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SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

HYATT PLACE
Anchorage, Alaska
January 13, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Encelewski, Chair
Edward Holsten
Michael Opheim
Richard Encelewski
Dennis Zadra
Kirk Wilson
Faye Ewan
Andrew McLaughlin
Edward GreyBear
Hope Roberts
Judith Caminer
Angela Totemoff

Regional Council Coordinator, Nissa Pilcher

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 1/13/26)

(On record)

MS. PILCHER: Hello, everyone. Welcome. This is the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council meeting. Looks like everybody's mostly taken their seats, we can always procure more. We are a little squished in this room but my apologies about that. That's what happens when you take a meeting that takes several months of planning and make it happen in a month and a half. So, for those joining on the phone, you can find the agenda and the meeting materials online on the Federal Subsistence Program website. That's at www.doi.gov/subsistence and under the Regions tab choose Southcentral and then Meeting Materials. Also, for those in the room the meeting materials are available on that desk. There's also the sign-in sheet, if you'd please sign in on both days that you're here, it would be very much appreciated. But for those online please remember to mute yourselves when you are not speaking. That way, we also don't get any background noise that you might be listening to if you've got the radio playing in the background. So, you can do that by either using the mute function on your smartphone or also by pressing star six, that will both mute and unmute your phone. If there are folks that have hot mics during the meeting and it's causing a disruption, we will mute you. So, my apologies for that but it does become distracting for everybody else participating. So please, just remember to keep your phone muted unless you're talking. Again, that's star six. But if you'd like to speak you can press star five to raise your hand or use the raise hand button if you're on MS Teams. Of course, if you're in the room, fill out a blue comment card that's on that table or talk to one of us on a break. So, we will get started here momentarily.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Greetings, everyone. I'm going to officially call the meeting to order the meeting to order, Council meeting, it's 9:00 a.m., so, for the record, anyway. Who would like to do -- where's Karen? Who would like to do an invocation this morning? Anyone feel like you'd like to do one? Okay, we're going to have Kirk do an invocation for us.

Thank you, Kirk. Okay, housekeeping, Nissa, did the housekeeping. We got the invocation now.

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1 I call us to order. We need to have a roll call as soon
2 as she comes back. But I can tell you right off we
3 established a quorum. But you want to call the roll?
4

5 MS. PILCHER: I sure can. Sorry about
6 that. Once again, Nissa Pilcher, for the record. So,
7 Edward Holsten.
8

9 MR. HOLSTEN: Here.
10

11 MS. PILCHER: Michael Opheim
12

13 MR. OPHEIM: Here.
14

15 MS. PILCHER: Greg Encelewski.
16

17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Here.
18

19 MS. PILCHER: Member Selanoff has an
20 excused absence. Dennis Zadra.
21

22 MR. ZADRA: Here.
23

24 MS. PILCHER: Kirk Wilson.
25

26 MR. WILSON: Here.
27

28 MS. PILCHER: Angela Totemoff. She is not
29 present in the room, but she is expected. So, we will
30 let everyone know when she does -- when she's able to
31 come. Edward GreyBear.
32

33 MR. GREYBEAR: Here.
34

35 MS. PILCHER: Hope Roberts.
36

37 MS. ROBERTS: Here.
38

39 MS. PILCHER: Heath Kocan. Are you on the
40 phone?
41

42 (No response)
43

44 And then Judith Caminer.
45

46 MS. CAMINER: Here.
47

48 MS. PILCHER: So, I believe that's 10 of
49 13 present, we do have quorum. Thank you.
50

0004

1 MS. EWAN: What about me?

2
3 UNIDENTIFIED: You missed a couple.

4
5 (Simultaneous speech)

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED: What about Faye? What
8 about Faye?

9
10 MS. PILCHER: Faye's on the list. I just
11 -- I counted you in the -- anyhow, member Faye Ewan.

12
13 MS. EWAN: I'm here.

14
15 MS. PILCHER: Thank you so much.

16
17 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Andrew McLaughlin here
18 too. Okay.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got
21 everyone? Everyone good? Faye, that's what happens when
22 you want to (distortion), you see? Anyway. Okay.
23 Welcome, everyone. I'm going to turn it over because --
24 let's see you got some meeting announcements Nissa, you
25 got some more you want on the agenda here under roll
26 call?

27
28 MS. PILCHER: I sure do. So, good
29 morning, everyone again. Once again, welcome to the
30 Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
31 meeting. I am the Council Coordinator and the designated
32 federal officer for this meeting. I do have a few
33 housekeeping announcements to make before we get
34 started. So, this is a public meeting, and it is being
35 recorded and will be transcribed. For those attending
36 our meeting in person, please make sure you sign in at
37 the front table, each day of the meeting. The Council
38 is scheduled to meet for today and tomorrow. So again,
39 for those joining remotely, you can go online to
40 www.doi.gov/subsistence and then choose the Southcentral
41 tab and then the Meeting Materials tile in order to find
42 the agenda and any meeting materials. Once again, that's
43 star six to mute and unmute your phone. If you do cause
44 a distraction, we will mute you unfortunately, I am sorry
45 about that, but it does cause a pretty good distraction
46 to the meeting and those listening. Again, to speak, if
47 you're on the phone, star five to raise your hand or use
48 the raise hand function on MS Teams or fill out a blue
49 card over by the door. So, a quick comment on public
50 comments. So, throughout the meeting, there's going to

1 be opportunities for the public to comment. Again, if
2 you're in the room, blue card and if you're on the phone
3 either press star five or the raise hand option. So,
4 public testimony will be taken for every applicable
5 agenda item. And the call for public testimony on non-
6 agenda items will occur later this morning after the
7 conclusion of Council member and Chair reports. And
8 there'll be another opportunity tomorrow morning as
9 well. When the Chair calls on you to testify, please
10 identify yourself for the record by stating your first
11 and last name and any -- and the affiliation that you're
12 representing, if you are representing one, when it is
13 your turn. You can also submit written comments or in
14 addition to your oral comments. And you can do that by
15 either handing me or any of the staff that's located on
16 this side of the room. Those written comments or by
17 emailing subsistence@ios.doi.gov those comments. Again,
18 on those please be sure to include your name and any
19 affiliation that you're representing if any, on those
20 comments. So, for all speaking both in the room and on
21 the phone, please remember to state your name for the
22 record. That way we have a clear record of what's going
23 on. Again, we do have a -- they're not that new but
24 they're new, relatively new transcription service, that
25 don't know us, like the ones that did our work for
26 decades. So, it's really important that we do state our
27 name. So, they know who's talking. And one last thing,
28 a friendly reminder about conduct and ethics. This
29 meeting is conducted using Robert's Rules of Order. The
30 meeting will be led by the Chair with help by the
31 coordinator. Please don't speak out of turn and wait to
32 be called on by the Chair. Please do not name, call or
33 use any profanity. Point of order can be called for
34 anyone if misconduct happens and anyone can call point
35 of order. We're all here because we care about
36 subsistence. And although it is very okay to be
37 passionate, we do want to foster an environment where
38 everyone is respected, and we can all work together. If
39 any topic will be discussed during the meeting where
40 Council members feel you may have a conflict of interest,
41 please make a conflict-of-interest statement on the
42 record and then recuse yourself from the discussion and
43 voting. And that concludes my meeting announcements.
44 Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
47 Nissa. Okay, I just want to say a few things before we
48 go into the welcome introductions. We have a full agenda.
49 As you know, we've got postponed 2 or 3 months. We got
50 a lot of items to take up in the next couple days. We're

1 going to have a lot of discussion. We're going to try
2 and adapt a little bit on the agenda those that need to
3 make presentations early and we have some that have to
4 leave early and come in and out. But anyway, I'm going
5 to work around all that. So, I welcome everyone. The
6 next thing I want to do is, I want to have everyone
7 introduce themselves. We'll go around the room, and this
8 is not the Council's report, it's down another couple
9 items and just --- we'll just say our names and then
10 everyone in the room, if we just briefly go around and
11 state your name and position. Thank you. And we start
12 with Judy here to my right.

13
14 MS. CAMINER: Good morning. I'm Judy
15 Caminer and I'm from Anchorage representing sports
16 fisheries issues.

17
18 MS. EWAN: Faye Ewan, Ahtna K'ot'aene, I
19 come from Copper River. I'm here to stand and speak for
20 the animals and salmon and fish and anything that walks
21 in this world that can't speak for themselves. I'm here
22 to speak for them. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

25
26 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, Seldovia.

27
28 MR. WILSON: Kirk Wilson, Tolsona.

29
30 MS. TOTEMOFF: Just in time, Angela
31 Totemoff.

32
33 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning, Hope Roberts.
34 Valdez/Anchorage, sports/commercial.

35
36 MR. ZADRA: Dennis Zadra from Cordova,
37 I'm sport/commercial.

38
39 MR. HOLSTEN: Ed Holsten, Cooper Landing,
40 subsistence.

41
42 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Andy McLaughlin, Prince
43 William Sound, subsistence.

44
45 MR. GREYBEAR: Edward GreyBear, Native
46 Village Kluti Kaah, subsistence.

47
48 MS. PILCHER: And this is Nissa Pilcher,
49 Council Coordinator for the Southcentral Council.

50

0007

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And I'm Greg
2 Encelewski, I'm from Ninilchik. Thank you.

3
4 MS. PILCHER: We gotta [sic] all come up
5 to the mic unfortunately guys.

6
7 MR. COOPER: Jake Cooper, representing
8 Ninilchik Village Tribe.

9
10 (Pause)

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I opened a can
13 of worms, didn't I?

14
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Darrel Williams from
16 Ninilchik.

17
18 MS. ONGTOWASRUK: Cheryl Ongtowasruk,
19 we're here on behalf of First Alaskans.

20
21 MS. SULLIVAN: Laurel Fate Sullivan, also
22 here First Alaskans, from Anchorage, families from
23 Rampart. Thanks for letting us be here.

24
25 MS. BLOCK: Bella Block, also at First
26 Alaskans Institute here in Anchorage.

27
28 MR. GORZE: Dan Gorze, Ahtna Intertribal
29 Resource Commission, Fish Biologist, Glennallen.

30
31 MR. ESKELIN: Todd Eskelin, Kenai
32 National Wildlife Refuge.

33
34 MS. KETRON: I'm Caroline Ketron, I'm the
35 Anthropologist and Subsistence Coordinator at the Bureau
36 of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office.

37
38 MS. FLOREY: Victoria Florey, National
39 Park Service.

40
41 MR. MERIZON: Good morning, my name is
42 Rick Merizon, I'm the Tribal Wildlife Biologist with
43 Chugach Regional Resources Commission.

44
45 MS. LAKE: Hello, Laura Lake, Fish and
46 Game, Subsistence Resource Specialist.

47
48 MS. KEATING: Good morning, Jackie
49 Keating, Division of Subsistence at Fish and Game.

50

1 MS. CHILLIGAN: Shirley Chilligan with
2 Native Village of Eklutna.

3
4 MS. CRAVER: Amy Craver, Subsistence
5 Coordinator, Cultural Anthropologist with Denali
6 National Park and Preserve.

7
8 MS. COHEN: Good morning, Amber Cohen,
9 Cultural Anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National
10 Park and Preserve, Copper Center. Good to see you all.

11
12 MS. LINNELL: Karen Linnell, Executive
13 Director, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission.

14
15 MS. KOSBRUK: Deanna Kosbruk with Ahtna
16 Intertribal Resource Commission, I'm the Subsistence
17 Regulation Specialist.

18
19 MR. MARSHALL: Clyde Marshall, I'm
20 affiliated with Ahtna, Incorporated, as well as the SRC
21 for Wrangell-St. Elias. But I am here just on my own
22 today.

23
24 MR. UBELAKER: Good morning, Brian
25 Ubelaker, Wildlife Biologist with OSM.

26
27 MR. AYERS: Scott Ayers, Deputy Director,
28 OSM.

29
30 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chair, Council
31 members. Orville Lind, Native Village of Barrow OSM.

32
33 MR. RISDAHL: Good morning, Chairman
34 Encelewski and members of the Council. Greg Risdahl
35 Forest Service Subsistence Program Lead, ISC. Thanks.

36
37 MS. SENEAL: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
38 Council members, Anna Senecal, Fisheries Biologist, OSM.

39
40 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
41 Members of the Council. Kendra Holman, Wildlife
42 Biologist with OSM.

43
44 MS. KOCHAN: Grace Kochan, OSM.

45
46 MR. FOLEY: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
47 members of the Council. Members of the public and people
48 in the room. My name is Kevin Foley, a fisheries
49 biologist with OSM. Good morning.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good morning,
2 thank you all, yeah, we'll each take a test at the end.
3 All right. We have some other phone introductions. Is
4 there anyone on the phone?

5
6 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher. I'm
7 going to do a rundown by agency to try to make it a
8 little easier. So, is there anyone on representing a
9 tribal government or Native organization? If you could
10 please introduce yourself.

11
12 MS. MARTIN: Good morning, this is
13 Catherine Martin with Ahtna Incorporated.

14
15 MS. BREMER: Good morning. This is
16 Christine Bremer/DeWeese with the Chugach Regional
17 Resources Commission.

18
19 MR. CARL: Hi. I'm Dustin Carl with the
20 Chugach Regional Resources Commission.

21
22 MR. WHISELL: I'm John Whisell with the
23 Native Village of Eyak and Cordova.

24
25 MS. PILCHER: All right. And then if
26 somebody isn't able to speak at the end, there will be
27 an opportunity for interject as you can. So, anybody on
28 from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game?

29
30 MR. PEOTTER: Hey, good morning, this is
31 Aaron Peotter, with the Department of Fish and Game. The
32 Federal Subsistence Liaison, taking over for Mark Birch.
33 Apologies for not being there in person this morning.
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. PILCHER: Thanks, Aaron. Anyone else
37 from Fish and Game?

38
39 (No response)

40
41 How about Fish and Wildlife Service?

42
43 MS. KLEIN: Good morning, this is Jill
44 Klein, I'm the Regional Subsistence Coordinator and ISC
45 member and based in Anchorage. So, I hope to come to the
46 meeting at some point in person. Good morning.

47
48 MS. PILCHER: Good morning, Jill. How
49 about anyone from National Park Service?

50

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1 MS. OWEN: This is Pat Owen, a Wildlife
2 Biologist at Denali National Park and Preserve.

3
4 MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks, Pat. How
5 about Bureau of Land Management?

6
7 (No response)

8
9 How about US Forest Service?

10
11 MR. MORSE: Good morning, Andy Morse.....

12
13 (Simultaneous speech)

14
15 MR. SANDERS: This is Andy.....

16
17 MR. MORSE: Go ahead, Andrew.

18
19 MR. SANDERS: This is Andrew Sanders, I'm
20 the Subsistence Program Manager for the Chugach National
21 Forest, over here on the phone. I wish I could be there
22 in person, but I'm here in Cordova. Sorry, Andy.

23
24 MR. MORSE: And Andy Morse. Forest
25 service, law enforcement, also in Cordova.

26
27 MS. PILCHER: All right. Thanks, guys.
28 How about Office of Subsistence Management?

29
30 DR. VOORHEES: Good morning. This is
31 Hannah Vorhees, Anthropologist with OSM.

32
33 MS. LA VINE: Good morning, everyone.
34 This is Robin LaVine, Subsistence Policy Coordinator
35 with OSM here in Anchorage.

36
37 MS. MCDAVID: Good morning, this is
38 Brooke McDavid, I'm the Eastern Interior RAC
39 Coordinator.

40
41 MS. PILCHER: All right. How about anyone
42 from Bureau of Indian Affairs?

43
44 (No response)

45
46 Okay, how about anybody that I might
47 have skipped over that is agency or non-government
48 agency or any members of the public?

