
4 going to achieve the eight with only one cow is what
5 I'm saying.

6
7 So I now have reconsidered what the
8 effect is. I support what the Board of Game action is.
9 I do not support non-resident harvest. I do feel that
10 this body should request the Federal Subsistence Board
11 to direct composition data to be collected for the
12 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and work with the State on
13 that issue. We have to know how many large bulls are
14 in that population for sustainability and I do not --
15 they're guessing at how many large bulls are available
16 for the non-resident hunters. That is not the purview
17 of the Board of Game. They're under sustained yield
18 management, period, and guessing at the number of large
19 bulls in that population is not something they're
20 supposed to be doing.

21
22 MR. VENT: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. REAKOFF: So I feel that I will be
25 commenting to the Board of Game again when they
26 deliberate that non-resident proposal, that's part of
27 Proposal 154 -- no, not 154, so, anyways that proposal
28 -- I'm opposed to non-resident harvest.

29
30 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.
33 Reakoff. And I'd like to take this moment to say that
34 I agree with your statement regarding non-locals and I
35 think it would really behoove all of us when we do go
36 to our individual Council meetings that we seriously
37 consider taking some action individually, and hopefully
38 getting some consensus before we leave here this
39 morning on potentially a joint letter or something from
40 this group. We will have to get through this motion
41 and this action first since that is what we were
42 scheduled to be meeting on. But I think it's fair to
43 say that from all of the testimony we've heard and all
44 the opinions we've heard over the last few days and,
45 really, the years of being subsistence hunters and
46 living off the land, this is something that we need to
47 take action upon.

48
49 Is there any further discussion on this
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1 motion, I'll go to someone who hasn't spoken yet if
2 it's all right, anyone before we go back.

3

4

Darrell.

5

6

7 MR. VENT: Yeah, just something to
8 consider when we're talking about this motion. You
9 know the State is going to be working toward other
10 thoughts on how to, you know, get their money involved
11 there. Now, the thing that's going to be -- you know
12 what I'm seeing from, you know, what we talk about here
13 there's a difference between guides and transporters
14 and we notice in our area that when there was a
15 violations it was the transporters. So we need to try
16 to correct, not only in this non-local, we have to
17 undermine what they're doing, so if we put a proposal
18 in that would try to, you know, limit those
19 transporters from coming into these areas and doing
20 what they did, you know, the guides will help you if
21 you work with them, they'll bring that meat to you and
22 you'll have extra meat. It wouldn't go to the dump,
23 you know, that's something that we noticed in our area.
24 We worked with them and they give us the meat we're
25 happy with it, you know, they don't just throw it in
26 the dump and that's wrong when it goes that way. So we
27 have to work -- try to undermine them and I, you know,
28 figure that one avenue we should look at, you know, try
29 to stop the transporters.

29

30

Thank you.

31

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

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MR. KRAMER: I was discussing with a
gentleman earlier, I think that 15 a year is good, it's
okay, but I still want to look into conserving caribou.
You know that cow is for -- is meant in case a cow was
accidentally harvested, not purposely harvested,
accidentally harvested. That is to make a person not a
criminal. And now I know that I worked as an assistant
guide for many years, I worked under a master guide, we
-- I was always out during the prime time of hunting, I
couldn't even shoot my gun unless the hunter asked me
to and the good things about guides is you're one on
one with your hunter. Transporters, you're just a taxi
cab. Once he drops you off he could care less. He got
paid. I tired to push to see if we could have
transporters eliminated but they said, nope, it will
automatically discrimination.

0051

1 So I think what we need to do to hit
2 these non-resident hunters and these transporters in
3 the butt is to make it like the RM880, to where if
4 somebody who lives down here in Anchorage or wherever,
5 they have to fly to Kotzebue and they got a window
6 between June 15th and July 15th to come up and get that
7 harvest ticket, if they don't they have to get a 50-
8 inch or more bull. So if we could make it to where
9 these non-resident hunters have to come up to Kotzebue
10 to hunt in Game Management Unit 23, thanks to the Board
11 of Game, we might as well give them a window. If a guy
12 is going to fly up from Maine to go get a caribou
13 that's a long ways to go to go get a caribou, I
14 guarantee these hunters will drop. The amount of
15 hunters coming up here will drop because that's a lot
16 of money to fly from the East Coast to Western Alaska
17 between that window. The thing I'm trying to figure
18 out is is that is it a Fish and Game decision or is it
19 a local Fish and Game decision on that window. That is
20 what I'd like to see. Because I guarantee you, these
21 people that are down south ain't going to want to come
22 up twice to go get one caribou, that's a lot of money
23 just to go up there and get your hunting license, get
24 your one caribou harvest ticket and fly all the way
25 back to wherever, that's a long ways to fly for a
26 harvest ticket. And I guarantee you those numbers will
27 drop because a lot of people are saying, man, that's
28 just the wast -- man, they won't even come up for
29 that, I can guarantee you a lot of people will say,
30 nope. There will be some people who want to fulfill
31 their dreams and come up and actually do it but those
32 are very few. But I think that's the route we need to
33 -- we need to write a letter to Alaska Department of
34 Fish and Game, you know, with the support of these
35 three Councils to where if they are going to have
36 commercial services operate within their game
37 management unit, that they need to come up to the area
38 of harvest, such as Kotzebue, you know, North Slope,
39 they'd probably have to go to Barrow, right, where is
40 your guys' main office because ours is Kotzebue for the
41 region. They would have to come up to the main hub
42 where the Fish and Game office is, they got that window
43 between June 15th and July 15th to get that harvest
44 ticket to be able to operate in that game management
45 unit. I guarantee you this will hit them in the back
46 pocket and I think this will bring down the hunters,
47 non-resident hunters will drop very significantly.

48
49 And that is my suggestion. And I think
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0052

1 we should probably all try and see if we could support
2 that.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Any
7 other comments, discussion.

8
9 Attamuk.

10
11 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, Attamuk, Northwest.
12 Yeah, I support what he said because we need to take a
13 reduction and it worked for moose in our area, that
14 they have to come in to a main hub to get their permit
15 to harvest, you know, Western Arctic Caribou Herd. We
16 as Natives voluntarily, you guys here, we take -- we're
17 taking a voluntary reduction even if it's hurting us
18 and hurting our people, we need to find a way from the
19 outsiders coming in and not take our Western Arctic
20 Caribou Herd.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Quick follow up.

23
24 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. And the other thing
25 that, you know, that was also put in to these two
26 proposals, you know, was the three bulls, one cow, the
27 other one is four bulls. So with that one cow, you
28 know, that's just for accidents, in case a cow caribou
29 was harvested. To keep -- and to keep our people from
30 not getting criminally charged for -- you know it's not
31 for purposely going out and hunting a cow, it's for an
32 accidental harvest and that is the reason why that cow
33 is in there.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Thank you,
36 Mike. Wilbur.

37
38 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Wilbur
39 Howarth, Northwest. Is BLM going to be here to discuss
40 because I have some papers that the caribou population
41 has dropped 23 percent in the past few years and that's
42 -- and the whole migration of caribou herd that all of
43 us sitting here depends on this caribou migration and
44 there's lots of information I am holding right here
45 from the BLM land management, the corridors and stuff.
46 And this setting, four caribou or four bulls and one
47 female in our NANA region, I think that's lots of
48 caribou per house. Because seven of us in my family,
49 four caribou will last us the whole year. But we still
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0053

1 have some families that have no income or
2 transportation and stuff to hunt and we do travel a
3 long ways to hunt caribou and it's been that way for
4 years. And the gas price is so high.