49
50

00011

1 MR. SARAFIN: Good morning. This is Dave
2 Sarafin, now a member of the public, in this category,
3 I have recently retired as the fisheries biologist for
4 the Copper River at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and
5 Preserve. So, now I am attending personally as a resident
6 of Tazlina and subsistence user.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, greetings
9 Dave. I'm glad you got to retire, I'm hoping I'm
10 following you. Okay, Faye, I got a question for you.
11 Would you like to do -- I'm going to turn the meeting
12 to Faye, just for a minute here. Before we get started,
13 they would like to do a celebration, a little song for
14 us.

15
16 MS. EWAN: Good morning. We're from Ahtna
17 region. And in our traditional way, when we have a
18 celebration to celebrate, we're going to sing one song
19 for our late grandma Katie John for her victory in the
20 court yesterday. And we just wanted to sing one song for
21 celebration so that we begin our celebrating with her.
22 So, thank you, Kathy Martin, you better sing.

23
24 (Traditional Ahtna song - "Katie John
25 Celebration Song

26
27 MS. EWAN: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
30 very much, very appropriate. Thank you, all of you.

31
32 MS. EWAN: Woohoo!

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You didn't know
35 that was -- she didn't know that was coming up. Okay.
36 We're going to go ahead now and review and adopt the
37 agenda. So, if you guys want to take a look at that. Go
38 ahead, Nissa.

39
40 MS. PILCHER: And I can give you guys a
41 quick rundown of some changes. So, one, removal of item
42 11. This -- these are the changes from the -- from your
43 black homebound book to the agenda that was handed out
44 in the room that's also online, that's also on that back
45 table. So, removal of agenda item 11, which was Council
46 training, that was removed to allow for more time for
47 the secretarial review discussion. Which was also moved
48 from agenda item 7 to agenda item 10a. Removal of Native
49 village of Eyak update, Matt is unable to attend the
50 meeting because we rescheduled it. Also renumbering of

1 the agenda to accommodate these changes. An additional
2 attempt to streamline is to move the proposal numbers
3 around so that the staff that are presenting just stay
4 up there the whole time until they're done. So, we don't
5 have to play musical Chairs. If you'd like, I can run
6 down the new -- okay. So, 1st would be WP26-12, -13a,
7 -14a. 2nd, WP26-13b, -14b. 3rd, WP26-24 and then 4, 5,
8 6, 7, is what falls after that, so, X, XI, XII, XIII,
9 and XIV. So, the rest of those under regional proposals.
10 And we'll be really clear when we -- when the analysts
11 start giving the presentations what proposal we're on.
12 Because I realize I'm running through this kind of
13 quickly. Number 8 would be a crossover proposal. If you
14 guys choose it to take it up, it's on the next page,
15 that's WP26-74. 9, is the statewide proposal, WP26-01.
16 10, is WP26-11. The 11th proposal we'll take up is WP26-
17 15. 12, is WP26-16. 13, is WP26-17. 14 is the Unit 7 for
18 bears. So that's WP 26, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. And
19 last but not least 15 is WP26-71. I can also try to put
20 this on a piece of paper and put it up on the Board as
21 well for people to follow along. And then of course,
22 there may -- both Deanna with Ahtna and Jackie Keating
23 with Fishing Game have asked to go today, if at all
24 possible, we can fit them in due to schedule conflicts.
25 Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, anyone
28 understand that? Anyway, I would request from Nissa a
29 cleaned-up agenda for us so I could follow it, or at
30 least guide me through where we're at, because that was
31 -- I'm usually fast but that's quite a quite a change.
32 So anyway, we'll work through it. And, and we get
33 offline. And so, I would introduce a motion to a review
34 and adopt the agenda as amended.

35
36 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you
39 Michael, is there a second?

40
41 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second by Andy.
44 Discussion.

45
46 (No response)

47
48 Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

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1

2

CHAIRPERSON ENCELWESKI: Any opposed?

3

4

(No response)

5

6

7

Okay, it passes. We will follow the revised agenda. We have some minutes of our previous meeting. We need to review in the previous meeting and approve. I think they're on page 7. Go ahead, Andy.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a quick typo change. Two thirds of the way through my report from last time on the minutes that says, subsistence trawling in Chenega. It should be trolling for t-r-o-l-l not a-w-l. Thank you.

17

18

19

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy. Any other corrections?

20

21

(No response)

22

23

24

Hearing none. Is there a motion to adopt as amended or corrected?

25

26

UNIDENTIFIED: I'll make a motion to adopt.

27

28

29

MR. OPHEIM: Second.

30

31

32

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Moved and seconded by Michael. Thank you. Any discussion?

33

34

(No response)

35

36

Hearing none. All in favor, aye.

37

38

IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40

CHAIRPERSON ENSCRELEWSKI: Any opposed?

41

42

UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: They stand approved, thank you. Okay. We're now going to go to the regional subsistence reports, and we'll start with the Council members. And at this time, they give a brief report of their area and what's going on. So, Hope do you want to start with it down there and we'll just work around here. No, okay.

1 MS. ROBERTS: So, I recently moved from
2 Valdez to Anchorage, and I've not really done a lot of
3 wildlife stuff in the last year, I've been doing other
4 things. But with the tragedy of the Halong typhoon, I
5 just randomly applied for a grant and won it and will
6 be planning a marine hunt with some of the evacuees in
7 the future to help keep their traditions going and keep
8 them fed with the healthy food that they require. So
9 that's basically what I have for now.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Very
12 good. Thank you. Angela.

13
14 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
15 Angela Totemoff, spent the summer season in Prince
16 William Sound around Valdez and Tatitlek area. In terms
17 of fishing, we did have a strong silver run this year,
18 which was really nice that -- we do have a set up out
19 there. One thing that was kind of disturbing to the
20 community members was the passing of a fisheries that
21 was opened up right next to Nunu, which is a traditional
22 use area for pinks. Yeah. We had a couple of seiners
23 come in and really do some damage with some of the fish
24 that usually go up the stream. So that was upsetting for
25 the community. So, they're going to be looking for some
26 changes here in the next couple months. So, other than
27 that, herring, we have a small herring show up not
28 consistently yet. So, we're looking to try to increase
29 the herring habitat back to Tatitlek. They used to have
30 a really strong traditional -- they would lay their eggs
31 right outside of the village and we would subsist on the
32 -- what we call spawns out there. We haven't had that
33 consistently in a while, so we're hoping to work with
34 some of the organizations to reestablish a stronger
35 herring run near the village. And other than that, we
36 did have a really great year for berries actually and
37 we had a great year for hunting deer out on Black Island.
38 They do have -- I'm not quite sure what the species is,
39 but there's a pretty strong deer population there that's
40 thriving out there right now. We do have a lot of
41 interest in some sport hunting out there towards our
42 lands for goat. And so that's something that
43 corporations are looking at. There's no determination
44 right now if they're open to open up their lands. But
45 we have seen an increase in interest out there. And so,
46 yeah.

47
48 MR. WILSON: Good morning. My name is
49 Kirk Wilson and this last year; I've focused a lot on
50 the moose population in Unit 13 and what's going on

1 there with our closed down caribou season. And I'm
2 focused on trying to find a way to have the subsistence
3 hunters, to have time away from all of the rest of the
4 hunters in our area and actually give them some places
5 to go where not everyone can hunt there. Because we're
6 just running out of moose in Unit 13 and we're being
7 overrun by urban hunters. There's no place left for the
8 subsistence users to hunt because the field is crowded.
9 And I've just -- I've traveled around Unit 13 this last
10 year more than ever in the past, filming parking lots
11 and documenting hunters from, not our area. And I'll
12 have a lot more to say about it during the meeting.
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
16 Kirk. Michael.

17
18 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. It seems like we had
19 a pretty good year in Seldovia. We had -- seem like a
20 good salmon return this year. Pinks and kings in the
21 slough, and people were getting their reds. We had
22 silvers. We had a good berry year, which was kind of
23 nice. And then and moving into hunting season. We had
24 it seemed like a drop in population for our Spruce Hen.
25 But our rabbit population still doing good. The bear
26 population, I don't know what happened there. Doesn't
27 seem like there's a whole lot of black bears that were
28 harvested. I do tagging and I think maybe I heard one
29 bear getting tagged by one of the other taggers in town,
30 so I don't know what was going on there. We did get the
31 deer planted on the south end of the peninsula in
32 September and that's been really great. Been keeping up
33 with that. There's three bucks and ten doe's left from
34 that planting right now. And hoping that they make it
35 through the winter and start populating the area. That
36 would be pretty cool. Be another food source. Food
37 security. Our moose population is not really good
38 probably since the 80s. It's doing a little bit better
39 in recent times. One of the guys got a 62 inch this
40 fall, so that was kind of nice. And goats they had a
41 good bunch of goats harvested, I think one nanny maybe
42 and it's kind of a shame. With our small population, we
43 don't like to see that. Usually, it's the outside hunters
44 that get the nannies. A lot of our guys are pretty good
45 at picking those out. Yeah. Good duck season. Plenty of
46 ducks. Lots of golden eyes. Lots of mallards. The swans
47 are staying a little bit bigger population this year
48 between Nanwalek and Seldovia. Seems like they bounce
49 back and forth depending on the weather. So, it's been
50 pretty good year for us down there, critter wise. So,

1 thanks.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: It sounds
4 encouraging, thank you. Faye, you want to...?

5

6 MS. EWAN: Well, my fishing and hunting
7 stories is still the same as last year. Except it got
8 worse. The king salmon was cut off July 1st for us
9 upriver. Also, we didn't get any silver salmon at the
10 end of the fall. Also, the water was very -- wasn't very
11 friendly with us this year. The high-water mark was
12 always high. The fish wheels, a lot of people lost their
13 wheels and a lot of focusing on salmon. I really believe
14 that, you know, it's really hurting us in Prince William
15 Sound. When we're not eating our king salmon and
16 preparing our food, we're hurting. People are crying for
17 dry fish and king salmon is very important. Its a staple
18 food. It's a sacred food to our people. We use it for
19 ceremonies. And also, the caribou hasn't come back, it's
20 been in decline, declining even more. I don't know how
21 these guys count the statistics but it's still the same
22 as what I said last time I was here. You know, it [sic]
23 really hurts me the most, is that it seems like I'm not
24 getting heard by any organizations that controls this
25 thing. What happened to our caribou? We used to have a
26 million caribou crossing the roads in -- all year long.
27 Now we see -- we're lucky -- I seen 5 caribou by Eureka
28 a month ago. And I -- the state troopers had just given
29 two caribou away to people for roadkill. That's the only
30 way we can eat our traditional food, which is hurting
31 our people, our children. I don't even know how they
32 taste caribou. This kind of stuff here, infrastructures
33 is really hurting our people, our staple food. We can't
34 live on pilot bread and spam. It's not our way. The
35 things we do with salmon we do. We make salmon oil.
36 That's what takes care of our illness in the winter.
37 Without the king salmon head and the way, we make it,
38 we can't do it. We didn't get we only got a couple jars
39 of salmon oil this year because there was no kings. When
40 we got to Copper River, the biggest king salmon I was
41 given to by an elder lady that had a fish wheel in
42 Tazlina, she gave me one. It was probably about maybe
43 two and a half three feet. That was the biggest king
44 salmon in the wheel that she had. And that's her big day
45 then coming back. You don't see no, 36, 40, 45-inch king
46 salmon anymore because they're being wiped out. Industry
47 is really affecting my traditional way of life and
48 caribou, I mean, moose. The only way we get moose meat
49 to feed our people today is roadkill, which is really
50 sad because we can't teach our young people how to hunt

1 and go out and know how to know their land and Ahtna
2 region. Our land is selected by different state and
3 federal, and the rural preference really helps us in the
4 federal level. But the state of Alaska is very unkind
5 to us Ahtna region people. It's not that we're, you
6 know, enemies of them. We're just trying to take care
7 of and feed our people. To the non-native people it's
8 industry and money, which really affects me because it
9 hurts my heart when I see my people asking me for fish
10 and moose and caribou or traditional food. And I have 5
11 freezers, we can fill this whole room up and every kind
12 of food anybody gets rid of, just can't take care of, I
13 take it. Like Kirk comes and give me meat. You know,
14 people give me meat, Karen Linnell whoever takes it, I
15 share it among our elders and our people that can't take
16 care of themselves. And it's really hurting me because
17 our smokehouses are empty in Copper River. In 5 years
18 mark my words, you will not have Copper River salmon
19 fishing anymore. Just like the Yukon and Kuskokwim.
20 They're dying off and our salmon is coming back mostly
21 with hatchery fish. I grew up in Copper River. I was
22 born and raised there. I know the river, I -- my family,
23 we have fish wheel every year. And my good story to the
24 stories that I had a fellowship once this year and I
25 went out and I got a wood mill, a sawmill, and I taught
26 these young men how to cut wood and make lumber and go
27 out in the woods and get trees and cut it up. And we
28 dried it, and we made our own fish wheel from sustainable
29 products. We didn't have to buy lumber from the lumber
30 yard and spending like \$30 a sheet for plywood and stuff.
31 So, this is sustainable that we did to teach our kids
32 how to fish, but we can teach them how to fish. But if
33 there's no fish, what are they going to do and why --
34 and the other things too is the encroachment, like Kirk
35 said, the encroachment on the people that's coming up
36 to fish and to hunt and fish. Chitina is getting wiped
37 out before that gets to Copper Center. Chitina -- this
38 one guy was telling me he got 80 kings. They weren't the
39 right size, so he threw them all back in with the guides
40 that help him. You know, they took them out fishing and
41 I said what was wrong -- how come you -- isn't that kind
42 of against the law? He said no, we wanted to get the
43 biggest one. And I said, did you get a good one? And he
44 said, no. And I said, well, where's the other 80 fish?
45 You should have kept it and give it to me. And he said,
46 oh, the guy said we had to throw it back in the river.
47 You know what? To me, that is against my traditional law
48 and Ahtna way. We have traditional law call (In Native).
49 We do not do that to any kind of food off the land. We
50 respect our fish and our meat where it come from. We

1 have a sacred ceremony for when salmon comes in. This
2 is the stuff that's really affecting me and my family
3 and our people in Copper River. We don't mind sharing.
4 We don't mind, you know, helping other people, but it
5 really would be good if we could do some kind of
6 regulations, at least curb the dates from the what time
7 it is to commercial fishing to a later date, especially
8 king salmon. It's sad. I only got two king salmon, and
9 I had to give it to two older elders because they were
10 older than me and out of respect for my culture. So, she
11 gave me back the fish head, which is, you know, we barely
12 made any fish oil out of it. But this is what my story
13 is. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. It's a sad
16 story and I appreciate that. Judy, you want to go next?
17

18 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
19 is Judith Caminer. I'm from Anchorage and we had a pretty
20 nice summer, and berries were fairly plentiful
21 eventually. But then a lot of rains in the fall and
22 really, the only information I have on hunting is in the
23 state park where moose hunting is allowed, and not that
24 many, you know, maybe a total of 15, but on registration
25 hunt. But not that many were taken. But I'd say, you
26 know, based on my own observations, the moose are pretty
27 plentiful around Anchorage and it's the longest cold
28 stretch I can recall. It's probably been about six weeks
29 of pretty cold weather. I mean, not even seeing double
30 digits, which for Anchorage seems a little bit cold but
31 we got a little snow now, so that makes it a bit easier.
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
35 Judy. Edward.

36
37 MR. GREYBEAR: This is Edward Greybear
38 from Native Village of Kluti Kaah. This hunting season
39 was unsuccessful for me. There was an increase in hunter
40 population again, just like last year. And every trail
41 I kept trying to go through, there was more and more
42 ATVs and side by sides in large groups. And so, I just
43 didn't get to see any moose. I didn't get to provide for
44 any of my family members and none for my elders. My
45 village, which is usually what I like to do. And the
46 salmon return was pretty poor, and we usually have a
47 large like jarred salmon reserve in case of times like
48 this, but I only got maybe like two cases of jars, and
49 that's about it. And we didn't really get any smoked
50 salmon this year. And I recently went back to school at

1 University of Alaska Fairbanks for aerospace engineering
2 and calling home to my grandma and her asking for like
3 moose and salmon is pretty heartbreaking to me, knowing
4 that I couldn't provide.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
7 Edward. Andy.

8
9 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Andy McLaughlin
10 from Chenega Bay, Prince William Sound. Our red return
11 was pretty good this summer. The humpy return was quite
12 average. There was silvers that seemed to be an
13 improvement over the previous year. But not a lot of
14 them. There was a hatchery chums, which is a terminal
15 harvest fishery from the AFK hatchery there. The reds a
16 lot of them get caught up as bycatch by these commercial
17 sanders and the hatchery chum run. There's definitely a
18 decrease in clams of -- like, higher levels of clam
19 worms. If you go try to dig clams, for one thing. Higher
20 levels of sea otters, maybe that's a factor in the clam
21 decline, but clams that have -- even the soft-shell clams
22 that have typically been abundant have very low numbers.
23 Rockfish seems to be a pretty much mainstay average. At
24 least that's something that's relatively dependable for
25 food. The king salmon, very poor. Not -- historical
26 couple decades, three decades, of knowledge about the
27 king salmon trolling there, kings are not as available
28 as they used to be. We've had a pretty good salmonberry
29 and blueberry crop. There's less herring than typical.
30 A lot of times spring, you get big schools. We don't
31 have any of the spawning near us at the village of
32 Chenega Bay and Southwest Prince William Sound. But
33 we're also seeing less humpback whales in the winter,
34 which some stay over and don't travel to their mating
35 grounds in the tropics. They stick around and eat on
36 schools of herring, which we're not seeing as much of
37 as we have in the past couple decades. The winter crab
38 mostly tanner's is all I'm speaking about, is far lower
39 catch than usual. The black bear numbers below average,
40 if you try to look back at the past 20 years or so
41 there's way less black bear. Deer population is below
42 average. Not sure if that's a function of weather, which
43 typically it has been, but I believe it might be a
44 function of the flotilla of lodges and these outfitters
45 that come primarily out of Whittier and they charter and
46 they just bring, you know, ten people at a time and then
47 take away ten people. It's like a revolving door of
48 harvesters that are non-resident, that state sport hunt.
49 I know of no goats having been harvested last year or
50 this year from the village when you typically we would

1 get one to three. As for the Native marine mammal's
2 hunt, far less seals are being shot by local hunters
3 that are qualified in the village there. I'd like to
4 mention, oh, I -- for 30 years, I've been fishing heavily
5 on the Gulkana River. And typically, by the 4th of July,
6 you would see a lot of, you know, at least reds as a
7 mainstay. I could hardly believe the entire river from
8 Paxson Lake down had like no reds to be shown now. I had
9 heard that later, so it was a month later perhaps, that
10 they finally showed up. It was like a month in timing
11 that like, it's like, where are these fish? And it's
12 very fearful. I mean, I had never imagined not seeing a
13 fish in this entire stretch of maybe ten fish for usually
14 a place where you would see literally 10,000, that -- I
15 could hardly believe that. So anyhow, my moose camp was
16 another failure second year in a row. Couple decades
17 every year moose were taken from my camp, and this is
18 the second year in a row. It's a function of the more
19 caribou hunters because the caribou herd has crashed,
20 have moved over to moose hunting. So, that has making
21 [sic] the -- increased competition in the state sport
22 hunting for moose. And so, I myself was lucky enough
23 that I had a friend involved with a roadkill moose, and
24 got some road killed cow. So at least I got some meat
25 to take home. But that's the first time I've ever had
26 to do that. But I'm very thankful for having that
27 opportunity. So, anyhow federally, oh, and one last
28 note. Federally qualified subsistence users in Prince
29 William Sound have no legal means to subsist in the
30 waters of Prince William Sound that continually need to
31 solely be controlled by the state of Alaska. This
32 jurisdiction issue has not gone away, nor has it been
33 remedied. That's a pretty big issue that needs solved.
34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Ed.

37

38 MR. HOLSTEN: Yes Mr. Chair, Ed Holsten,
39 Cooper Landing. In terms of fisheries in our area both
40 runs, we get two runs of red salmon. First one goes up
41 to Russian River. It was a real strong run of reds. Good
42 size fish. Second run, splits and half go up the Kenai
43 all the way to Kenai Lake. The other half go up the
44 Russian River. That second run, even though I believe
45 it was a record run on the Kenai, lower Kenai, a lot of
46 the fish that we get up in our area stalled out at Skilak
47 Lake and finally made it up to the upper Kenai, but most
48 were in spawning phase, pretty red. Like everybody, we
49 had a real mild and rainy fall, very little snow. Then
50 temperatures dropped out and in Cooper Landing we had a

1 lot of days of subzero. Then last weekend we finally got
2 some snow. We got about 2.5ft of snow came down and it's
3 still cold. In terms of wildlife, grouse populations are
4 real low, few snowshoe hares. Most of our moose, which
5 in Unit 7 are really low population, most of our moose
6 lucked out this year and stayed pretty high up during
7 the winter. Although I'm sure there's -- snow has forced
8 them down a little bit. But anyway, we had very few road
9 kills, which is good in terms of berries. It was a good
10 berry year, in terms of blueberries, although some areas
11 had some pretty severe insect infestations and a lot of
12 berries were -- berry plants were completely defoliated.
13 But other than that, all in all, a pretty good year.
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Ed.

17
18 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. Last but not least.....

19
20 (simultaneous speech)

21
22 I'm Dennis Zadra.

23
24 (Distortion)

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

27
28 MR. ZADRA: Oh yea. Dennis Zadra from
29 Cordova. Oh, gosh. In 2024, Board of Fish opened a
30 subsistence dungeness crab fishery, which we haven't had
31 for a long time, so that was exciting. The little bit I
32 did do was not successful. You know, they're -- here
33 there's more crab further to the east down in Controller
34 Bay and all that, but it's a long ways to go and fish
35 two pots. So never made it down there. We lost the first
36 week of our commercial gillnet fishery, which now does
37 not open till after May 22nd. And we saw unprecedented
38 closures in both time and area, in all that, and
39 ultimately put almost amillion salmon over the counter.
40 Our subsistence halibut fishing and commercial the
41 fishing., I don't commercially fish halibut anymore, but
42 it's been slower. You know, guys have to set more gear
43 and all that. But we did catch a few fish, so they're
44 there if you want to work for them. It was a pretty nice
45 summer overall, and as everybody said, we had a lot of
46 berries we had -- our yard was full of salmonberries.
47 Hot and dry early in September when we had our moose and
48 it was hard moose hunting. They weren't moving, but we
49 did manage to kill two bulls at the party that we built,
50 so fortunate for that. Definitely more pressure on the

1 mountain goats in the sound, the quotas are being reduced
2 and we're just seeing more and more pressure coming out
3 of Whittier and all of that. We lost our ferry on the
4 1st of October for three and a half months and that's
5 been pretty tough on Cordova. So, -- but the boat needed
6 some extended maintenance. And also, that's why
7 hopefully that won't happen. And we're supposed to get
8 it back at the end of this week. The 60 North Seafoods
9 donated 600 pounds of cod and rockfish to the Glennallen
10 School District, for a fish -- for school thing, but
11 without the ferry they had no way to get it. So, I ran
12 those fish over and I can't remember who I met up with,
13 but we sent -- I sent that fish up to them, so that was
14 good. I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with our
15 grandkids on the Kenai Peninsula and as Ed said, it was
16 -- I've never seen it that cold over there. And finally,
17 it was unseasonably cold while we were gone in Cordova.
18 Then it snowed and then it warmed up and rained, and we
19 have nothing but a sheet of ice everywhere. So that's
20 what's going on in Cordova right now.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, that ice
23 is terrible everywhere, thank you, Dennis. Heath, are
24 you online? Can you -- I know you're having a little
25 connectivity issues but you're up if you want to give a
26 report.

27
28 (No response)

29
30 Okay, we might come back to him if we
31 still -- he still gets on. But I'm going to go ahead and
32 give my report now a little bit. Some stuff in the
33 peninsula area I'm from and a few things. Kings and
34 silvers, you know, the heart goes out to all of you.
35 There's -- there the kings are pretty well shot in our
36 area, although there was a very interesting thing. The
37 state that manages the fisheries for the state
38 commercial fisheries, they closed the set nets for the
39 fourth year again. So, we were not able to -- the
40 commercial fishermen were not able to fish. And that's
41 generally where we do get our kings. We have to buy
42 them. But anyway, long story short, they did get their
43 minimum escapement sometime in August. And here's the -
44 - they opened the set net for one day or two days. No
45 one was ready. No one could go fish you know, so, that
46 was a lost opportunity for us once again. But the kings
47 -- the reds on the Kenai were very prolific. They had a
48 very good run, a strong run. And I know that the drifters
49 did get -- and also our resource team that's here, Darell
50 and Jake, they could give you a report on, maybe just a

1 brief one after I'm done, on the Kenai fisheries that
2 we have a federal subsistence fishery on the Kenai. And
3 we did really great. We provided fish for the community
4 there, and I think it was 3 or 4000 fish, but it was
5 very good year. It was very intense operation. But I'll
6 let Darell just briefly tell you about it, that'll be
7 part of my report. The moose are okay down there but
8 we've worked very hard to regulate the moose on Native
9 land because we don't have the federal land, when Todd
10 will give you his report and I think he did pretty good
11 up there with the moose this year. We take on actively
12 predator control ourselves in Ninilchik we try to keep
13 the wolves down some. We've done pretty good at that in
14 the past. The moose season, I don't know, was not super
15 good. But I'm telling you, I was really blessed. I'm one
16 of the guys sitting here that got a really nice moose
17 this year. I get a break, I'll show you a picture. But
18 anyway, 54-inch 4 brow tine. I had to do a lot of talking
19 and praying and calling for that guy, but anyway, I got
20 him and so that was very -- I got to share a lot with
21 people. So, there's people getting moose in the
22 community. We do have, you know, a federal potlatch, we
23 get a few moose we get some -- a couple for a charity
24 too to donate to the people. So that's okay. The clams,
25 once again, they're closed. There's no clam
26 opportunities anymore in our area. We have to go across
27 the inlet to try and get them and they're not the
28 greatest. You know, I hear some of this stuff mentioned
29 on roadkill and it just infuriates me because it's nice
30 to have an opportunity. You don't want to waste that but
31 a lot of the moose on roadkill are not fit to eat, and
32 we shouldn't have subsistence users have to eat roadkill
33 when there's actually plenty of moose in some areas. But
34 it's just the distribution in the federal lands and the
35 Prince William Sound stuff. There's lots of rabbits
36 around my house if you want to come get rabbits, talk
37 to me. But that's about it. But we've been blessed, I'm
38 going to tell you a story about the kings and this -- I
39 just want to not take too much time. But what we've
40 done, we've -- it's been a work around and it's a very
41 expensive work around. But we buy kings from southeast,
42 and we have them flown in frozen. We got them through a
43 program with the tribe for food securities and we bring
44 them in. I was fortunate to get five kings myself that
45 are small, you know, like, it would be from days gone
46 past, you know, you would -- you wouldn't -- you would
47 think they were silvers. But anyway, they're nice and I
48 smoke them up and share them with the tribe. And so, we
49 get a few of that and the elder's program, distribute
50 some of the kings out. So, we spend quite a bit buying

1 fish and silvers because we don't have silvers anymore.
2 The only opportunity in our area is state, and we have
3 a state educational fishery. The educational fishery was
4 just a failure there. They got a few reds but that's it.
5 No kings, no silvers. So, there's trouble in paradise
6 and I really hear everyone, all the Unit 13 issues and
7 stuff. So, we'll be discussing that a lot today. But
8 yeah, as far as the fisheries, it's -- we started an
9 intertribal fishery council on the Kenai Peninsula.
10 Ivan, executive director, he's heavily involved and I'm
11 the elder representative. And it's the fish -- all the
12 people in the area to get representation for our
13 fisheries. That's my report as -- Darell, would you just
14 take a minute and then tell them how you run our fishery?
15 And that's part of my report.

16
17 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning, everybody.
18 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. My name is Darell
19 Williams, from Ninilchik. Caught me off guard but good
20 morning. It's good to see everybody. I haven't been here
21 in a while. So, it's always interesting to me when I
22 come to the subsistence meetings and we listen to the
23 problems and issues that subsistence users have. It took
24 us a solid ten years to be able to establish a fishery
25 on the Kenai River. I will say that the active knowledge
26 of subsistence users on how to harvest is paramount. We
27 were told that it couldn't be done. Our method of fishing
28 uses a selective method of harvest based on river
29 morphology, so we can pick where the fish go based on
30 how the river runs. And it's been super effective. The
31 runs that we had this last year were outstanding on both
32 the Kasilof and Kenai rivers. So, our fisheries uses
33 federal subsistence permits. And basically, what happens
34 is the subsistence users get a permit. They bring it to
35 us. And instead of having everybody out there, we go out
36 there and we harvest the fish for them. We fish from the
37 Kasilof River for, gosh, about three weeks. And it's a
38 slower fishery. But we finished the fishery on the Kenai
39 River, if I remember right, it was six days. So instead
40 of having a lot of people out there doing all kinds of
41 stuff, we put the net in the river, we get the fish, we
42 harvest it, and we're done and everything's out of there.
43 And it's right -- just shy of 5000 fish. It's over 300
44 permits that we fill for the subsistence users. So, it's
45 turned out to be a pretty successful program. In a
46 nutshell. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
49 Darell. Jake, you got any comments you want to make, or?
50 Jake is one of the young guys working in our resource

1 department down there, is heavily involved with
2 fisheries. So, you can see I'm trying to stack them up
3 so they could take this stuff. Thank you.

4

5 (Pause)

6

7 Okay. I just want to mention again that
8 public and tribal comments on non-agenda items, those
9 are available each day. And so, if you -- anyone has any
10 comments or public testimony on non-agenda items. I
11 think our agenda is going to cover a lot. Karen, you got
12 something you'd like to talk to you on that you want to.

13

14 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
15 the record, my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the Executive
16 Director for Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission,
17 which is comprised of 8 federally recognized tribes and
18 2 ANCSA corporations who are landowners. We've got over
19 12,000 years of history in the Ahtna territory based on
20 science. That's 420 generations of stewarding the lands
21 there. I didn't -- I looked for it on the agenda, and I
22 didn't see it but there's a federal scoping happening
23 in regards to the Federal Subsistence Board makeup and
24 the how the subsistence program will be run. This is
25 based on a letter or petition by the Safari Club
26 International. In response to the changes in the
27 expansion of the Federal Subsistence Board, to include
28 3 tribally nominated seats, in the 3 public members,
29 they're trying to reduce those and give the state a seat
30 on the Federal Subsistence Board. Right now -- and you've
31 heard it in my testimony on how we have to educate the
32 regional directors on Alaska subsistence. When there's
33 a change in administration, we end up with a change in
34 regional directors at the five branches of government
35 that serve on the Federal Subsistence Board with US Fish
36 and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, BLM, National
37 Park Service, and Indian Affairs. And with those
38 changes, we see -- we have to teach them about ANILCA,
39 ANCSA, we have to teach them about the rural priorities
40 and how important and integral that subsistence is to
41 rural communities in both tribal and non-tribal citizens
42 that live in rural communities in rural Alaska.