5
6 So in our region we have what we call
7 super hunters and that's a bunch of guys getting
8 together putting gas together to put in one boat, or
9 two boats and they go for miles and miles and what they
10 do, we call super hunters, are the ones that are
11 providing for elders and widows and for people that
12 don't have any transportation. And setting these four
13 bulls and one female, I agree with that, per year.

14
15 And discussion, we need to get from all
16 of you, not just hearing from some of us here. Because
17 we know what the caribou are going through right now
18 and I've seen some years in November it rains and it
19 just ice up and I seen skinny caribou because they
20 can't get to the food, the lichen and it's -- so we
21 have all kinds of problems that we're facing right now
22 and trying to set a limit, a bag limit or something, we
23 really need to sit around. And as the Northwest I like
24 that four and one, but the other regions, and -- like
25 Unit 26 or further down toward the Nome area, right now
26 there's thousands of caribou but they're hanging around
27 the Buckland and Deering area, they never make it all
28 the way down toward Nome and that area right now
29 because they're probably enjoying the nice weather
30 right now, so who knows. But we need to speak up and
31 have maybe more discussions, but I think in the Unit 23
32 area the four and one is good.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
37 Any other questions. Mr. Frantz.

38
39 MR. FRANTZ: Yeah, just in addition.
40 So some discussion, just some of the reasoning -- I'll
41 try to keep it short and to the point, behind why I'm
42 behind -- standing behind 15 caribou a year is Number
43 1, the subsistence priority, we are open to this
44 change. I just want to put it on record that we are
45 accepting this. It is a pretty steep reduction in the
46 take that we could have and we're open to that, we are
47 accepting of this, support it, but just also wanted to
48 put it out there.

49
50

0054

1 Because subsistence priority is not
2 being utilized in this and we want to make it loud and
3 clear that we are accepting of this but we need to make
4 it known that other things need to happen.
5 Transporters, guide services, non-residents, all of
6 that needs to be taken into account before even
7 thinking about changing subsistence but here we are.

8
9 I want to make that known and make sure
10 that you all understand that we should not be taking
11 the bare minimum while everybody else is unchanged.
12 Us, at this table, we should not be accepting of that.
13 Why are we the first ones to be changed? It is
14 completely backwards. And over the last few years
15 they've been trying to fix this with different
16 modifications to C&T uses in different areas so it's
17 just a -- it's my example, we should not be the first
18 ones to change, yet here we are.

19
20 So I would appreciate a smooth
21 transition in this, if possible. But just keep that in
22 your minds that we do want to help and with this, we
23 believe that we are, because, you know, it could be
24 five a day times 364 but we're accepting 15 per year.
25 So I mean the potential versus what it is now, I just
26 wanted to make that known that -- and on record, that,
27 once, again, the subsistence priority is not being
28 utilized.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Mr. Walker
33 and then Mr. Schaeffer.

34
35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 was just thinking about back in '71/72 when I worked
37 for Alaska Fire Service, which was the BLM at that time
38 and we worked on some fires up in the Brooks Range and
39 other side of the Alaska Range, sorry, the north part
40 of there, and we noticed that when we were there the
41 caribou would not cross the burn, they would go on the
42 edges all the way around, no matter how far it was.
43 Now, does this have an impact to what Bobby said
44 earlier, the caribou will show up in different parts of
45 the state because of burn, of their food, like they
46 mentioned the ice and stuff like that, that really
47 makes them -- diverts them to another portion of the
48 state.

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1 Now, maybe Mr. Byersdorf could answer
2 that or George Pappas, I'm not too sure. But I think
3 this is -- fires have a way of making them migrate
4 different routes so maybe somebody could answer that
5 question.

6
7 Mr. Byersdorf, do you know anything
8 about that, or anybody?

9
10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: If you could just
11 state your name for the record.

12
13 MR. BYERSDORF: Morning. Through the
14 Chair to the member. Geoff Byersdorf. I'm with the
15 Bureau of Land Management out of Fairbanks. And,
16 Robert, I don't have anything off the top of my head
17 to be able to speak to that but that's something we
18 could take a look at. But I don't have anything in
19 particular to that.

20
21 MR. WALKER: Okay, thank you, Mr.
22 Byersdorf. But, yes, there is a pattern here where I
23 think we're not looking at the real source because
24 food, they will follow where food is. If there's no
25 food there, they're not going to stay there or they're
26 going to go around it. So, Mr. Chairman, I think we'll
27 have to do something here to look at the burn season,
28 especially where, you know, you have all these calving
29 areas, all these other places where they travel. They
30 come down, like I said, come down in Unit 21E and Unit
31 18, why did they come there, was that because of food.
32 You know this is a question where -- you know, I've
33 been listening all this time and nobody ever talked
34 about that portion because Mother Nature does, you
35 know, how do they -- the animals know, just like we
36 know, we know where to go get food and the caribou do
37 have to look for that.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Walker.

42
43 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Geoff.

44
45 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I believe there's
46 someone online that could address his question about
47 the fire. Kyle Joly, a caribou biologist with the Park
48 Service has his hand up so.

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1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Kyle, if you wouldn't
2 mind pressing star, five and putting your name on
3 record.

4
5 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I'm on Teams, can you
6 hear me okay?

7
8 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, we can.

9
10 MR. JOLY: Great. Yeah, this is Kyle
11 Joly, I'm a Wildlife Biologist for the National Park
12 Service. I did my PhD work on the impacts of fire on
13 caribou range and so, yes, the Council member is
14 correct. The animals will go around those areas, they
15 will take decades to go back to those areas. Our
16 studies have shown anywhere between 35, to 50 years the
17 lichens take to recover. Some of the lichens that they
18 really like take 150 years to recover. So the Council
19 member's observations are correct.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that.

22
23 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes, go ahead.

26
27 MR. WALKER: Yes, thank you for that
28 justification so that gives us a little more, something
29 that we could work with.

30
31 Thank you, again, Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. We'll go
34 to Bobby and then Darrell.

35
36 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I just wanted to
37 say, personally, you know, I talked about compromising.
38 This is going to be. You know then on the other hand,
39 you know, my -- my thinking has always been if you're
40 going to save this herd then you have to minimize the
41 female take. And whatever proposal that minimizes the
42 -- the very least is what I support, you know, and I
43 know we all have to work together. We know the
44 Department of Fish and Game manages that herd and we
45 all have to work with them no matter what and sometimes
46 it can be contangio -- conta -- you can fight all you
47 want but yet on the other hand when the day is done we
48 all have to compromise and come up with something that
49 we can work with. You know it's got to be done, that's
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1 just the way things are.