43

44 The Safari Club International or SCI
45 does not represent rural Alaska. They represent trophy
46 hunters and sport guides and those things, those folks
47 who are not life dependent on the resources out on the
48 on the land. In the shift of control that they'd like
49 to see with wildlife management going -- and fisheries
50 management going to the state of Alaska could threaten

1 our rural priority. We've seen in the last several years
2 declines in fisheries populate -- escapement and being
3 able to meet those goals. We've seen crashes in three
4 caribou herds. We've seen the Yukon River unable to fish
5 now, five years going on, and with a five-year moratorium
6 coming up, you know, those kinds of things under state
7 management. And if we don't have federal management of
8 these resources, we can see a drastic decline in all the
9 resources across the state. It's your involvement in the
10 management of these resources that is holding them
11 accountable to making sure that we have these resources
12 available. We've seen co-management work in the
13 Kuskokwim where the Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish
14 Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are
15 co-managing the salmon for the mid-level of their
16 escapement goals. And they've met them for the last 10
17 years. When the state of Alaska manages for the lower
18 level of their ranges, they're not meeting their goals.
19 And you know, we don't want to fight over the last
20 salmon, we don't want to fight over the last moose or
21 caribou. We want healthy populations so that we can care
22 for each other and our neighbors. And that -- that's the
23 main goal is to have healthy populations. The -- this
24 letter is not -- or this petition, isn't addressing Title
25 VIII of ANILCA and the authorities within their Title
26 VIII, Section 801, Subparagraph (5), says an
27 administrative structure is to be established for the
28 purpose of enabling rural residents who have personal
29 knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have
30 a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife
31 subsistence uses on public lands in Alaska. That's you,
32 the Regional Advisory Councils. There's power in the
33 Regional Advisory Councils because you get to have and
34 provide local knowledge, local input to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board management. It's key to knowing what's
36 going on. Alaska is a huge state with 26 different
37 ecosystems, and you can't manage it from an armchair,
38 look at the reports and understand what's happening.
39 Just to give you an example, my personal experience when
40 I served on the Board of Game, there was a proposal and
41 positioning of caribou and I think but it came before
42 the Federal Board as well, in how to get around the
43 caribou and the positioning of caribou in in western
44 Alaska. And I was like, wow, we just go around the hills
45 and we'll, you know, you can get around them so where
46 they can't see you and get -- well, if I hadn't gone to
47 Dillingham and seen for myself how flat that territory
48 is and that you cannot get around them, that -- and --
49 in -- so that you can position yourself for the caribou.
50 I was with Hazel Nelson, who was Subsistence Division

1 Director at the time, and she said, yeah, if my dog ran
2 away today, you'd still see him running tomorrow. That's
3 how flat it is. And had I not seen that for myself, I
4 probably would have voted differently. And that's why
5 it's so important to have that local knowledge. Your
6 knowledge in in the areas that you live in the resource
7 -- and what you see happening with the resources is
8 vital to good management. And so, I -- it took decades
9 to get changes in the Federal Subsistence Board. There
10 was a congressional review. Then we got expansion of 2
11 public -- 2 more public members and then it took another
12 15 years to get the expansion for the tribally nominated
13 seats. So now we have a Board of 11, that can look at
14 and have some long-term history and consistency in the
15 Boards with -- without a change in turnover with the new
16 administrations. That consistency is important to ensure
17 that we have history of the resources we have history
18 of the regulations and changes that have happened. We
19 have history of actions taken prior, so that we don't
20 have to reinvent the wheel every time we have a change
21 in administration. Re-educate those regional directors
22 into what ANCSA and ANILCA are and why federal -- there's
23 a federal rural priority for subsistence. And I just
24 want to urge you to speak up for that. Look at the rural
25 priority. Speak up for the long-term history and
26 knowledge of the resources that you folks bring to the
27 table that inform management decisions as well. So,
28 thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
31 Karen. Yeah, we're going to be talking about this issue
32 also under -- so, I think it's going to be under number
33 10, report from the Secretary's office. So, we are going
34 to talk about it some more today. But thank you very
35 much.

36
37 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. With that
40 said, regardless of what Nissa tells me, we're going to
41 take a break and let's take a 10-minute break.....

42
43 (Simultaneous speech)

44
45 MS. TOTEMOFF: Real quick, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI:.....so, we can
48 get some more coffee.

49
50

1 MS. TOTEMOFF: Chair. Mr. Chair, real
2 quick. Can I just comment real quick? I believe I was
3 at that same Board of Game meeting. And the man who
4 wrote the proposal, the way that they worded how they
5 have been positioning for hundreds of thousands of years
6 or thousands of years. It was so powerful that it
7 couldn't be said in English. And there is at least 100
8 people in that room that day, I think. And it's just
9 sent chills throughout the whole room. And it was just
10 that powerful that just couldn't even be said in English.
11 I just wanted to add that.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I appreciate
14 that. Okay. Yeah. Let's go ahead and take a 10- minute
15 break and then we'll come back. Try and be brief on the
16 break, okay. Thank you.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, folks
23 we're going to go ahead and get started. Just for a
24 couple items. Hey.

25
26 (Pause)

27
28 Okay, we got their attention, thank you.
29 We have report of the secretary's office that's been
30 moved to a time certain of 1:30. So, we'll do that right
31 after lunch and then we're going to move on down the
32 line here. But I do have one public testimony. Dave
33 wanted the public testimony before we broke for lunch,
34 and I didn't get him on the phone. So, Dave, are you out
35 there?

36
37 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, I am, Mr. Chair. Thank
38 you for this opportunity.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You bet. Go
41 ahead.

42
43 MR. SARAFIN: Okay. Yeah, I would just,
44 you know, a big part I'd like to say, let everyone know,
45 I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to provide
46 the Council Copper River fish updates for, I think it's
47 probably a little more than the past decade, maybe. And
48 I do hope to stay connected on subsistence issues of the
49 southcentral region. You know, I live in Tazlina, where
50 I've been for 27 years, living in a log home that I

1 built personally, with my wife. We have no grid connected
2 electricity and heat entirely with a wood stove. So,
3 there are other aspects of a lifestyle that goes beyond
4 the Council's directives on fish and wildlife. I guess
5 that I'm -- have some insight from, like, right now,
6 after the really cold weather we've had, there's a lot
7 of catch up on firewood you got to do. It's amazing how
8 fast you go through the pile. You know, also, I feel
9 very fortunate to have met Katie John. And, you know, I
10 greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of Katie,
11 her family, Catherine Martin, for their cooperation of
12 the National Park Service operation of the Tanada Creek
13 Weir on their lands at Batzulnetas. And it's been a true
14 privilege to personally lead that weir for over 20 years,
15 and there's been countless other individuals involved
16 in that project that really appreciate that and it's
17 something I haven't really had an adequate opportunity
18 to mention. So, I wanted to do so now. So -- but
19 otherwise that's most of what I wanted. And thank you
20 very much for this opportunity.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank
23 you, Dave and you better get to your wood pile but keep
24 listening. Thank you. Go ahead, Judy.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: Dave, this is Judy Caminer.
27 I wanted to thank you for your long years of service,
28 and you really have been so good with the reports to the
29 Council but also being actively involved in helping with
30 proposals and running the weir and the culture camp in
31 cooperation with the families. So, thank you for all
32 your hard work and dedication and glad to hear you're
33 staying in the area. And who knows, maybe eventually
34 you'll apply to be on the RAC.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: She's
37 soliciting. Thank you.

38
39 MR. SARAFIN: Thank you, Judy.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay Nissa, if
42 we got it right, we're going to go ahead and move into
43 Wildlife Proposal 20-11, 13 and 14 and it's a Unit 6,
44 brown bear. Is that the one we're on the new agenda?

45
46 MS. PILCHER: That is correct, 12-13A-
47 14A. I did pass out copies of the new order there also.
48 There's a stack of them over by the door there hanging
49 on the wall and I will project the document onto Teams
50 as well.

1

2

DR. VOORHEES: All right, this is Hannah Voorhees. Good morning, I'm an anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. I am hearing an echo. Are you guys able to hear me?

6

7

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we hear you loud and clear. Go ahead.

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DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. All right, so, I'll be presenting WP26-12, -13a, -14A, which begins on page 55 of your meeting materials. And I did want to note briefly that there's some slight differences between the version online and in your books. This is due to some recommendations we received from NVE after the online version was posted, which we accommodated. So, in the next version going forward to the Board, those changes will be reflected in all versions. And I also just want to say, I'm sorry I can't be there in person today but it's great to hear all your voices and I look forward to seeing you in person in the future. So, proposals WP26-12 and 13a were submitted by the Native Village of Eyak and Dennis Zadra, respectively, and request that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of brown bears in Unit 6 by residents of Cordova. WP26-14a submitted by this Council requests that the Board recognize the customary and traditional use of brown bears in Unit 6 by residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. Currently, there is no federal subsistence priority for brown bears in Unit 6. This dates back to 1992, when customary and traditional use used determinations were carried over from the state. Residents of Cordova already do have customary and traditional use determinations for the following species and areas in Unit 6. Black bears and wolves throughout the Unit, goats in Unit 6A, 6C and 6D and moose in Unit 6A, 6B and 6C. Residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek already have C&T determinations for several species within Unit 6, including black bears and wolves throughout the Unit, goats in Unit 6C and 6D and moose in Unit 6D. The state harvest limit for brown bears in Unit 6D, which encompasses Prince William Sound, is 1 brown bear every 4 regulatory years. The state harvest limit is more liberal in Units 6A to 6C east of Cordova, where hunters can take one brown bear every regulatory year. And those are the regulations that have provided opportunity up to this point for these communities. When conducting a customary and traditional use determination analysis, 8 factors are considered. You can find them listed on page 61 of your book. And please keep in mind

1 these are not a checklist. The Board makes customary and
2 traditional use determinations based on a holistic
3 application of these 8 factors, as well as the reports
4 and recommendations of your Council. The Board makes
5 these determinations for the sole purpose of recognizing
6 the pool of users who generally exhibit the 8 factors
7 and not for resource management or for restricting
8 harvest. The subsistence practices of residents of
9 Chenega, Tatitlek, and Cordova reflect the cultural
10 traditions of the Chugach Sugpiaq (Alutiiq) of Prince
11 William Sound, the dAXunhyuu (Eyak) of the Copper River
12 Delta, and Russian and American settlers. Subsistence
13 patterns in the region focus on the marine environment
14 but bears and goats were utilized as they were the
15 largest and most important land mammals originally
16 available. Brown bears had and continue to have deep
17 spiritual, symbolic and material importance for the
18 Chugach Sugpiaq (Alutiiq) and dAXunhyuu (Eyak). Native
19 Village of Eyak affirms that brown bears have
20 traditionally been used by their people. Ancestral
21 knowledge, memory and cultural continuity established
22 that the traditional use of brown bears is an integral
23 part of the region's cultural heritage. Researchers
24 beyond the tribe have likewise demonstrated a deep
25 record of brown bear use in the region going back
26 thousands of years, which is detailed extensively in the
27 analysis. While brown -- while black bears are still
28 harvested, there is less evidence for the use of brown
29 bears in the region since 1900, particularly for Chenega
30 Bay and Tatitlek. The reasons for this are somewhat
31 unclear. Looking at division of subsistence surveys
32 across study years between 1985 and 2003, an average of
33 approximately 4% of surveyed Cordova households
34 attempted to harvest brown bears and 1% of households
35 were successful. An average of 1.4% of surveyed
36 households used brown bear during survey years. An
37 average of 12 brown bears per survey year were harvested
38 by the community. There is 1 year of data with harvest
39 locations and in that year the brown bear were harvested
40 in Unit 6. During all the years in which Chenega Bay and
41 Tatitlek were surveyed, between 1984 and 2003, no
42 households reported harvesting or using brown bears.
43 Chenega Bay was surveyed 7 times during this period, and
44 Tatitlek was surveyed 5 times. Just over 6% of Chenega
45 Bay households attempted to harvest brown bear in 2 of
46 their survey years. And it's notable that during the
47 same period, surveyed households in Chenega Bay and
48 Tatitlek harvested and used black bears in almost every
49 study year. Brown bear hunting tends to be specialized,
50 and it's possible that some households that harvested

1 brown bear were not included in the surveys, or that
2 surveys did not capture harvests for other reasons.
3 Regulations may have contributed to harvest of black
4 bears over brown bears. State regulations are more
5 liberal for black bears than Prince William Sound and
6 the 3 communities can also harvest them under federal
7 regulations. So, looking next at reported state harvest,
8 between 1998 and 2023, residents of Cordova harvested a
9 total of 169 brown bears in Unit 6. With most harvest
10 occurring in Units 6B and 6D. During the same time,
11 residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek did not report
12 harvesting any brown bears within the Unit. There are
13 no brown bear sealing records for Chenega Bay in Unit 6
14 for any year in ADF&G records. Two brown bears were
15 sealed for residents Tatitlek and Unit 6, 1 in 1994 --
16 excuse me, 1984 and 1 in 1985. The OSM preliminary
17 conclusion, however, is to support these proposals. In
18 addition to testimony from the Native Village of Eyak,
19 there is strong ethnographic and archaeological evidence
20 that both brown and black bears played a central role
21 in Chugach Sugpiaq (Alutiiq) and dAXunhyuu (Eyak)
22 culture in alignment with the 8 factors through the 19th
23 century. Since 1900, there is more evidence for use of
24 black bears and brown bears, particularly for residents
25 of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek. However, the reasons for
26 this interruption of use are not clear and may hopefully
27 be illuminated by this Council. However, subsistence
28 practices are characterized by their adaptability and
29 shifting use of brown and black bears may reflect local
30 preference, shifting opportunity and external
31 constraints. Under federal subsistence regulation,
32 residents of Cordova, Chenega Bay, and Tatitlek already
33 have C&T for black bears throughout Unit 6. Based on
34 this and other determinations for land mammals in the
35 region, the 3 communities have already established a
36 recognized pattern of harvest and use of wild resources
37 in Unit 6, consistent with the 8 factors. And so, I'll
38 close by asking the Council to please provide any
39 additional information you may have about the use of
40 brown bears in this Unit, particularly by residents of
41 Chenega Bay and Tatitlek, this would be very valuable
42 to have on the record. Thank you. I'm open for any
43 questions.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Hannah,
46 I'm gonna [sic] you know, very good, go, through the
47 process here. But I'm going to have Nissa, go ahead and
48 explain the process we use to go through the proposals.
49 Thank you.
50

1 MS. PILCHER: Alright, so for those
2 listening and those in the room, just -- so what's going
3 to happen with these proposals and closure reviews is
4 the analysts are going to give the presentation like
5 Hannah just did. And then we'll open it up for comments
6 or questions, excuse me, from the Council members. Then
7 the analyst will give if there was any public comments
8 received during the open comment period, which was
9 almost -- which was basically last summer at this point.
10 Then we'll go through a list, and all of this is found
11 on the back of the Council members placards. It's also
12 found in the meeting book, the process. So first we'll
13 see if there was any tribal and ANCSA corporation
14 consultations given during that consultation that will
15 be given by Mr. Lind in the back. Then agency and tribal
16 comments such as Fish and Game, any federal agencies,
17 other tribes and ANCSA corporations, then advisory group
18 comments, then other written public comments. So,
19 comments that were received after the comment deadline,
20 if we've received any of those. Then there'll be an
21 opportunity for public testimony. And then after all of
22 that -- and then that is when the Council will make a
23 motion to put it on the table. And as a reminder we do
24 Robert's Rules of Order. So, everything has to be in the
25 affirmative. So even if it is something that you don't
26 necessarily agree with, it still has to -- you have to
27 make the motion to put it on the table. You can then
28 follow it up with and if I get a second, I can then
29 explain why I will be voting against my motion or
30 something along those lines. So just remember, we have
31 that process to run through. And then after all of those
32 groups are asked about testimony, then we put it on the
33 table in an affirmative motion. And those motions are
34 also available on the back of the placard. Once again,
35 proposals or support, support with modification, take
36 no action, those kinds of things. But I will certainly
37 be helping us walk through that process when we get
38 there. All right. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank
41 you. We've walked through it many times, but some
42 haven't. And I see we've added to it. So, we like to
43 make things more thorough. Hannah, you're done with the
44 presentation. So now we got the public comments received
45 during the opening, Orville did we get any comments?

46
47 MR. LIND: Good morning, Chair and
48 Council members. It's good to see everyone here. I love
49 that when people show up. During the consultation
50 session we held in August 19th on Wildlife Proposal 26-

00034

1 12, 13A and 14A, we did not have any questions or
2 comments on those proposals. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
5 Orville, good to see you. Okay, next I'm going to go is
6 there any tribal or ANCSA corp. consultation reports?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Hearing none. We're going to ask if
11 there's any agencies or tribes comments. And under that,
12 we could start with the Alaska Department of Fish and
13 Game. Okay. Jackie, you want to go ahead.

14
15 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
16 the record, Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence at
17 the Department of Fish and Game. Short and sweet from
18 us. The department's neutral and eligibility
19 requirements for participation in the subsistence
20 program provided under ANILCA. We would simply recommend
21 that the Federal Subsistence Board thoroughly and
22 carefully review the data relevant to the 8 criteria for
23 those communities that do not yet have a C&T finding.
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
27 thank you, Jackie. How about federal agency next?

28
29 (No response)

30
31 How about tribes or corporations?

32
33 (No response)

34
35 Okay. How about advisory groups? Is
36 there other RACs, advisory groups? Fish and Game,
37 advisory groups

38
39 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

42
43 DR. VOORHEES: This is Hannah Voorhees,
44 for the record. There is no crossover on this proposal,
45 so no other Council ever heard it. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anything
48 from a Subsistence resource commission?

49
50 (No response)

1

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No. Any other written public comments?

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MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher, for the record. There were no written public comments received after the comment deadline. And just so it's clear on the record, there also were no comments received prior to the comment deadline either.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank you. How about public testimony? Anyone out there on the phone or here want to testify to this matter?

(No response)

Okay. Hearing none, we're going to move into a Council motion. Who would like to make a motion to put it on the table, WP26-12, -13A, -14A. Andy.

MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I moved to support WP16-12/13A/14A.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, Andy. Is there a second?

MR. HOLSTEN: Second.

MS. TOTEMOFF: For purposes of discussion.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're waiting for a second, is there a second by Ed? Okay, Faye, turn your turn light on. Yeah.

(Simultaneous speech)

We got it, thank you. Now it's on record. Okay, okay. Go ahead, Angela. We got a motion. We got a second. Now we can discuss it.

MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just some comments -- I am -- I'm still -- I support traditional customary designations, for sure. I do think that we need to carefully evaluate those for every community. And I say this very seriously because this is my community here as well. But that doesn't change my stance on the process of evaluation for traditional customary. I think that's a very serious designation that needs to be handed out and carefully considered. So, my -- I guess my only question was, is I know that

1 there were tribal consultations. Can you remind me what
2 the process is for outreach for the tribes that were
3 actually listed here? Is there anybody that.....

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we can,
6 Orville you want to tackle that.

7
8 MR. LIND: Great question. So, the
9 process usually when consultation -- regulatory
10 consultations happen with Wildlife Proposals and
11 fisheries proposals, they're on a certain date. If there
12 is a consultation request from a tribe we go ahead and
13 acknowledge by finding final dates, alternative dates,
14 we ask Federal Subsistence Board members if they're
15 available. We also ask RAC members Chairs, closest to
16 the proposals, whether they're affected -- communities
17 that are affected. And we all come to agree on a final
18 date, the date is mentioned in a tribal invite and then
19 we make it happen. And as always on our website is
20 helpful. Although with the closure happening, we don't
21 have our website updated yet. We just hired on a new
22 news release person. And so, we're lacking in that
23 department, but we will get it done. And also, people
24 will text me, email me if they request a consultation.
25 And with OSM team available, Board members available,
26 we try to make it happen.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Did that
29 help out, Angela?

30
31 MS. TOTEMOFF: Yeah, thank you for that
32 reminder. Is there -- do you guys do email requests or
33 e-blasts with -- that provide information about this
34 process.

35
36 MR. LIND: Email, I prefer email like
37 most folks do, because then we can have record of that,
38 create a dialog to continue to have that so -- but I get
39 phone calls also. We got a request yesterday from the
40 other regional Council. And so, we're going to work on
41 it although I'll be traveling next week, but we have
42 staff, we have the greatest team for this, for this
43 program. And I can't say enough about our team. If one's
44 gone, one steps up. So, consultations will happen when
45 they're requested.

46
47 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you. The only reason
48 I bring that up is I know that for sure -- for one, me,
49 it's really important that tribes be -- tribes and tribal
50 Councils do be involved in this type of process that

1 involves, you know, any -- not only C&T but anything
2 that's happening within the region, I think it's very
3 important. And the reason why I'm bringing this up is I
4 know that, you know, some tribes, mine in particular,
5 we do have very tight capacity and so, it's very small.
6 And there's not a lot of knowledge about what this
7 process could be or what this process is. And so that
8 kind of raises concerns for me and that they don't
9 understand what this whole process means and what it
10 means for these proposals to go through, especially if
11 it's affecting their community in particular. And so, I
12 was just bringing up just some concerns that maybe we
13 could address and really map out what that tribal
14 consultation looks like. Provide them with a kit, so to
15 speak, on contact information. And you may already be
16 doing this already and I'm just -- this is just reminding
17 me that that we just need to brush up on that. And I
18 know it's difficult because of the government shutdown
19 and everything, but.....

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, I'm
22 going to speak to that just a bit here. Orville if you
23 don't mind. The C&T historically has been a real heavily
24 discussed issue of the Council because we take it very
25 seriously and we way back to the Ralph Lohse days and
26 the rest of them, he had asked that people requesting
27 C&T show up at the RAC meetings and testify but, you
28 know, now we do a lot by public you know, emails and so
29 on and so forth. So, I think it's worth discussion and
30 keep it in our minds. If we have comments or questions
31 on that, we need to thoroughly -- go ahead. Andy.

32
33 MR. MCLAUGHING: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
34 Chair. Just purpose for justification, I don't take
35 making a motion for something like this lightly. I could
36 say of the Charlie Selanoff, Ken Glassoff might be one
37 to consult in your area, the late Dave Totemoff, people
38 that aren't available anymore. But I know of skin boat
39 days where Kings Bay bears, Montague Island bears from
40 a long time ago, time immemorial before them even
41 mentioned about bear stories and harvests that happen.
42 So, to me C&T, it's just -- this is a shoo in for me,
43 for Chenega and Tatitlek.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
46 Andy, that's exactly what the kind of testimony we want.
47 Thank you. Judy.

48
49 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
50 thanks for bringing up those points, Angela. Hannah, I

1 thought you did a good job with the analysis. We have
2 one of the proponents right here on the RAC. And Greg's
3 absolutely correct, we are really careful about C&T but
4 this one appears to be not only justified but also
5 leaving the door open as circumstances change for
6 hunters or subsistence users, to switch to other
7 resources as they might need it. Because, as we've heard
8 from everybody, how resources are declining. So, thanks
9 very much.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.
12 Orville.

13
14 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
15 thank you, Angela, for bringing that up. Just to say a
16 little more, to add a little more, we have just updated
17 our tribal engagement presentation, and I gave it to
18 Kodiak in North Slope, seem to be going very well. Since
19 the closure, we haven't had the opportunity to do that
20 at each region -- the remaining regions. However, we
21 have plans to do that in the winter RAC meeting. So
22 eventually you will get to tribal engagement
23 presentation. And in that presentation, it kind of lays
24 out what we do to prepare for consultations. And you
25 mentioned something about, you know, one of the things
26 that is difficult to do at times, however, we try our
27 best to do it is to update all our contacts. And since
28 2014, since I've been on Board I believe every year,
29 I've given out my contact office number. I used to have
30 cards and stuff like that but also tribes change hands
31 also understood. And so, it's -- I think it's one of the
32 challenges we have is to up -- keep the update contacts
33 for each tribe, all 229 of them. And -- but I think
34 we're getting better at it, and we are going to get
35 better at it. And so, I appreciate that question, I
36 really do. So, thank you for your time.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go
39 ahead Angela.

40
41 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you for that
42 clarification. I really appreciate that. And just to be
43 clear, I do support this moving forward that -- I grew
44 up hearing stories of my grandpa Charlie Selanoff
45 talking about that. So, I just wanted to be clear, I do
46 support it. What I was just commenting on is I do believe
47 in tribal engagement 100% and that whether it's Council
48 or tribal members, I think that they should be involved
49 in this, especially if it affects their community and
50 they're listed in there specifically. So, that was just

1 the point I was making. But I do support the proposal
2 in general.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
5 you. Thank you, Orville. Okay, We're -- we have a motion,
6 we have a second, we've had some discussion, is there
7 any more discussion on the topic? Go ahead, Dennis.

8
9 MR. ZADRA: Yeah. I just want to clarify,
10 when this first came up I -- the reason I brought in the
11 proposal to allow the Cordova residents because I did
12 not feel that, you know, this is a Unit 6 brown bear
13 proposal, but the Cordova residents should be
14 discriminated against for that. So, if it's Unit 6 and
15 all. And I'm -- just so I'm clear, the only thing this
16 is doing is giving 1 brown bear to federally qualified
17 subsistence users from August 1st, whenever. That state
18 season in Unit 6D opens October 15th and the -- in Unit
19 6A, B and C, it opens September 1st. So, all this does
20 is it gives 1 federally qualified person, which is
21 anybody out of Cordova or anybody out of Chenega or
22 Tatitlek, to go and shoot a brown bear on August 1st.
23 And I guess my question is, why would you want to do
24 that? You know, I've killed 3 brown bears, and I've
25 eaten two of them and they're terrible. And they were
26 both in the spring when they're there -- I could not
27 imagine trying to eat a bear that's been feeding on
28 salmon streams all summer. And your high quality is just
29 absolutely terrible, you know? So just to have the
30 opportunity is great, but I just -- I, you know,
31 personally, I just could not see why -- what's the
32 benefit of shooting a brown bear in August?

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think Andy
35 will speak to that. I was going to speak to it too. But
36 there's other uses too. Yeah.

37
38 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Yeah, other uses too. In particular or it could have
40 been a defending your deer kill or some other thing,
41 August 1st. You know, somebody may have shot the brown
42 bear in that type of scenario, but then they're still
43 going to want to utilize those resources the claws, the
44 hide, whatever in a customary and traditional use
45 fashion.

46
47 MR. ZADRA: Okay, no, and I get that. And
48 there was a proposal came before the Board of Game, and
49 an outfitter actually was trying to change the opening
50 date of that 6D brown bear season to October 1st. And

1 that was the reasoning that he used. It's like, well,
2 there's October 1st is when you can start hunting those
3 and there's still a lot of bear interaction with the
4 hunters. The Board of Game did not pass that, and I've
5 guided in those areas to, you know, by the time October
6 15th comes around, those bears are hard to find. So --
7 but there's a reason the state did it. It's like the
8 bear population is not thriving and they're just trying
9 to, you know, make it more difficult to harvest these
10 bears and especially wait till after they're off the
11 salmon streams.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Dennis,
14 thank you. Just as a reminder, and, Judy, that this is
15 for C&T and it's not for season dates, but anyway.

16
17 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Faye.

20
21 MS. EWAN: This is Faye Ewan. I was going
22 to ask (indiscernible). What's the population of brown
23 bear in that area? I was looking at your map.

24
25 DR. VOORHEES: So, I can't speak to the
26 entirety of 6D, Tatitlek we've barely, rarely seen any
27 brown bear.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

30
31 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
32 Chair. I would just say Hinchinbrook Island, Montague
33 Island, Kings Bay. There are areas where if hunters go,
34 it is not uncommon for them to have brown bear
35 encounters.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

38
39 MS. EWAN: I'm going to add, is it a large
40 population like black bears or...?

41
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Well, on Montague and
43 Hinchinbrook in particular, I'm not quite sure there's
44 a lot of black bears at all, the brown bears probably
45 haven't pushed out but both species are in Kings Bay.
46 Yeah, it's relative to how large you want to call it.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
49 Faye.

50 (Simultaneous speech)

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MS. EWAN: Thank you both.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Hannah, go ahead we'll -- we had another one, go ahead.

DR. VOORHEES: Thank you. Sorry for interjecting. I just want to note that as you mentioned, this is just for C&T, and there is a separate proposal that you'll be hearing soon. WP26-13b and 14b, which is about establishing the season and the harvest limit. And there will be more information about the brown bear population that's available from the presenter when you hear that. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep, correct, yeah. That's what I was going at with Dennis. So, thank you. Thank you, Dennis. Yeah, okay. Any other discussion? Going once. Going twice. Judy, go.

MS. CAMINER: Thanks. I think this proposal is beneficial to subsistence users and there's not a conservation concern, so I support the motion and call for the question.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has been called for all those in favor, aye.

IN UNUISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed, same sign.

(No response)

Hearing none, the motion passes unanimously. Okay, we'll move on to the next one and that's WP26-13b and 14b brown bear established the hunts and this one is we got a different presenter, no, Hannah's going to present this right? Kendra?

DR. VOORHEES: No, I'm handing off to Kendra, I believe.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So that's Kendra, and then
4 Hannah.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we got 2.
7 Go ahead, Kendra, you start. I got 2 proposals -- 2
8 presenters. Thank you.