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4 So whatever proposal, if it's 15 and
5 one and I think your rationale made it real clear for
6 me that, you know, maybe this is possibly the better
7 way to go, if you get four and one, of course, you get
8 -- if you go and get eight caribou or 12 caribou,
9 you're talking about possibly getting three fema --
10 you'll be legal to get three female, yet, on the other
11 hand, you know, it's just -- you think the 15 to one
12 you're allowed only one female. It's just a matter of
13 how -- how this thing is going to work out at the end,
14 you know. To me, regardless if you don't protect the
15 female then you won't see an increase in the herd.

15

16

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Bob.

19

Darrell.

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So, you know, all animals are the same,
they all have a spirit and that's just one thing we got
to consider when we start taking male/female. Just as

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1 long as they're not the wrong ones we're good. You
2 know sometimes it happens but we try to limit that
3 because we know how to conserve.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any other.
8 Mike.

9

10 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I have one
11 recommendation, you know, since we all sit within these
12 main caribou herds, I think we should make a
13 recommendation to OSM that we have these meetings
14 yearly because these caribou are -- because it's a very
15 serious subsistence resource. I think we should have
16 either yearly or bi-yearly -- have joint RAC meetings
17 with us four that are here and our main concern will be
18 caribou and I think that would be a very good, you
19 know, we are taking the initiative to be able to look
20 at what our caribou -- you know, what we can harvest,
21 like, you know, their census, you know, how their
22 health is doing, how the herd is doing, but I highly
23 recommend that, you know, for the next so many years
24 that we have either have yearly or bi-yearly RAC
25 meetings, joint Council meetings with us four that are
26 here regarding caribou within our game management
27 units.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike.
32 Further discussion. Louis.

33

34 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
35 We've listened to what's been going back and forth
36 between these groups that are talking about these
37 different herds up there. The information that I've
38 been getting and I asked a couple people today on the
39 phone about collars showing up that are from that
40 Western Arctic Caribou Herd and I'm getting an
41 indication that there's not -- those collars aren't
42 showing back up in our area there in 22. But we do
43 have a herd of caribou there. And it's a residential
44 herd and that's what our hunters are most likely
45 targeting. Unless there's a caribou that are coming
46 down and don't have collars, they're entering, I don't
47 know, but I haven't had much to say about it because of
48 what I'm telling you now.

49

50

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1 So thank you for the opportunity.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Green.

4 And I think it's important before we continue with
5 discussion, on that note, there's only so many collars
6 that they put out a year, if it's between 80 and 100
7 out of 150,000 animals it's not truly representative so
8 that's something that we also could look into in making
9 recommendations on how we can make that tracking better
10 and actually get the whole scope of the herd instead of
11 just the 80 that they do manage to get.

12

13 Wilbur, did you have your hand up.

14

15 MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair. In the
16 villages in this whole region, like ours right here
17 sitting at the table, the effort of getting to the
18 villages, the BLM, Park Service, the Fish and Game is
19 where information they give out is so important for us
20 to pass on to our communities. And I'm hoping that
21 they'll get out to all the villages because there's a
22 lot of information that some people that don't know
23 what's going on with our caribou because they do so
24 much studies and being -- working with the caribou
25 group and Fish and Game and subsistence -- well, the
26 Federal, anyways, for years, there's a lot of
27 information they have and we, sitting at the table
28 right here, it's real hard to make a decision to pass a
29 proposed letter from somebody that -- that really don't
30 come and pay attention to something like this and it's
31 important. Just to let you all know.

32

33 And hopefully things and discussions we
34 decide on and make will benefit and help our people.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.

39 Any other discussion. Mr. Seetot.

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot with Brevig
42 Mission, Seward Peninsula RAC. Mr. Green mentioned
43 something about the residential herd in and around east
44 side of Serpentine Hot Springs, Lang River, Goodhope
45 River, it's -- and that's north side of the lava beds
46 in the Seward Peninsula. I have traveled in and around
47 on the Kuzitrin River system which includes the lava
48 beds and it's a huge area. It has plenty of winter feed
49 but in the past we have seen a big drop in caribou that
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1 -- that wintered on the Seward Peninsula. Bureau of
2 Land Management have issued range permits for reindeer
3 herders, 15 permits from what I know and it pretty much
4 filled the entire Seward Peninsula. And 20 years ago
5 the reindeer industry was pretty prevalent in and
6 around that area. I know that. A gentleman from --
7 that had a reindeer herd in and around the eastern
8 portion -- eastern portion of Imuruk Basin -- no Imuruk
9 Basin and such was so close to the lava beds and known
10 -- it's known that in our area that many herders lost
11 reindeer through predation or just being driven away so
12 our area has been pretty rich in reindeers for winter
13 feeding. And that -- and reindeer station was
14 established when the U.S. government imported reindeer,
15 Brevig Mission, Teller, which is now known as Brevig
16 Mission was the dropping point for the reindeer.

17
18 I think in 1972 Alaska Department of
19 Fish and Game was out consulting our communities
20 unloaded muskox about 10 miles from Brevig and a couple
21 years later they dropped another maybe 35 around Cape
22 Wuli (ph) area which is south of Brevig Mission. A
23 known fact that both animals or the animals that feed
24 on lichen they pretty much depleted the range, I mean
25 the area south of Brevig Mission where we had the
26 (Indiscernible) Herd and the muskox feeding on winter
27 ground therefore pretty much depleting everything in
28 and around the area, we still do have reindeer that do
29 come around but they're feeding on our summer plants
30 and there's two main difference between summer feeding
31 and winter feeding.

32
33 And traveling in and around the lava
34 beds, a lot of lakes, a lot of ponds where we see
35 tracks where they fed on, you know, summer plants were
36 just standing there in the middle of winter. So that
37 area in and around the lava beds have been a good area
38 for the caribou maybe about 10 years ago, 10 to 15
39 years ago for them to come down and graze on winter
40 feed. It's pretty much like humans, you know, we smell
41 where the best food is coming from, we go there, that's
42 what I keep saying to our RAC. That we can talk all we
43 want but we need to understand how the animals respond
44 to these areas and I can't speak their language but
45 known fact that many of the information that we get is
46 from the elders. And that's what I keep trying to say,
47 our knowledge is very important in decisionmaking. I
48 have talked with elders where in the past by just
49 looking at the condition of the moon or other places
50

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1 they were able to say that this would be a good year,
2 you know, for certain animals, the way the moon sat or
3 certain conditions from a good weatherman was able to
4 predict pretty much the cycle of the season. Nowadays
5 we look at iPhones, okay, I think the weather's going
6 to be good but now conditions have changed so bad -- I
7 mean conditions have changed to a point where live's
8 are being lost because they're just looking at one
9 portion of the weather system, where nowadays all of a
10 sudden storms can come up very quickly.

11

12 All I hear pretty much around this
13 table is pretty much information from scientific
14 biologists or Western science. Most -- most of the
15 information that I kind of present to our younger
16 people is that information that was presented or taught
17 to me by community members or from other people that I
18 knew. The gentleman mentioned something about the
19 caribou being around the Buckland, Deering area, it is
20 pretty much close to in and around the lava beds. And
21 like someone say it takes awhile for lichen to grow in
22 pretty much our area other than the mountains provide
23 good feed but you still have to take into consideration
24 predators in and around the area, we do not have very
25 much predators in and around our area but I would
26 assume that where a majority of the predators are
27 that's where the placing of animals will be pretty much
28 around the eastern portion of Seward Peninsula.