9

10 MS. HOLMAN: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
11 members of the Council. My name is Kendra Holman. I'm a
12 Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence
13 Management and I'm here -- Hannah is online, she's the
14 co-author for this proposal analysis. This can be found
15 -- the Wildlife Proposal analysis WP26-13b and 14b can
16 be found starting on page 73 of your meeting book. 24-
17 13B was submitted by Dennis Zadra and 24-14b was
18 submitted by the Southcentral Region Council. Both of
19 these proposals request to establish a brown bear hunt
20 in Unit 6C or -- in Unit 6 with a harvest limit of 1
21 bear by federal registration permit and a season of
22 August 1st through June 30th. Both proponents state that
23 the time-honored subsistence practices of brown bear
24 harvest in Prince William Sound date far back. Most of
25 Prince William Sound consists of federal public lands,
26 many of which consist robust brown bear populations that
27 can withstand limited federal harvest and provide
28 subsistence opportunities. And you previously just voted
29 on the C&T portion of the proposals that were submitted.
30 So, the Federal Subsistence Board regulatory history for
31 Unit 6 for brown bears hasn't been changed since the
32 early 1990s. So Brown Bear can be found throughout most
33 Unit 6, including Hinchinbrook, Montague, Hawkins, Kayak
34 Islands and portions of Unit 6D east of the Columbia
35 Glacier to Icy Bay on the mainland. No population data
36 actually exists and biological data is sparse for brown
37 bears within Unit 6C. Conservative approach for managing
38 is warranted with this limited data -- limited to no
39 data. No permits or harvest tickets are required for
40 brown bears in Unit 6A, 6B, 6C, or 6D Remainder under
41 state regulations, while a registration permit is
42 required to hunt brown bears in Unit 6D, Montague Island.
43 All harvested brown bears are required to be sealed
44 within 30 days of the kill, providing harvest
45 information. On Table 1, on page 79 of your meeting book
46 shows the harvest of brown bears in Unit 6, broken down
47 by subunits, with most of the Unit 6 harvest coming from
48 6D and 6A. 6A is primarily harvest guide -- guided
49 participants and 6D is particular -- has more
50 participation from non-local Alaskans who can hunt

1 without a guide. Non-residents and non-local residents
2 account for 88% of the Unit 6 brown bear harvest between
3 2014 and 2023. Unit wide local residents, which would
4 be residents of Unit 6, including the non-rural
5 community of Valdez, harvested an average of 6.2 bears
6 per year from 2014 to 2023, accounting for 12% of the
7 harvest during that same time period. Unit wide harvest
8 is evenly dispersed between the spring and the fall but
9 varies among sub-units. There were 2 alternatives
10 considered within this. Those can be found in your
11 meeting book. If you would like more information about
12 it, let me know. If proposals WP26-13b and 14b are
13 adopted, the federal brown bear hunt would be
14 established in Unit 6C increasing subsistence
15 opportunity. Impacts to the brown bear population is
16 uncertain as there is little biological information
17 regarding brown bears in the Unit 6C, a conservative
18 approach to managing them is warranted. This proposal
19 increases subsistence opportunity. Harvest pressure is
20 expected to be very low and there is no conservation
21 concern for Unit 6A, 6B and 6C. The additional federal
22 subsistence opportunity during August and late June is
23 not expected to substantially increase harvest and
24 provide a subsistence priority. Limiting the number of
25 permits issued in 6D balances subsistence opportunity
26 with conservation concern providing a safeguard against
27 overharvest. So, the OSM preliminary conclusion is with
28 modification to divide Unit 6 into 2 hunt areas and
29 delegate authority to the Cordova District Ranger, to
30 set and adjust annual harvest quotas determined by type
31 of permit and the limit the number of permits issued to
32 Unit 6D. So, thank you, Mr. Chair. Members of the
33 Council, I'll be happy to address any questions that you
34 may have.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
37 you. Questions?

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED: Are there any current
40 studies that are going to be happening for the brown
41 bear population? So, that going forward maybe those
42 numbers of permits could go up?

43
44 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. None that
45 I know of, but the state would probably have a better
46 answer for that, although I don't know. Aaron might be
47 able to help answer that one.

48
49 MR. POETTER: Yeah. Good morning, Aaron
50 Poetter for the record. I -- yeah, I'm not aware of any

1 proposed or ongoing brown bear studies that might help
2 to adjust limits there. Charlotte Westing would be the
3 -- who is the area biologist for Unit 6. She would know
4 best but not to my knowledge.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any other
7 questions for....?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 I guess not, so. Thank you. Okay.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 Okay. If we don't have anything,
16 questions or comments on the presentation, then how
17 about we'll go ahead and move on. Thank you, Kendra.
18 Let's see, tribal and ANCSA corporations' consultation.

19
20 MR. LIND: Thank you. Chair, Council
21 members. Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM, during
22 the consultation session, we did not have any questions
23 or comments on Wildlife Proposal 13B or 14B. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
27 Orville. Okay, any questions for Orville.

28
29 (No response)

30
31 Hearing none. Let's go to agencies
32 tribal comments. And we're going to move to the Alaska
33 Department of Fish and Game.

34
35 MR. POETTER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 Aaron Poetter, Alaska department of the Fish and Game.
37 We don't have any draft comments for this one available
38 to share with you at this time, thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty, thank
41 you. How about federal agencies?

42
43 (No response)

44
45 Okay, how about tribes and ANCSA
46 corporations? Good to go?

47
48 (No response)

49
50

1 Okay, I'm going to move on to advisory
2 group comments was there any other RACs comments?

3
4 MS. HOLEMAN: So, Mr. Chair, this is
5 Kendra Holeman, for the record, this proposal has not
6 been taken up by any other advisory -- Regional Advisory
7 Councils.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Okay, how
10 about Fish and Game Advisory Councils?

11
12 (No response)

13
14 How about the Subsistence Resource
15 Commission?

16
17 (No response)

18
19 Nope. Other written public comments.

20
21 MS. PILCHER: Nissa Pilcher, for the
22 record, there were no -- either, on time or not on time,
23 public comments received.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
26 you. How about public testimony, who would like to --
27 anyone like to testify? I don't have no slips up here,
28 but is there anyone on the phone or anywhere?

29
30 (No response)

31
32 Hearing none. I'm going to open it up
33 for a Council motion to adopt.

34
35 MR. OPHEIM: Michael Opheim, I'll make
36 the motion to adopt the proposal, WP26-13b and 14b.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Michael I was
39 going to read the numbers, but you got them for me.
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
45 Andy. Any discussion? Hearing none. Question. Dennis,
46 go ahead.

47
48 MR. ZADRA: Okay, thank you. Dennis Zadra
49 for the record and I apologize for my -- I've confused
50 these 2 motions but that's what -- I was going to answer

1 your question, Michael, about the bear population. So,
2 I'm a guide in these units, you know, I've been hunting
3 them for 30 years, you know, and the bears are not doing
4 very good at all, the brown bears. When it went to a
5 registration hunt on Montague, there were 7 bears
6 allocated for that registration hunt and that quota I
7 don't think has been harvested for about 18 years. You'd
8 have -- Charlotte, would it be the one to ask about
9 that, But it doesn't -- I no longer guide brown bear
10 hunters on either Montague or Hinchinbrook Island just
11 because, for one, there is a lot of resident pressure
12 there. It's not a quality hunt and frankly, there's just
13 not very many bears. So that's my concern. It's just the
14 resource is not doing well. I don't know what this might
15 do. It's going to definitely make it easier for people
16 to harvest these bears. You know, if August 1st, you
17 walk up any of those salmon streams on Montague, you're
18 going to find a brown bear. But that's just my opinion
19 of it. And I don't know how -- you know, what the ranger
20 would decide. You know how many permits they would get.
21 He's pretty conservative.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
24 any other comments or discussion? Go ahead, Andy.

25
26 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
27 Chair. Yeah, just a comment about that. The guiding is
28 a sport -- state sport thing and so, to me, it seems we
29 would be doing some type of disservice to -- because
30 that's still allowed but the subsistence doesn't have
31 the federal priority. So, in my opinion, you know federal
32 subsistence takes priority.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Correct. Any
35 other comments from the Council? Go ahead.

36
37 DR. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, I just wanted
38 to make sure the motion was to adopt but there is also
39 the OSM modification which separates out the 2 areas.
40 So, just to make sure that we are 100% clear if the
41 proposal -- the motion was to adopt as written versus
42 the OSM modification. Thank you.

43
44 (Simultaneous speech)

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED: With modification.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think it was
49 with modifications. Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I think
50 the second, both the modification. Thank you. Okay, any

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1 other discussion? Hearing none -- go ahead, Judy.

2

3 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair. Well.....

4

5 MS. PILCHER: Mic.

6

7 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair from the write
8 up, it's not clear -- it sounds like Fish and Game in
9 the past was not supporting this and now we don't know
10 what the department's position is. But I think the
11 analysis is thorough. Andy's point about providing
12 subsistence opportunity is important. And I believe the
13 RAC has confidence in the in-season manager and the
14 agencies abilities to assess in season what's going on.
15 So, I will support this and hope that there can be more
16 information in the future about populations and or about
17 the level of hunting. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Anyone
20 want to say something before someone calls the question.

21

22 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

25

26 MS. EWAN: I mean, if these guys are
27 going to go out hunting brown bears, what are they going
28 to do with the skin and the meat? Are they going to eat
29 it? Are they going to use it or what are they going?
30 They're just going out to shoot them. Are they bringing
31 them all back in like they supposed to do with wanton
32 waste and stuff like that? Is there any kind of rules
33 and regulations to that?

34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. They have
36 their rules.....

37

38 (Simultaneous speech)

39

40 MS. EWAN: They just can't go out there
41 and just take the skin out. That to me that's not the
42 way you're supposed to hunt.

43

44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'll let Anna go
45 -- I mean Kendra, go ahead.

46

47 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair. So,
48 under federal regulations, you actually have to take all
49 usable parts. So, you're not -- you know, with sport
50 hunters, they can take the hide and the skull or -- and

1 that's it. Whereas under federal regulations, you do
2 actually have to take all usable parts of the bear. So,
3 you're not able to just -- part of the federal
4 subsistence permit is that you do have to use all of it.
5 You can't just shoot the bear. Take the hide and leave
6 the rest.

7
8 MS. EWAN: Has the --- excuse me, through
9 the Chair. Has there ever been any kind of data study
10 on the contamination, what the bears eat and stuff like
11 that? You know, like plastic and things like that? Do
12 you guys ever do anything like on PFAS and the food that
13 changed that the bear eats in that region there. Do you
14 guys ever do any study like that?

15
16 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. Again,
17 that is not something -- not that I know of. Aaron on
18 the state side might have a better answer for that, but
19 I don't know of any.

20
21 MS. EWAN: The reason I say that is if
22 they're going to shoot a brown bear and it's contaminated
23 and stuff, you know that when you talk about
24 conservation, you know that there's a cycle of life
25 there. and who is going to go out and get the bears The
26 people in that region? Or is it going to be like, you
27 know, people from other regions go in there and hunt
28 like they do to us? That's scary.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nissa, you want
31 to go ahead and say something? She's got something.

32
33 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, I just -- this is
34 Nissa, for the record, I just wanted to -- as a
35 clarifying [sic]. So, this is this proposal and these
36 proposals we're going through concern federal lands and
37 federally qualified subsistence users. So, we're not
38 talking about the state regulations or state lands.
39 We're talking about generally people from the unit or
40 that have customary and traditional on these units are
41 able to go into potentially other units and hunt. So,
42 we're just dealing with federally qualified users.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. She's
45 good with it now. Thank you. Okay. Any other questions,
46 Michael?

47
48 MR. OPHEIM: Just a comment. I -- you
49 know, we just passed the C&T so, I think giving 1 bear,
50 a good conservative number to start with and giving

1 people the opportunity to go out and harvest is good and
2 I'll be supporting.

3
4 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
5 your comments. Any other?

6
7 (No response)

8
9 MS. CAMINER: Question.

10
11 (Simultaneous speech)

12
13 MR. WILSON: Seconded.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Questions been
16 called. Said seconded, we don't need a second on the
17 question, but thank you, Kirk. So, we're going to go
18 ahead. All in favor, aye?

19
20 IN UNUISON: Aye.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

23
24 (No response)

25
26 Hearing none opposed, passes unanimous.
27 Thank you. Okay, next one I have is. Thank you, Wildlife
28 Proposal 26-24 and this is Unit 11, brown bear, increase
29 the harvest limit to 2 bears and Kendra up again, 141.

30
31 MS. HOLMAN: I am --- Mr. Chair. So
32 again, for the record, Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist
33 with OSM. This is a summary of analysis for Wildlife
34 Proposal WP26-24 can be found page -- starting on page
35 141 of your meeting book. This was submitted by the
36 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, requesting
37 to increase the brown bear harvest limit to 2 bears
38 within Unit 11. Proponent states that this proposal
39 would provide additional opportunity for federally
40 qualified subsistence users and that there are no
41 conservation concerns for brown bears within this Unit.
42 Prior to 1999, there were no federal hunts for brown
43 bears in Unit 11. 2003 the Board extended the season to
44 match the state season. In 2016, the Board allowed for
45 brown bear hunting over bait following the Board of Game
46 adopting a similar proposal in 2015. Management
47 objectives for brown bears in Unit 11 has provided the
48 greatest sustained opportunity for participating in
49 hunting them. Brown bears are considered abundant in
50 Unit 11. Frequent sightings of females with cubs suggest

1 good productivity. Based on incidental observations and
2 harvest locations, brown bears inhabit most of Unit 11
3 except the high elevation glaciers. In 2019, the
4 National Park Service conducted an aerial survey for
5 brown bears that covered much of Unit 11. Preliminary
6 results suggest that brown bear densities within the
7 unit are consistent with recent density estimates, but
8 in nearby units. Given the low yearly harvest access
9 limitations and the large amount of habitat that serves
10 as refugia due to stricter eligibility for users per the
11 National Park Service regulations, hunting likely has
12 no influence on brown bear numbers, composition or
13 productivity trends within the unit. No permits or
14 harvest tickets are required for hunting brown bears in
15 Unit 11 under state or federal regulations. Although all
16 harvests of bears are required to be sealed within 30
17 days of the kill, providing harvest information. Bait
18 may be used in brown bears under state -- to hunt brown
19 bears under state or federal regulations. Brown bear
20 harvest in Unit 11 -- Oh, sorry. I'm going to skip that
21 one. Local residents, defined as hunters living in Unit
22 11 or 13, only harvested 1 to 5 bears annually over the
23 time frame from 2010 to 2013 averaging 2.6 bears per
24 year or 25% of the total harvest. Info on this can be
25 found on Table 1 on page 147 of your book. While an
26 annual harvest composed of at least 50% males is not a
27 management objective for Unit 11. This metric has been
28 monitored within the unit. from 2014 to 2018 the percent
29 of females in the reported harvest averaged 34, ranging
30 from 14 to 57%, which has been typical for Unit 11 since
31 1999. Again, this information can be found on Table 1
32 on page 147. Brown bear mortality occurring as DLP within
33 Unit 11 typically ranges from 0 to 1 bear in a five-year
34 reporting period. Unreported human caused mortality of
35 brown bear Unit 11 is likely minimal given the relatively
36 low level of hunting pressure. There were a couple of
37 alternatives that were considered. If you'd like more
38 information about that, let me know. If this proposal
39 is adopted, the brown bear harvest limit in Unit 11 will
40 increase from 1 to 2 bears, increasing subsistence
41 opportunity. This proposal also increases regulatory
42 complexity by misaligning state and federal harvest
43 limits for brown bear in Unit 11. The prohibition of the
44 take of sow and cubs -- or sow with cubs under both
45 state and federal regulations, help protect the
46 reproductive component of the population and promote
47 recruitment. Additionally, most of the brown bear
48 harvest is by non-federally qualified users. Federally
49 qualified users typically -- have historically only
50 harvested a few brown bears from Unit 11 and must salvage

1 both the meat and hide. Harvest is not expected to
2 increase substantially from increasing the harvest limit
3 to 2 bears. This proposal increases subsistence
4 opportunity, and there are no conservation concerns due
5 to the low harvest pressure and brown bear populations
6 that are considered abundant and healthy within the
7 unit. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to support this
8 proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Members of the Council,
9 happy to address any questions.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
12 you. Any questions? This one, you must salvage both the
13 meat and the hide.

14
15 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. So, through the Chair.
16 That is actually for all federal brown bear, bear hunts.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Orville,
19 you're up, go ahead. I think we're ready for your
20 consultation report, anything?

21
22 MR. LIND: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes,
23 there was representative from Ahtna region, and they
24 were in support of that Wildlife Proposal 26-24. Thank
25 you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
28 you.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 Tribal comments. Now we're going to go
33 to agencies. First, we'll start with the Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game.

35
36 MR. POETTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Aaron
37 Poetter, for the record. We don't have official
38 comments, which will be a theme for most of the proposals
39 before the RAC today as we're still in the process of
40 finalizing our drafts there. I would like to note as
41 previously mentioned, this would be a deviation and
42 increase in opportunity from those provided by the state
43 of Alaska in an area where it doesn't seem that there's
44 a lot of federal subsistence harvest on brown bear. And
45 so, the necessity for increasing the harvest limit is a
46 curious request. So, that's what we have for you for
47 this proposal. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Well,
50 thank you for that report(indiscernible). Next, I got

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1 federal agencies, anyone up here want to talk to it?