29

30 We do not also talk about the ecosystem
31 or conditions. Like many years ago they were, you
32 know, able to take care of the Earth around you and it
33 will take care of you. Nowadays young people are not
34 getting the information from their elders or from
35 community members, you know, to make a good decision to
36 go out hunting and say, okay, this is the way that will
37 be done. And I'm just raising the question, whether
38 these -- the ones that came down for the winter, are
39 they going to stay in with the residential herd in and
40 around the northern portions of the lava beds, or
41 northern portion of Seward Peninsula or are they going
42 back to where they were born according to what elders
43 have told me that they do return to their calving
44 grounds. I have heard other knowledge that I -- that
45 was presented to me in the -- in my community and then
46 I hear the same thing from people, you know, from
47 different areas of the state so this information is
48 being passed on but it -- it's not being taken
49 seriously, I think, by the young people. Because
50

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1 nowadays, you know, it's just -- everything is in fast
2 motion, you got fast vehicles, you got a good rifle,
3 but you just need to understand that most of our
4 survival has been from information taken and presented
5 to our future hunters and our ancestors pretty much
6 knew what was going on. Now we have to live by the
7 book, by what's written. Their survival was pretty
8 much word of mouth or just by watching what other
9 people, you know, did, this is how you skin, this is
10 how you do this and that. And most of that information
11 is being lost to the younger people. But I still try
12 to say this is what I heard, I seen it with my own eyes
13 but, still, you know, the Federal and State agencies
14 are still skeptical because they really haven't
15 embraced what we have to provide for the table.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that Mr.
20 Seetot. And I think moving forward when we get to our
21 individual RAC meetings that might be a good thing to
22 potentially put forward as a letter or something that
23 we could look at jointly again, making sure that we're
24 including traditional ecological knowledge and
25 traditional customs and making sure that -- just like
26 you point out, about the residential herd in your area
27 of the state, that people are looking into those
28 factors when we talk about the migration of the Western
29 Arctic Herd, so thank you for that.

30

31 Discussion. Questions. Comments.

32

33 Mr. Walker.

34

35 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 We're down to like 152,000 caribou. When I left 17
37 years ago, the Western Interior RAC, there was over
38 700,000 caribou here at that time running through the
39 ranges from the Bering Sea all the way to the border.
40 I would like to say that maybe this working group here
41 is going to have to take a look at maybe a six year
42 moratorium here somewhere before it gets down to
43 100,000, you maybe have to look at maybe a six year
44 moratorium with a Federal hunt. You're going to have
45 to take a real hard look at this. And the State of
46 Alaska is going to have to stand in there and work with
47 you on this because you're going to deplete this herd
48 and this is food for all these people, that's a lot of
49 food.

50

1 You know, I mean in our area, where I
2 watched the Lower Yukon, Unit 18, they did a six year
3 moratorium on moose and they brought it back and now
4 they got a healthy herd, they got so much moose down
5 there that they're dying. But this just shows that
6 these things do work when you do take time with the
7 State and the Federal government. But you can always
8 put in there the Federal subsistence hunt will stay and
9 that's where we're going to have to go to look and next
10 year too before it's depleted.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Further
15 discussion. Mr. Williams.

16

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Mr. Williams, from
18 Anaktuvuk Pass. Last five years we haven't gotten
19 caribou migration through like we used to and last
20 couple years we've been going to Nuiqsut and that was
21 kind of pretty hard to -- you know, we usually don't go
22 to people's country to hunt and stuff but they accept
23 us and we really appreciate that and we are really
24 thankful for them and they've been sending us whale and
25 stuff, the Coastal people. That's respectful. But I
26 just wanted to say last year we've been getting -- the
27 last couple years we've been getting a few caribous
28 coming through. We don't see caribou like we used to
29 and that's why we are here to fight for our fishing
30 rights and hunting rights. We're not here to shake
31 hands and talk behind people's back, we're here for a
32 reason, for our people, and that's why they put me
33 here, to stand up for them.

34

35 And I want to address this.

36

37 You know these people in Anaktuvuk,
38 they're nomadic. Since '71 they were still living in
39 sod houses, does that tell you something. Yes.

40

41 And I want to say something else, they
42 mostly sustain on caribous. That's why we want to see
43 if we could set up something here at this committee, so
44 you could start off a commission, you know, a caribou
45 commission because we need to stand up and fight
46 because there's BLM right above us, up 100 miles that's
47 giving us a problem because they -- they cut off our
48 routes on our caribous and caribou scattered. Caribous
49 are down here, caribous are there. Porcupine Herd

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1 don't come through us no more. This elder said that
2 due to climate change the ice, they don't cross ice
3 because it gets really chippy so we got to understand
4 that too. And this elder told me one time, Zack
5 Wright, he told me that caribous don't migrate same
6 route, lichens grows different so they go different
7 route, different route, so a lot of people think that
8 caribou go to the same route, no, an elder told me that
9 they go different routes so we got to put that to our
10 understanding too.

11

12 And I just want to address this that I
13 hope we get the support, you know, to start up some
14 kind of committee so we could all stand up together
15 instead of just pointing a finger at each other.

16

17 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.
20 Williams. I think one thing that's come out of this
21 morning is that this is a really good opportunity for
22 us to really put our minds together, put our experience
23 together and to really urge OSM and whatever other
24 entities that might be to make sure that we're able to
25 come back together and work on these issues together.
26 I know just from the Northwest Arctic RAC it's usually
27 hard to make certain decisions when we know that they
28 impact other regions of the state. So I appreciate
29 everyone being here and being willing to talk about the
30 hard issues.

31

32 Is there any further discussion on this
33 motion that's on the floor.

34

35 Mike.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I know in our Game
38 Management Unit 23, you know, we have BLM lands and
39 those lands are mainly in the Squirrel River and that
40 is a big corridor for caribou to migrate down towards
41 to the Kobuk River. Chairman Baker and them have a
42 camp there and they hunt there. That area has been
43 closed for quite a few years now. You know, the issue
44 last fall when those hunters, those non-resident
45 hunters were hunting in the southern most -- or west --
46 or southern west portion of North Slope, these hunters
47 were traveling up there and they were harvesting
48 caribou, I'm not too sure if they were Western Arctic
49 or Teshekpuk, but, you know, we always allowed the
50

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1 first ones to come through. But with these hunters
2 going up there in mid-July, you know, that's kind of
3 hampering everybody else that's down south, south of
4 that. And I'm just kind of wondering what kind of a
5 blow that will handle -- or that'll happen, you know,
6 if that continues.