2

3 (No response)

4

5 Okay. Tribes. We had tribes of ANCSA
6 corporations and.....

7

8 (No response)

9

10 Nothing. Okay, how about advisory group
11 comments? Was there any other RACs? No.

12

13 MS. HOLMAN: No, Mr. Chair, no other RACs
14 have heard this proposal.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
17 you. How about Fish and Game Advisory Councils, anyone?
18 Here comes someone.

19

20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa Grediagin, for the
21 record. The Eastern Interior Council voted to take no
22 action and defer this proposal to the home region.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

25

26 (Talking)

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You go ahead.

29

30 MS. KOSBRUK: Thank you. This is Deanna
31 Kosbruk with Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. I
32 just wanted to state that after hearing -- listening in
33 to the Eastern Interior RAC, we will be referring back
34 to the region. So.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

37

38 MS. KOSBRUK: Just wanted to get that on
39 record. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
42 you. How about subsistence resource commissioners?

43

44 Ms. COHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the
45 record, this is Amber Cohen from Wrangell-St. Elias
46 National Park and Preserve. The Subsistence Resource
47 Commission actually took up WP-26, -24, -25, -26, and -
48 71 altogether. So, I'm just going to read the comment.
49 And when we do the other proposals, we can probably just
50 say refer to this, so I don't have to read the same

1 comment three different times. So, the Wrangell-St.
2 Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
3 unanimously supported this group of proposals to
4 increase the harvest limit for brown bears in Units 11,
5 12 and 13 with the modification to request the -- that
6 monitoring continues of brown bear populations. Many
7 observations have shown that brown bears are doing well
8 in those units but it's important that we prevent
9 overharvest. Increasing the harvest limit will also
10 allow for more harvest opportunities for local
11 subsistence users.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very good
14 questions? Thank you.

15
16 MS. COHEN: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
19 to move on to other written and public comments. Any?
20 Nissa -- ok, go ahead then I'll get you.

21
22 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair. So,
23 during the open comment period this summer, there was
24 one written public comment received that was from the
25 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. It can be found
26 starting this -- there's this multiple pages, covers
27 multiple different proposals. The one regarding this
28 proposal is on page 218 of your meeting book and that
29 was in support of this proposal.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Support, okay.
32 That's good, it got a lot of support, okay. Did you have
33 a comment there?

34
35 MS. PILCHER: There were no written
36 comments received after the public deadline.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
39 you. Okay, is there anyone that want to do some public
40 testimony on this?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Hearing none. We'll open it up to the
45 floor for a Council motion.

46
47 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make that motion for
48 WP26-24, Unit 11 brown bear.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
2 Michael. Is there a second?

3
4 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy, Seconded.
7 Okay. Open for discussion. Any other discussion? Ed?
8 Nope. Sorry. Okay. Go ahead, Kirk.

9
10 MR. WILSON: Yeah. As to Unit 11, it's
11 very unaccessible [sic] and to protect our moose
12 population for those 2 reasons, for me, it's a no
13 brainer, I'm for this.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you for
16 the comment, good. Andy.

17
18 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair. That that's where I was going with the, you know,
20 a little -- right now at a time when moose and caribou
21 numbers are low and the reading in the discussion affects
22 no impacts to the Unit 11 brown bear population. That's
23 kind of a no brainer. It's such a low harvest rate that
24 this type of -- in wildlife management, this is called
25 compensatory mortality and not additional mortality.
26 Since relatively statistically negligible for such a low
27 number. That's already being harvested. I think they're
28 expecting a vast. But I do agree with the Subsistence
29 Resource Commission there about continued the monitoring
30 of this to make sure that this harvest does not become
31 something of detrimental or conservation concern to that
32 population. Also taking into account, that Ahtna
33 supports it. They've always proven to be great stewards
34 of the land and the populations that exist there. And
35 this is important to them, enough to weigh in and support
36 this. So, I don't think that they are finding a
37 conservation concern.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
40 Andy, thank you. Okay. Go ahead.

41
42 MS. EWAN: This is Faye Ewan from Kluti
43 Kaah. From what I see about the bear population and
44 Copper River since there's been such a moose and caribou
45 decline, I noticed that they've been coming in more to
46 the villages and to where I live in Copper Center and
47 coming more to the residential area. And a lot of it
48 comes from the mountains and they come over during
49 fishing season, you know, in fall time. And the
50 population I see is the wolf and the black bears are

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1 multiplying by coming into the residential area. And
2 they're, you know, to me, if you're going to shoot a
3 berry, make sure you use it right. And the population
4 is not being affected 10 years from now. That's what
5 concerns me. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Faye. Go ahead.

9
10 MR. GREYBEAR: This is Edward GreyBear.
11 I'll be in support of this proposal with the continuing
12 monitoring, just like the southcentral region -- or
13 sorry, Wrangell-St. Elias Copper Reserves commission.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
16 Edward. Any other comments? Go ahead, Michael.

17
18 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah. Just echoing a lot of
19 what has already been said, the additional opportunity
20 to harvest and then the continued monitoring I'll be
21 supporting.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
24 Anyone else? Go ahead.

25
26 UNIDENTIFIED: Call for the question.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has
29 been called for. All in favor, aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed,
34 same sign.

35
36 (No response)

37
38 Hearing none, passed unanimous. Thank
39 you. What's the time coming to? Okay, we're going to
40 keep on trucking here. Wildlife Proposal 26-25 26, Unit
41 13 brown bear, increase to 2. This is -- Kendra you're
42 up.

43
44 MS. HOLMAN: Thank you again, Mr. Chair.
45 For the record, Kendra Holman, Wildlife Biologist with
46 OSM. This is the summary for the analysis for Wildlife
47 Proposal WP26-25 and 26, which can be found starting on
48 page 149 of your meeting book. WP26-25 was submitted by
49 the Eastern Interior Council and WP26-26 was submitted
50 by the Southcentral. Both of them request to increase

1 the harvest limit for brown bears to 2 within Unit 13.
2 Prior to 1999, there was no federal hunt for brown bears
3 in Unit 13, 1999 the Federal Subsistence Board
4 established the brown bear hunt. In 2003, extend -- they
5 extended the brown bear season. In 2015, the Board of
6 Game allowed for baiting for brown bears under state and
7 in 2025 the Board of Game increased the brown bears
8 harvest in Unit 13 to 2 bears under state regulation as
9 well. State management objectives for brown bear include
10 unit -- in Unit 13 include reducing brown bear densities
11 and maintain a wide -- unit wide population of 350 brown
12 bears. Based on studies conducted within Unit 13A in
13 1998, estimated 21.3 independent brown bears per 1000km,
14 which represents 1260 bears within Unit 13. Based on the
15 aerial capture, remarked surveys done in 2011, that
16 population reduced 25 to 40% with a 13 brown bears per
17 1000 kilometer squared. The study was repeated again in
18 2022, and preliminary analysis suggests the brown bear
19 population in 13A study has stabilized at the lower level
20 -- at a level lower than 1998 and shows some increase
21 in the total number of bears since 2011. The density of
22 independent bears has generally remained about the same.
23 While the density estimate for Unit 13A study area may
24 not be applicable to all other parts of Unit 13, these
25 estimates serve as an index for the brown bear population
26 over time. The generally lower population density for
27 brown bears compared to the 1998 baseline is believed
28 to be applicable to the Unit 13 population as a whole
29 and the population is no longer in decline. The
30 projection of female independent offspring within the
31 study population appears to be a significant safeguard
32 to avoid sharp declines in the population numbers given
33 current harvest rates and evidence suggests that brown
34 bear population decline in Unit 13 may also be more
35 productive, presenting another safeguard against
36 overharvest. No harvest permits or ticket -- no permits
37 or harvest tickets are required to hunt brown bears in
38 Unit 11 under state and federal regulations, although
39 all harvest -- harvested bears are required to be sealed
40 within 30 days, providing that harvest information. Bait
41 may be used for -- to hunt brown bears under state
42 regulations but not under federal regulations. Harvest
43 has recently increased, which is likely associated with
44 the allowance of brown bears and a bear bait station in
45 Unit 13D beginning in 2013 and the remained [sic] of 13
46 in 2015. From 2010 to 2023, brown bear harvest in Unit
47 13 ranged from 103 bears to -- in 2014 to 153 bears in
48 2015. This spike was associated with baiting being
49 allowed on the state side. The average bears harvested
50 per year is 138, this can be found on Table 1, on page

1 155 of your meeting book. The harvest numbers are highest
2 in Units 13E and lowest in 13C. Differences in harvest
3 levels between the subunits can be attributed to
4 multiple factors, including access, habitat and overall
5 subunit size. Current brown bear harvest pressure is
6 highest in areas with roads accessible to public lands.
7 The most recent five-year average of 139 bears is similar
8 to the previous five-year average, which was 142 bears
9 per year taken. The percentage of females in Unit 13
10 harvested has increased in recent years, both in overall
11 harvest and in harvest of bears over bait. The percentage
12 of females in Unit 13 harvested has approached 50%
13 several years. However, in 2022 is the only year where
14 it has exceeded that 50%. While this is not an explicit
15 objective in Unit 13, ADF&G notes that they will closely
16 monitor the percentage of female bears harvested,
17 although it is not currently a conservation concern.
18 There were a couple of alternatives considered if the
19 Council would like to hear those, I can let you know, I
20 can give you more information. This proposal would
21 increase subsistence opportunities under federal
22 regulations. No impacts on the brown bear population is
23 expected, as users may already harvest 2 brown bears on
24 most federal public lands in Unit 13 under state
25 regulations. The prohibition of cubs and sows with cubs
26 under both state and federal regulation also helps
27 protect that reproductive component of the population
28 and promote recruitment safeguarding against current
29 harvest pressures. A substantial increase in brown bear
30 harvest in these units, where the harvest limit has
31 increased to 2 bears, includes Unit 12 and Unit 16A,
32 which are also on the road system adjacent to Unit 13
33 and close to large population centers. These proposals
34 increase subsistence opportunity and there are no
35 conservation concerns. Additionally, they reduce
36 regulatory complexity by aligning state and federal
37 harvest regulations for brown bear in Unit 13. The OSM
38 preliminary conclusion supports WP26-25 and -26. Thank
39 you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Was
42 there any public comments received during that period?

43
44 MS. HOLMAN: So, during the written
45 public comment period, there was one comment received
46 from Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. The portion
47 of it specifically regarding these two proposals can be
48 found on page 219 of your meeting book. It is in support.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Correct. Thank
2 you. Okay. Tribal and ANCSA corporations' consultation,
3 Orville.

4
5 MR. LIND: Thank you, thank you, Mr.
6 Chair, Council members. Yes, there was support for that
7 proposal by Ahtna Corporation. Thank you, Chair.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
10 Under agencies, we're -- we were told we're going to get
11 the story of the same caliber from the Alaska Department
12 of Fish and Game but let's hear what they got to say.
13 Thank you.

14
15 MR. PEOTTER: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 Aaron Poetter for the record, again. So, with this
17 particular proposal, again, as the states already
18 providing this level of harvest opportunity throughout
19 game management Unit 13, we don't have any conservation
20 concerns. Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
23 Thank you. Okay, how about the feds, Federal agencies,
24 they got concerns? They're proposing it, so I think we're
25 good. Okay, how about tribes and ANCSA corporations?
26 We've already got some comments read.

27
28 (No response)

29
30 Okay. Advisory groups. It -- was there
31 any other RACs that commented? Okay.

32
33 MS. HOLMAN: So, the Eastern Interior RAC
34 took no action and deferred to the home region on this
35 one as well. They did note the need for monitoring the
36 brown bear populations.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Nissa, you got
39 any...? None. Okay. All right.

40
41 MS. PILCHER: Oh, sorry. Actually, I was
42 going to refer to -- the SRC did comment and Amber did,
43 when she came up, noted that it extended to this proposal
44 as well.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We did -- did
47 we get any Fish and Game Advisory Councils? No?

48
49 MS. PILCHER: No.

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And no
2 Subsistence Resource Commission. So, other written
3 public comments and Nissa said we got that one to talk
4 to it. Okay, is there any public testimony for this
5 item?

6
7 (No response)

8
9 Hearing none. Council motion is in
10 order; I'll open the floor for that for.....

11
12 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion to
13 support WP26-25/26 Unit 13, brown bears.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
16 you, Michael, motion.

17
18 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll second.

19
20 (Simultaneous speech)

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I heard it's not
25 -- I got good hearing aids but this one's got a plug in
26 it, so we'll go over here. Okay. Got a motion made and
27 seconded to support 26-25/26, brown bear. Any other
28 discussion from the..... Andy, you go ahead.

29
30 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. I'm going to support, it increases the federal
32 subsistence opportunity, no conservation concern. One
33 thing in the justification written there was -- it's --
34 it aligns with state and federal harvest limits. I don't
35 really find that a justification myself, but when it --
36 unless it's in the case where we are bumping up the
37 federal numbers to at least match or exceed the state
38 regulations. So, I'm -- and also the continued
39 monitoring, vital. I've seen where back when the state
40 was not even monitoring the black bears at all in Prince
41 William Sound. And I saw it go downhill fast until they
42 started requiring registration and turning in the skull
43 and getting age class and finding the female percent and
44 all that. So that's something that's vital in order to
45 make sure that this doesn't become a conservation
46 concern.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, great.
49 Other comments.

50

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1 MR. OPHEIM: Mr. Chair, I'll just echo
2 kind of what Andy just said. I think no conservation
3 concern, giving additional opportunity to our
4 subsistence users and the continued support or continued
5 monitoring support there. So, it's -- I'll support it.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Michael. Any other comments?

9
10 (No response)

11
12 You want to call the question then and
13 move on?

14
15 MR. OPHEIM: Question.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has
18 been called. So, all in favor of the proposal signify
19 by saying aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed,
24 same sign.

25
26 (No response)

27
28 Okay, motion carries, thank you. Thank
29 you, Kendra. Who's next, are we going to keep her up for
30 the other proposals?

31
32 MS. PILCHER: So, in -- I don't know if
33 I'm throwing myself or Brian under the bus, but when we
34 were running through trying to create this, I -- one of
35 us, accidentally stuck a Brian proposal in the middle
36 of it. So, if we wanted to skip WP26-27 and move to
37 WP26-28a and WP26-27 will move to right before WP26-11,
38 which is when the Southeast region starts again, if you
39 guys would like. Or we could just do what's on the paper
40 since we've already thrown everything up in the air and
41 recombobulated.

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I like order, so
44 I like going down my list. But we can, since we got
45 Kendra up here, let's go ahead and with the concurrence
46 of the Council, we'll move to Wildlife Proposal26-28A,
47 Unit 11 moose. I believe that's the one we want to go
48 to. Brian, don't let us forget you, we're going to come
49 back to you.

50

1 (Pause)

2
3 MS. HOLMAN: All right, Mr. Chair,
4 members of the Council again, for the record, Kendra
5 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. This is going to
6 be the summary of analysis for Wildlife Proposal WP26-
7 28a, that can be found starting on page 181 of your
8 meeting books. Was -- this was submitted by this Council
9 requesting to extend the closing dates of the moose
10 season in Unit 11 to September 30th. So, the most recent
11 regulatory history, the Board rejected a proposal to
12 extend the moose season by 6 months in a portion of Unit
13 11. This did not pass due to low moose densities and
14 conservation concerns. However, they did adopt a
15 separate proposal to extend the winter season in Unit
16 11 south by about one month. In 2022, the Board
17 established a community harvest system for moose and
18 caribou in Units 11 and 13 to be administrated --
19 administered by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource
20 Commission.