7

8 But, you know, with the D(1) lands, you
9 know, as I recommend -- my recommendation to BLM is
10 that these D(1) lands be turned over to the tribes or
11 IRAs within your communities and it be given to you
12 guys in the name of a trust and with that trust these
13 lands will remain protected and it'll be governed by
14 your communities. Like in our region that's a main
15 corridor of those D(1) lands, BLM. We have BLM lands
16 other places but that is like one of the biggest
17 corridors for caribou mig -- Northwest Arctic caribou
18 migration. Then they travel down to Noorvik, Kiana,
19 and then they go to the range and go to their southern
20 range near Buckland and Selawik. But that is my
21 highest recommendation on D(1) lands, is that we have
22 them turned over to the tribes, IRAs, whatever it might
23 be you guys have in your communities and I think that
24 that is one of the greatest ideas within these lands --
25 these lands in a trust that they be protected from
26 mining, commercial guide services, transporter
27 services, you know, that we put an umbrella over these
28 lands. Because I want to see Alaska remain the Last
29 Frontier for another 200, 100 more years. We don't need
30 that, if the Lower 48 needs minerals, let them go get
31 it somewhere else but those are our traditional lands.
32 I've hunted in the Squirrel Valley. I've seen
33 artifacts I've seen that our ancestors lived there
34 once, hunted there once, even up into the northern
35 portion of our Game Management Unit 23 and Trail Creek,
36 I've seen a lot of artifacts, a lot of evidence of our
37 ancestors hunting in there. And you see these piles of
38 rocks all over in there where they were using to guide
39 these caribou down to hunters. So our regions, our
40 four regions are main corridors for these herds. We
41 need to make sure we protect them. And if they are
42 within D(1) lands, my suggestion is we all work
43 together to ensure that these lands get turned over to
44 our tribes, IRAs, not our regional corporations because
45 they see money. They see money. I would like these
46 lands to be protected for as long as we could protect
47 them. And that is my recommendation is that these
48 lands get turned into a trust. If the BLM doesn't want
49 to deal with them anymore and protect them, hand them
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1 over to us.

2

3

4 And that's the other thing, is, if we
5 -- BLM has shown evidence of being in our region, in
6 Kotzebue, less -- more less every year. This last year
7 they removed their houses, they removed their BLM sign
8 right across from the 41 unit. I don't even think we
9 have a BLM officer up there anymore, or ranger, or
10 whatever it is that they do, their presence is being
11 less and less in our region so what's the purpose of
12 having BLM, you know, on the Subsistence Board,
13 especially for our side, you know, they're not -- we
14 don't have anybody in our region to represent them, you
15 know, because they -- I don't know what they've done
16 with all their stuff but their presence in Kotzebue is
17 pretty much non-existent now.

18

19 But with these D(1) lands and my
20 recommendation I think it would be great if we could
21 all work together to protect these lands, if you guys
22 have D(1) lands within your region. Just work hard to
23 protect them, and keep this state the Last Frontier.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mike. Any
28 final discussion. I can't really read your name.

29

30 MR. WALKER: Jenny Pelkola.

31

32 MS. PELKOLA: Jenny Pelkola, Galena,
33 Western Interior. I'm just sitting here listening to a
34 lot of good, good discussion regarding the depletion of
35 our foods. Just a couple of weeks ago I went to a
36 funeral in our village and a potluck, you hardly saw
37 any Native people on there which really saddened me.
38 And to hear our people here talking about having no
39 food, it just really hurts my heart and I know we're
40 all working together. We need to keep on working
41 together, we need to have more meetings together. The
42 more you have, the more meetings you have, the stronger
43 you get. I know there's all kinds of rules out there
44 but we need to continue fighting, don't give up, just
45 stand together and maybe some day we will have what we
46 want. It's going down, it looks sad, but don't give
47 up, just stand there, hold each other up and continue
48 to fight.

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50 That's all I have to say, thank you.

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(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
Ms. Pelkola. Darrell, did you have something.

MR. VENT: Yeah, just one final
comment. You know we've been battling for our food
sources for a long time now. I know I started out in
the '90s working on moose proposals, then we started
working, you know, because we were having a problem
with fish so we were doing fish proposals and now, you
know, I'm pretty familiar with this proposal stuff now
so, you know, I'm fortunate that going through all
these battles, how these things look. We have to learn
how to work like they do, we have to undermine. They
undermine something we do, we do the same thing to
them. We have to work together, learn to discuss all
this stuff that's important to us and then find the
ways, put the avenues in there for our success because
that's how they operate. And it's a money based system
but also it's a food based system. We have to work
twice as hard. It's easy to talk about it but when it
comes down to putting in proposals we have to put in
something that's really important for us so, you know,
that's why I was talking about transporters and guides,
those are some of the -- in sections that -- you know
when we worked with fish, we had the hook and line, we
were illegally fishing, we didn't know that. But
that's the way the State operates, they undermine you
and then you get caught for it and then they cite you,
that's what they're doing to caribou right now. They
undermine you guys and then they're citing you for it.
So, you know, they work against you and they're not
working, you know, really for you in management so you
have to work for yourself. And that's -- that's the
bottom line I found out, when we work with the moose
and the fish and trying to, you know, trying to work
with you guys on this caribou.

So, you know, I'm just glad we're all
getting together and we're discussing this. Like the
one guy mentioned we have to get together more because
they're not going to let us get together, they don't
want us together. And when he's talking about D(1),
that's a really important subject because that could
fix everything, not only the subsistence it's the land
and they really want that land because there's a water
-- there's a water shortage down in the States so
they're trying to buy up everything so be careful of

0068

1 that. When it comes to water we're really into the
2 water part. We have a lot of water out there and the
3 State knows that, that's a money maker. So you know
4 when you look in to what they're doing it's easy to
5 figure them out but you have to really study and hear
6 what they're saying. They'll undermine you.

7

8 That's all I got to say.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Any other
11 final comments or discussion before we move on to
12 restating the final motion.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Frantz, if you
17 wouldn't mind restating the final motion on the record.

18

19 MR. FRANTZ: All right. Brower Frantz,
20 North Slope Regional Advisory Council. I move to
21 support, as amended, the Alaska Board of Game
22 modification to exclude the eastern portion of Unit 26A
23 from the harvest limit reductions and to change the
24 harvest limit to 15 caribou a year, only one of which
25 may be a cow in Units 22, 23, and the western portion
26 of Unit 26A. Will consider Units 21B and Unit 24 at
27 the Interior Eastern Arctic regional meeting in March.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you.

30

31 Lisa.

32

33 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Lisa Grediagin for the record. And I just wanted to
35 clarify the proposals before you include Units 21D and
36 24, the motion that was just made to mirror the Alaska
37 Board of Game modification does not include Units 21D
38 and 24 because the Board of Game will act on those
39 during their March meeting, since it's a different
40 region under the State process. And so I just wanted
41 to clarify whether that's the intent here to exclude
42 those units.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MR. FRANTZ: We can take off that last
47 paragraph in order to make things easier.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So I believe you would

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1 have to amend your motion and Mr. Reakoff would have to
2 amend his second from the original.

3

4 MR. FRANTZ: Move to amend my -- my
5 movement.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Time out.

8

9 (Whispered conversation)

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1 have to amend your motion and Mr. Reakoff would have to
2 amend his second from the original.

4 MR. FRANTZ: Move to amend my -- my
5 movement.....

7 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Time out.

9 (Whispered conversation)

11 (Pause)

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

15 MS. WESSELS: They could rescind the
16 first motion or withdrawal.

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So.....

20 MS. WESSELS: With the concurrence of
21 the second.

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with concurrence of
24 your second you can withdraw your first motion then
25 make a new motion to include that last part to make it
26 all.....

28 MR. FRANTZ: All right. I move to
29 rescind my motion of the amended approval of the Alaska
30 Board of Game modification so that I may amend it.

32 MR. REAKOFF: The second concurs.

34 MR. FRANTZ: All right, Mr. Chair.
35 Brower Frantz, North Slope Regional Advisory Council.
36 I would like to move to support, as amended, the Alaska
37 Board of Game modification, striking out the last
38 paragraph of this page, so I'll just read it out.

40 Support, as amended, to exclude the
41 eastern portion of Unit 26A from the harvest limit
42 reductions and to change the harvest limit to 15
43 caribou a year, only one of which may be a cow in Units
44 22, 23, and the western portion of Unit 26A.

46 MR. REAKOFF: Second.

48 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay. So -- Lisa.

0070

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Sorry, Lisa Grediagin
2 for the record. And just for clarification, is your
3 intention to also include Units 21D and 24, so all
4 units affected by WP24-29?

5
6 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chairman.

7
8 MS. GREDIAGIN: Is that.....

9
10 MR. REAKOFF: Western Interior would
11 like to include those because that's where the Board of
12 Game is going to go and that is what they're going to
13 do because the Koyukuk River has already endorsed that
14 portion because that's in the Koyukuk River region area
15 of authority. So I feel that those should be included
16 in this motion so that when it happens, the Board of
17 Game is going to meet in the middle of this month, and
18 the Federal Subsistence Board is going to meet the
19 first part of April, so we want to have it nice and
20 clean before the Federal Board.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that being
25 said, I support that, because I feel like a lot of the
26 times we don't take certain actions because we don't
27 know what the Boards are going to do so if we state our
28 position now it will be clear to the Board of Game, to
29 the Federal Subsistence Board, so with that, Mr.
30 Frantz.

31
32 MR. FRANTZ: So the intent was to
33 include 21D and 24.

34
35 MR. REAKOFF: The second concurs with
36 that.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So a motion made,
39 seconded. For this being several Councils together,
40 what is the process for the roll call vote.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
43 Chair. Katya Wessels for the record. We're just going
44 to vote Council by Council on this motion and the only
45 Council that cannot vote is Seward Peninsula because I
46 believe they currently don't have quorum but the other
47 three Councils would be able to vote.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Cleveland.

50

0071

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I call for question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the question has
4 been called. Katya, could you please do a roll call
5 vote of the Councils.

6

7 MS. WESSELS: Thank you. For Northwest
8 Arctic Council.

9

10 Robert Schaeffer.

11

12 MR. SCHAEFFER: Here.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Bobby. We'll call you by
17 official name.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MS. WESSELS: Can you turn your mic on
22 when you say yes.

23

24 REPORTER: Bobby, turn your mic on.

25

26 MR. SCHAEFFER: Oh. Yes.

27

28 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

29

30 Thomas Baker.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Mike Kramer.

35

36 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Attamuk Shiedt.

39

40 MR. SHIEDT: Yes.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Wilbur Howarth.

43

44 MR. HOWARTH: Yes.

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Clyde Ramouth.

47

48 MR. RAMOUTH: Yes.

49

50

0072

1 MS. WESSELS: Elmer Armstrong.

2

3 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Vern Cleveland.

6

7 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Raymond Woods.

10

11 MR. WOODS: Yes.

12

13 MS. WESSELS: The motion passed by
14 unanimous vote from Northwest Arctic Council.

15

16 Now, we're going to move on to the
17 North Council and I believe that Quincy Adams is on the
18 line. Mr. Adams, if you're on the line please unmute
19 yourself and acknowledge that you're on the phone.

20

21 MS. GREDIAGIN: Just say press star,
22 six.

23

24 MS. WESSELS: By pressing star, six to
25 unmute yourself if you're on the phone.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MS. WESSELS: Because if he is not on
30 the phone North Slope cannot vote either.

31

32 (Pause)

33

34 MS. WESSELS: Okay, while we're waiting
35 for them to figure it out we're going to go to the
36 Western Interior.

37

38 Okay, present in the room here, Jack
39 Reakoff.

40

41 MR. REAKOFF: Yes.

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Robert Walker.

44

45 MR. WALKER: Yes.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Tim Gervais.

48

49 MR. GERVAIS: Yes.

50

0073

1 MS. WESSELS: Darrell Vent.

2

3 MR. VENT: Yes.

4

5 MS. WESSELS: Jenny Pelkola.

6

7 MS. PELKOLA: Yes.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Motion passes by
10 unanimous vote for Western Interior Council.

11

12 Quincy, are you online.

13

14 MS. GREDIAGIN: I don't see his phone
15 number.

16

17 MR. FRANTZ: He got disconnected, he's
18 calling back in right now.

19

20 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we'll pause
21 this vote for a minute.

22

23 (Pause)

24

25 MR. FRANTZ: He was requesting to do it
26 over this phone. He was having troubles with the other
27 call in number, he wasn't able to hear half of it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that Mr.
30 Frantz, if you could just let Mr. Adams know to
31 identify himself once he's on speaker.

32

33 MR. FRANTZ: All right, go ahead and
34 identify yourself and your vote.

35

36 MR. ADAMS: All right, right now?

37

38 MR. FRANTZ: Yep.

39

40 MR. ADAMS: All right, Quincy Adams,
41 North Slope Subsistence RAC and I vote yes.

42

43 MS. WESSELS: Okay.

44

45 MR. FRANTZ: Thank you, Quincy.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Okay. So we started the
48 vote for the North Slope Council. Quincy Adams he said
49 yes. Wanda Kippi.

50

0074

1 MS. KIPPI: Yes.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Brower Frantz.

4

5 MR. FRANTZ: Yes.

6

7 MS. WESSELS: Peter Williams.

8

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: The motion passes for
12 Northwest -- North Slope Council, unanimously.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 (Applause)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So with that, to
19 confirm, if Seward Penn would like to vote on this when
20 they do have a quorum in their individual RAC meeting,
21 you guys can vote on it and then it will be related to
22 Staff.

23

24 So with that we will move on to Item
25 No. 7, public and tribal comment on non-agenda items.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I don't believe we had
30 any blue slips filled out so we will move into closing
31 comments. Before we get into closing comments, would
32 we like to discuss the joint letters on non-local
33 hunters, outfitters, guides so on and so forth, at this
34 time or would we like to bring those to our individual
35 Councils.

36

37 MR. VENT: This -- you know, I think
38 it's pretty important that we try to get this guide and
39 transporter thing hammered out. And, Vern, you know, if
40 you want to work on a proposal we would be willing to
41 help you.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes, sir.

44

45 MR. REAKOFF: I feel that -- there's
46 two avenues to go for the registration permit that's
47 issued within the summer season to make it expensive or
48 the Chair of this meeting could submit a bill to the
49 Legislature to require non-residents, statewide, to be
50

0075

1 guided for caribou and moose, because we have this
2 problem for moose and caribou all over our region.
3 These non-resident hunters wasting meat. We had a
4 Trooper in Coldfoot, 26 cases, 25 were non-resident
5 hunter, one was a resident hunter. This was a chronic
6 problem of wasting meat. Guided hunters are required
7 -- with a hunting guide the guide's responsible for the
8 meat, they're under -- they lose brownie points if they
9 take tickets on that, they take a lot better care of
10 the meat and they usually are better about knowing who
11 to give the meat to. They bring the meat -- they fly
12 the meat to a village and give it in good condition.
13 That's another avenue.

14

15 But I support something to control the
16 number of -- and I also feel that this body needs to
17 request that we have -- for the Western Arctic Caribou
18 Herd, it needs to have its composition data for the
19 bulls, small, medium and large bulls so we know what
20 we're working with because right now the Board of Game
21 is shooting into the dark with non-resident harvest.
22 That's absolutely non-scientific, period.

23

24 So, thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Mr.
27 Reakoff. So with that, I think what we might want to
28 do is all of these recommendations, let's turn them
29 over to the Staff so that as we compile them in writing
30 and get the nature of what we'd like to, we can see
31 them and make sure that we're all clear on where we're
32 trying to move forward.

33

34 Any other discussion, questions,
35 comments.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So if it's all right
40 with.....

41

42 MR. REYNOLDS: My name is Patrick
43 Reynolds, I'm from St. Lawrence Island, which is a
44 privately owned island by the corporation. Every plane
45 is met by a corporation member. Any non-residents are
46 required to buy a land cross permit from the
47 corporation. If they're hunters, they have to have a
48 guide who is responsible for pay. And any harvest that
49 they do, they're required to have the guide and salvage
50

0076

1 all the meat.

2

3

That's all I have to say, thank you.

4

5

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you for that,
Mr. Reynolds. Any more discussion on a potential joint
letter, joint direction for Staff.

7

8

9

Wilbur.

10

11

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14

MR. HOWARTH: Yeah, Mr. Chair, this
letter, we should all see it as a whole here because
it's going to eventually affect some part of our -- our
part of the state.

15

16

17

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you, Wilbur.
Just a timing question. this afternoon, is Northwest
Arctic the only RAC meeting, and is everybody else
tomorrow or is Western Interior also meeting -- okay, I
was thinking if it was just us meeting this afternoon
then the other Councils could attend portions of it to
see what kind of work we have on the letter but that
wouldn't really work.

26

27

28

Comments from Staff on how we can make
this work, in our limited time as a body.

29

30

(Pause)

31

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MS. WESSELS: For the record, Katya
Wessels. Maybe you can take this letter earlier in
your agenda and then the Staff can, you know, bring the
notes and carry it over to the Western Interior and
share it with them.

37

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MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, I guess, is it --
Lisa Grediagin for the record. Is it the intention of
Councils that this joint letter would be kind of an
outcome of this meeting versus -- okay -- you know, we
compile information now and then bring it back to you
in the fall sort of thing.

44

45

46

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Yes.

47

48

MS. GREDIAGIN: When we have time
to.....

49

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0077

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: I just was looking
2 around the room.....

3
4 MS. GREDIAGIN:actually write a
5 letter.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BAKER:and I believe it
8 would be best that we get it from this conversation
9 while everything is fresh. Did you have something
10 Mike.

11
12 MR. KRAMER: Yeah, I think that -- so
13 with this letter, this is being submitted to OSM or the
14 Subsistence Board?

15
16 CHAIRMAN BAKER: When we do these they
17 go to the Board, through OSM or do we just send it to
18 the Board?

19
20 MS. WESSELS: Oh, the Councils are
21 always encouraged to communicate directly with the
22 Board, so you don't need to send it -- it would be
23 better if you send it to the Board.

24
25 MR. KRAMER: Okay. Yeah, I think we
26 need to all work together and all -- this letter be
27 submitted by all of us. We have more power all
28 together than we do single, you know, and that we're
29 all willing to work together for the conservation of
30 these caribou herds, our subsistence way of life, our
31 culture, our D(1) lands. We should also -- I know that
32 Northwest Alaska, we should also include in that letter
33 to OSM or the Federal Subsistence Board, that they
34 write a letter to the director of Fish and Game,
35 especially in our region that the requirement, as I
36 stated earlier, with our RM880, you know, they have a
37 one month window to come up and get their harvest
38 ticket for non-resident hunters because Board of Game
39 did not close it in our region. They said that there
40 still was a sustainable harvest of 300 to 350 caribou,
41 and, you know, and that's enough caribou to feed any of
42 our villages. In one year, that's a lot of bulls. But
43 to include that in there to the -- either OSM and
44 Federal Subsistence Board that they write a letter to
45 the Director of Fish and Game saying, hey, this is what
46 these guys -- these four Councils want and this is what
47 these Four Councils request. Whether you guys have
48 commercial services in your guys' region, I'm not too
49 sure, but I think that kind of a window would make it
50

0078

1 so much better and I think we would see a significant
2 drop in commercial transporting services, especially,
3 you know, with them having to come up here twice.
4 First to go get their harvest ticket, go back home,
5 come back up in the fall, and go back home with their
6 meat. It's going to deter a lot of transporters --
7 transported hunters from coming up. With guides, you
8 know, I worked as a guide, that's a one on one
9 situation. If my hunter says I don't need that piece
10 of meat, I said, you're going to take that piece of
11 meat or I'm going to turn you in for wanton waste. Man
12 I was a real hard ass but I didn't care, I'm protecting
13 our subsistence resources. And I told them, if you're
14 going to leave that meat I'm going to turn you in.

15
16 So we need to see if we could all work
17 together to try and figure out ways to, you know,
18 decrease the amount of transporters.

19
20 Yeah, and with that letter to see if
21 any of us, our regions have commercial services, see if
22 that could be submitted, that way we're protecting --
23 you know we're making it more difficult for them to
24 have to come all the way up here and making it more
25 expensive. I'd rather hit them in the back pocket, you
26 know, because we don't have a choice now, the Board of
27 Game already approved it in Northwestern Arctic.

28
29 So that's my suggestion, thank you.

30
31 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair. On the
32 discussion of this registration permit, there should be
33 stipulations of what the permit actually entails that
34 they have to report within five days, the take -- the
35 Board claims that they've got 300 to 350 bull caribou,
36 if we got 800 hunters show up and we don't even find
37 out -- they send in harvest reports, trickling in, we
38 find out they kill 800, 900 bull caribou, that's not
39 going to work. So they have -- they should have to
40 report. Everybody's got In-Reaches now, they're all
41 flown out, they all got In-Reaches, they can text this
42 to the Department of Fish and Game and the Department
43 needs to hold hard on that cap. If they're going to
44 take 300 now, we haven't even analyzed what kind of
45 bull caribou we have, we need to have that harvest
46 reporting. This can be sent in as an agenda change
47 request so that the Board would -- it could be sent in
48 after the first of July and the Board would have to
49 review that agenda -- they made a mistake because they
50

0079

1 don't have composition of the herd and this is how we
2 could force the agenda change request to require this
3 registration permit.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6

7 MS. WESSELS: So the other suggestion
8 in regards to the letter that the Councils can address
9 that letter also directly to the State and to the Board
10 at the same time.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mike.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. With that Board of
15 Game decision on the 300 or 350, I don't know where
16 they came up with that but that's where it came up, the
17 Fish and Game guy in Kotzebue, Alex Hansen, it was
18 either them or somebody came up with that quota or
19 something, that they might start making that a quota,
20 and we were kind of like, what, so I was real confused
21 as to where those 300 or 350 came from. So I mean I
22 don't know if it's our individual Fish and Game office
23 in Kotzebue that could limit them, or come up with a
24 limit so I'm real unsure about that. But, you know,
25 just to protect that amount of caribou. I don't know
26 where they came up with it but it would be nice, like
27 he said, to have a bull composition study done and then
28 come up with that but then in the meantime I think we
29 should try to, at least, come up with something to
30 protect with that -- you know, the only have that 30
31 day window for commercial services to come up and get
32 their hunting -- their non-resident hunting tags, or
33 I'm not too sure if non-local residents qualify under
34 that but it would help us. You know it would eliminate
35 a lot of things. And if we were to do it as soon as
36 possible, that way they can't say, oh, you guys didn't
37 give us enough notice, it's March, you got plenty of
38 notice for June, so thank you.

39

40 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin for the
41 record. And just as kind of point of clarification,
42 the Board of Game, this is only for Unit 23, but they
43 amended the proposal to close all non-resident caribou
44 hunting in Unit 23 to instead, open a non-resident
45 drawing hunt with up to 300 permits. So, you know,
46 previously, you know, the non-resident hunt has been a
47 harvest ticket hunt but now moving forward it will be a
48 drawing hunt probably effective -- not this year, but
49 in 2025.

50

0080

1 Thanks.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Mr. Reakoff.

4

5

MR. REAKOFF: Koyukuk River Advisory
Committee was not informed about the draw permit, you
know, that's why we're even talking about a
registration permit and so that's news to me. I guess
we weren't fully informed about what the Board has been
doing over there in Kotzebue.

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11

12

Thank you.

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MR. VENT: Yeah, that's a problem with,
I think, a lot of regions. They probably didn't hear
it either so, you know, it's -- you know, when we went
to a meeting at the working group and we were talking
about, you know, trying to listen, you know, the bull
hunt, they were saying, no, we got to listen to the cow
hunt and we were saying, no, that's -- you got to have
your data and they don't, you know, they didn't want to
provide us with anything on that. And, you know, I was
telling them, you know, my assumption is that you guys
are taking a lot of bulls but, you know, they -- they
have ways of undermining us and if they want to take
more bulls they'll find a way.

So, you know, like I told you guys
they're going to undermine us somehow and we just have
to be prepared for it.

MR. CLEVELAND: Vern Cleveland,
Noorvik. I like the way that lady said, we got
individuals fighting here -- here's a little group
here, a little group over here, a group -- but if we
get united like this we're a lot stronger. We have
more voice. And I like the way we -- I brought this up
in our panel in May, that we should have a group get
together, get together, get united and we'll be a lot
stronger. We can't have individual fighting over here,
individual fighting over there for same thing and can't
get nowhere but if we get together and we go for one
thing we'll be a lot stronger. You guys know more than
I do that in the past 20 years that our climate is
changing and it's been changing and it's still
changing, but the caribou that are migrating, you know,
from early '70s, they slam Shungnak every fall, bang,
you know, caribou, a lot of caribou. Now there's
nothing after that damn highway was built. No more

0081

1 caribou. They don't come, not like before.

2

3

4 Now that I moved to Noorvik 38 years
5 ago, the caribou moved down with me. I mean really,
6 because of that Dalton Highway that was built in that
7 timeframe. And the caribou rerouted. You guys all
8 know that, I don't have to spell it out for you guys.
9 Now, that that Ambler Road is going to get built the
10 whole world is going to change. It's going to change
11 each and every one of us that are living out in the
12 villages.

12

13 So I ask for a united, together and
14 we'll become stronger.

15

16

17 That's all I want, get unity, get
18 together with all the Fish and Game Boards, everybody
19 and set your foot down. You can't be speaking
20 individually and be heard, but if we're together like
21 this, wham, we got it.

21

22

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BAKER: Thank you. Mr.
Walker.

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Recently down in 21E there was a guy
that got caught with a drone but he let it fly off into
the woods and crash, they couldn't find it. So you see
that, they could look back in the woods and the lakes
when we're right on the bank. So this is something,
again, where we're going to have to take another look

0082

1 at this.

2

3

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Peter Williams, RAC from
6 North Slope. Anyway, talking about Dalton Highway.
7 Back when they had comprehensive planning and they
8 brought the attention up that they had something like
9 they had five miles corridor and how we found out is
10 there was a truck stuck out way out there in the middle
11 of the dune and that's how we found out and so we
12 fought that because there was hunters on Dalton Highway
13 around Atigun Pass and Galbraith, we fought that and
14 they made it down to, I think, three miles on the
15 corridor, right?

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MR. REAKOFF: The Dalton Highway
Corridor is five miles wide. They launch boats, they
go way up the Ivishak, ribbed in -- they get into that
Central Arctic migration big time. There's boat taxis
and air taxis flying -- going out from that road, way
out to Deadhorse.

MR. WILLIAMS: Since they opened up
that highway, we've been on this loss for awhile so,
you know, working together as this lady said, you know,
we need to stand up with one another and speak up for
one another because that's how we grew up. We didn't
call each other names, we called each other brothers
and sisters.

So thank you very much.

MS. WESSELS: Katya Wessels for the
record. The other idea for the Councils in regards to
the letter that you can select in your individual
Council meetings, a representative for a working group
to work on this letter, and also put on the record your
ideas; like you're doing it now but also in your
individual meetings you can discuss a little bit more
and then the working group can get together and write
this letter, take the take writing the letter and then
it will be sent, of course, to the Chairs, for their
review and approval.

CHAIRMAN BAKER: Is that agreeable to
the Councils, as we meet individually, pick somebody or
a couple somebodies to come back together as a working
group?

0083

1 MR. REAKOFF: We can do that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BAKER: North Slope, you good
4 with that?

5

6 MR. FRANTZ: Sorry, I'm going to need
7 that back again.

8

9 (Laughter)

10

11 MR. FRANTZ: Read it back, please.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BAKER: So the suggestion is
14 that when we get to our individual meetings, the RACs
15 themselves pick somebody to be a representative to a
16 working group to where those four people come together,
17 work on the letter as a group and then send it to the
18 Chairs of each Council to approve before sending off.
19 Is that agreeable, North Slope?

20

21 MR. FRANTZ: Yes, we can agree to that.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Seward Penn.

24

25 MR. GREEN: Yes.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Sounds good. So with
28 that, when we get to our individual meetings we will
29 have somebody picked as representatives for that
30 working group for a joint letter.

31

32 The time is now 12:32 and we do have an
33 agenda for the afternoon to keep, is there any final,
34 final closing comments.

35

36 MR. REAKOFF: Motion to adjourn.

37

38 MR. VENT: Second.

39

40 MR. GREEN: Recess.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: No, you have to adjourn
43 because this is.....

44

45 MR. GREEN: Oh, this is it, okay, yeah.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Okay.

48

49 MR. GREEN: Jack's correct.

50

0084

1 CHAIRMAN BAKER: A motion was made, all
2 those in favor please say aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BAKER: Those opposed same
7 sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

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11 CHAIRMAN BAKER: With that we will
12 adjourn at 12:32, thank you everyone.

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14 (Off record)

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16 (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 of Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the FOUR-COUNCIL REGIONAL ADVISORY MEETING taken electronically by our firm on the 7th day of March 2024;

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 21st day of March 2024.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/26