21
22 The moose population has been considered
23 in low densities across Unit 11 for many years. High
24 brown bear and wolf numbers in Unit 11th may be
25 contributing to the low calf, cow, ratios observed
26 within this unit as well as overall low but stable
27 density moose populations. The state management
28 objective for moose in Unit 11 is to maintain a
29 population with a post hunt fall minimum bull to cow
30 ratio of 30 per 100. ADF&G conducts aerial surveys along
31 the western slope of Mount Drum in Unit 11 about every
32 other year to determine population and composition
33 trends. While this survey only comprises of a small
34 portion of Unit 11, it is a long-term, consistent data
35 set and provides an index of moose -- for moose status
36 in Unit 11 for the unit wide. This can be found in Table
37 1, on page 189 of your meeting book. With low hunting
38 pressure, limited access and relatively low levels of
39 predator harvest, the moose population is expected to
40 remain at a relatively stable but low-density. Bull cow
41 ratios remain well above management objectives, while
42 other metrics are stable. Wrangell-St. Elias conducts
43 periodic moose surveys within Unit 11 and portions of
44 Unit 12. These results for the surveys can be found in
45 Table 2, on page 189 of your meeting book. The most
46 recent survey from 2023 estimates a record low number
47 of moose at an almost 40% decline from the previous
48 survey in 2013.

49
50

1 From 2000 to 2024, the moose harvested
2 average 50 per year, which includes an estimated 10
3 unreported moose. Harvest information can be found on
4 Table 3, which is on page 192 of your meeting book. From
5 2014 to 2024, FM1106 and FM1107 averaged a 15% success
6 rate and the joint federal state RM291 permit averaged
7 16% success rate. On Figure 1, which is on page 191 of
8 your book, this shows the moose harvest during each week
9 of the general season state harvest tickets in unit --
10 for the State General Harvest season ticket in Unit 11
11 remainder. Specifically, on average, 58% of the harvest
12 occurs during the last 2 weeks of the season. While this
13 proposal increases subsistence opportunity, there are
14 conservation concerns for the Unit 11 moose population,
15 which has declined substantially in recent years.
16 Increasing harvests on the Unit 11 moose population is
17 not recommended at this time, the OSM preliminary
18 conclusion is to oppose this proposal. Thank you, Mr.
19 Chair, members of the Council, I'll be happy to address
20 any questions.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm sure
23 you'll get some questions. Any questions for -- on that
24 presentation?

25 (No response)

26
27 Okay, hearing none. Orville did we get
28 any public comments received?

29
30 MR. LIND: Yes, thank you. Mr. Chair,
31 Orville Lind, Native liaison for OSM. The Ahtna
32 representation said they were in support and would try
33 that proposal. Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Ahtna
36 supports it. Okay. Is there any tribal or ANCSA
37 corporation consultant reports starting with agencies,
38 I'm going to go to the Alaska Department of Fish and
39 Game.

40
41 MR. POETTER: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 As previously mentioned, we don't have comments drafted
43 for you at this time.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
46 you. How about federal agencies?

47
48 (No response)

49
50 How about tribes and ANCSA corps?

1

2

(No response)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Okay. We're going to go to advisory groups, was there any other RACs that commented? Kendra, did you hear?

10

11

12

13

14

MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, no other Councils have considered this proposal.

15

16

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Fish and Game Advisory Councils, no? Subsistence Resource, yes, yes, we got one from.....

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

MS. COHEN: Thank you again, for the record, this is Amber Cohen, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Cultural Anthropologist. The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission supported the proposal with modification. This modification would shift the moose season in Unit 11 to September 1st through September 30th, rather than extending the season length. This shift in dates keeps the moose season one month long and addresses concerns about a warmer August where it's difficult to hunt. Shifting the season to September also provides an opportunity for federally qualified subsistence hunters to avoid competition from state hunters, and to avoid hunting deep into the rut. Thank you.

37

38

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good, comments or questions for her? Go ahead, Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, Amber, could you just please repeat the dates that the Commission suggested?

MS. COHEN: Of course, through the Chair those dates are September 1st to September 30th.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Any other questions for her? Go ahead, Eddie.

MR. HOLSTEN: When does the state close?

MS. COHEN: I believe the state closes on September 20 -- Oh, sorry. Yeah, sorry. You're looking at two different things. I think it's September.....

UNIDENTIFIED: Yeah. So, through the Chair, so there's the drawing, so, DM250 and RM291 both

1 close September 17th, as the CM300 closes September 20th.
2 And then within Unit 11 Remainder, it's September 20th for
3 all, the harvest ticket, the DM250 and the CM300.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Andy.
6 That's good.

7
8 MS. COHEN: And Mr. Chair.

9
10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

11
12 MS. COHEN: Just to add something with
13 the RM291, so that is also a joint state federal permit.
14 And so, with the state side that closes on September
15 17th, but then federally qualified users do have that
16 till September 20th. So, they do have a few extra days
17 at the end of that season on that joint permit. Just to
18 add that to.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right,
21 thanks. Any other questions?

22
23 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair, this is Faye. I
24 live in Copper River at Unit 11; I hunt in that area.
25 To me at -- you know, we've been given 10 extra days.
26 It would help a lot of people but it's rut season. And
27 a lot of time that meat gets wasted when they shoot it
28 and they take the caribou antlers, that's what concerns
29 me. Because up in Nabesna area the moose is, you know,
30 the mountain, there's hardly any people on the moose
31 grows a lot bigger and stuff there. So, a lot of trophy
32 hunters go into Wrangell-St. Elias to hunt and, you know,
33 and this will be for federal subsistence users, would
34 benefit a lot of people. I didn't get it, but what
35 concerns me is the rut and that meat, we can't eat it
36 then. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk, you
39 wanted to go first.

40
41 MR. WILSON: Yeah. As I'm looking at
42 these numbers here. It's on page 192. When we go to
43 2011, what we see is the numbers from the state total
44 go way up and the numbers from the federal hunters go
45 way down. And that aligns with what we've been talking
46 about, about being overrun by other hunters. And I'm
47 totally for giving the Native people and subsistence
48 hunters any extra time that they can have in the field
49 when everybody else isn't there. I'm totally for that.
50

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1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
2 Okay. Any other comments?

3
4 UNIDENTIFIED: Maybe I missed something,
5 you said this was a joint permit, State, Federal?

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No that there's
8 quits earlier.

9
10 UNIDENTIFIED: Okay.

11
12 MS. COHEN: Yeah. Through the Chair
13 again, Amber Cohen, for the record. I just wanted to
14 clarify that one of the season dates that Kendra had
15 mentioned is a joint state federal permit. And then the
16 other one she had said were just state. And then there
17 is a fall, moose season under the federal regulations,
18 that's August 20th to September 20th. And so, the SRCs
19 decision for September 1st to September 30th would then
20 shift the season into September, not have it in August.
21 And to go to Council member Ewan's point about the rut,
22 that looking at September 30th was because they were
23 concerned about going deep into the rut and thought that
24 that timing would avoid going too deep into it. And for
25 member Wilson, there was also concern about the
26 competition with other hunters. So that's how the SRC
27 came up with the dates for September 1st to September
28 30th.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

31
32 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. So, what was the reason to bump it from the August
34 20th up to September 1st and eliminate that window of
35 time where federal subsistence users could have 10 more
36 days at the beginning?

37
38 MS. COHEN: Thank you, through the Chair.
39 That's a great question. So, there was a lot of
40 discussion at this meeting about do we keep the season
41 from August 20th and just extend to September 30th and
42 have a month and 10 days? There was concern about being
43 too misaligned with the state season. There was concern
44 that it's really difficult to hunt in August as it is.
45 It's too hot in our area, and so, people are not really
46 even going out at that time of year because they're just
47 not getting any moose sightings. The moose aren't really
48 even moving until really late September. And so, in light
49 of those concerns, it was decided just to shift to those
50 September dates.

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MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. I just might add in 23 years out of 20 -- 21 years of those, I harvested moose in August between the -- and that, so that's.....

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk, go ahead.

MR. WILSON: Yeah. I've harvested my moose before the 5th of August for the last 10 years and I don't think we ought to take away any time from subsistence hunters, beginning or end. We should only add. That's it. They -- they're being overrun. We're losing -- the Native people are losing their culture over this wild game protein thing. I mean, their lives revolve around wild game protein. They don't know anything -- they haven't. But we're losing that, these young people and I have to attribute to ATRAC in the villages doing all the things that they're doing with young people now to try to bring back the culture. But if there's no place to go and hunt, it's hard to make culture on roadkill and illegal harvested moose that come out of the area that they used to harvest their moose out of. Now, I don't know if anybody knows what's going on there about all these hunters, but I did some surveys and I spent most of the hunting season traveling around Unit 13. The Denali used to be one of our and the Native people's favorite areas to hunt. I haven't seen a moose on the Denali Highway in the last three years, and I've spent about a week each time. I've spoke to the lodge owners up there. There's 1 lodge owner this year in particular, I says [sic], if you see any moose, he says, yeah, on our Glacier trail, we see one old cow up there. Last year he told me there was one cow and calf and I went to the parking lot around Unit 13 this last season. I mean, I spent a lot of time doing it and what I didn't see was anybody I recognized there. The only place I saw any people that I recognized during hunting season was in 13, the area that's open and closed to everybody else. In fact, I know 6 local hunters that killed their moose in that area that was closed down to everybody else this last year. I know of 2 other members in our local community that killed moose this year in all of Unit 13. Now, I don't do a survey of everybody, but I have certainly talked to a lot of lodge owners and a lot of people at these parking lots. And what's happening to us is, the local people are getting running [sic] out of our old hunting areas. And these -- in Eureka alone this year and the Fish and Game office, now, I don't have a solid number on this, but what I

1 heard was they confiscated 28 illegal moose and 2 illegal
2 caribou at Eureka alone. And there's three game wardens
3 parked there during the whole season. That leaves a lot
4 of other parking areas that are not being monitored at
5 all in Unit 13. And if it's that bad at Eureka, it's
6 just that bad everywhere else you go. Another comment
7 as I was driving around -- pardon.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, if I may,
10 we're on the procedure. We're still on the procedure.
11 And we're going to get to comments more -- here when we
12 get through my procedure.

13
14 MR. WILSON: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: If you don't
17 mind, that was a good comment. I wanted to let them go,
18 but we're still -- I'm still on the Subsistence Resource
19 Commission, so I just bring that point up. Go ahead.
20 Yeah, absolutely.

21
22 MS. EWAN: These dates that you selected,
23 who selected that?

24
25 MS. COHEN: Through the Chair, thank you
26 member Ewan. That was [sic] dates that came out of
27 discussion and decided and voted on by the Subsistence
28 Resource Commission, that we have at Wrangell-St. Elias.

29
30 MS. EWAN: Did you ever go to the tribes
31 and ask them any kind of questions about, you know, how
32 we hunt and fish and stuff like that? Because I live in
33 Copper Center. I live right by you and I never see you.
34 I sit on my tribal Council and I never see this kind of
35 report, you know, coming to us, asking if it's okay with
36 us, because we live off that land and we're, you know,
37 we're the first nation there and we should be always
38 notified and especially the date. I -- I'm not for this
39 because August month is when we pick berries and we go
40 out and gather our food and our plants and stuff for our
41 medicine at that time. Same time, we hunt because we're
42 not all rich and we don't own motor homes like these
43 guys that come from the city. When I sat at Eureka, I
44 sat there at the lodge and I seen 4 moose illegally
45 killed because they were a inch too short or you know,
46 different regulations that was violated and that sure
47 didn't go to my village, I mean, my people, it went
48 somewhere else. And to me, when we're out there hunting
49 and trying to feed our family and just take care of our
50 people and with the economy the way it was, I think

1 August 10th, -- the way it was before August 10th to
2 September 20th, it worked fine for me. And then you guys
3 start changing everything because the conservation,
4 whatever. I think that you should put the dates back to
5 the way it was originally. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
8 Faye. We're going to go to that comment at the end of
9 this if procedure if I get through it. But yeah, save
10 some comments for later here, thank you. Anyone else for
11 the Subsistence Resource Commission questions?

12
13 (No response)

14
15 Hearing none. I'm going to -- was there
16 any other written public comments, Nissa?

17
18 MS. PILCHER: So, there were no written
19 public comments received after the comment deadline but
20 there was a comment received during the comment deadline
21 that Kendra will go over.

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Go ahead.

24
25 MS. HOLMAN: So, through the Chair, 1
26 written public comment was received in support. That was
27 from the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. And that
28 portion of the comments specifically addressing this
29 proposal can be found starting on page 221 of your
30 meeting book.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Ahtna
33 supported, okay, is there any public testimony now to
34 this this proposal, gotta [sic] bring the public in?

35
36 (Talking)

37
38 Oh, she's got a picture of someone out
39 in space there. Dave, you got a hand up?

40
41 MR. SARAFIN: Yes. Mr. Chair, I would
42 like to point out something. I don't agree with a
43 statement that park and what the SRCs comments that Amber
44 presented and also any OSM comments suggesting that
45 extending the season where it's closed to state hunters,
46 that that avoids competition of state hunters. There's
47 in a given area of land going to be so many moose and
48 during the regular season with state hunters harvesting
49 several, they're going to be less moose there by the
50 time the state -- that extended federal season is opened.

1 So, there's -- it's an added benefit for the federal
2 users. However, the herd say has been called out a good
3 bit by that point. So, I wanted to make -- bring that
4 to a point of everyone's awareness or, you know, my
5 feelings on that. Anyways.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's a great
8 point, Dave. Yeah, I know that state went down in our
9 area, and they took away from the August 20th date, and
10 they made it to the 1st of September but then they went
11 to 25. So, they -- we actually lost 5 days in the deal.
12 But you gotta watch out for that because that's the way
13 they juggle them. But anyway, any other public testimony
14 anyone, you got anyone else? Okay, if none, I'm going
15 to go ahead.....

16
17 (Simultaneous speech)

18
19 UNIDENTIFIED: There is someone,
20 somebody.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, come on up.
23 You had to fill out the paper if you'd bring it here,
24 please. You go right up to that mic and we're going to
25 listen to you, Clint. You got the floor.

26
27 MR. MARSHAL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
28 is Clint Marshall resident of Tazlina, Alaska. So, just
29 down the road from Faye, Copper Center. I'm also on the
30 Wrangell-St. Elias, SRC, as a commissioner there and
31 full disclosure, I'm also the Chair of Ahtna
32 Incorporated's Board of directors. The discussion about
33 moving the season one way or the other, I think is --
34 when the SRC was talking about it was a proposal brought
35 to the SRC, I don't think it was the idea that was
36 generated there. And so just in my recollection of that
37 -- those discussions, the maneuvering of that season
38 either left or right. The general consensus there, I
39 believe, was there was more of a concern about the
40 seasons changing and the moose not moving early in the
41 season. Also, there's a lot of concern about the rut and
42 spoilage of meat. But if you have to go out and hunt in
43 some very austere locations, which you have to because
44 the area has been overrun. So, if I may just give an
45 example, my grandfather and my father both hunted
46 predominantly in the Paxson area in Unit 13 and I used
47 to hunt with them there as well. And that place has been
48 absolutely overrun. There's no reason to even go out
49 there and try to hunt like a normal person because a lot
50 of people have this idea that they just run around with

1 four wheelers and ATVs all over the place until they
2 happen to bump into a moose. And that -- and it is
3 overrun, completely. So, if you are a traditional hunter
4 in those areas and you compare it to how they -- how you
5 would go out in traditionally hunt in the past, you
6 wouldn't have had to go on a world class expedition, to
7 go find a moose. I have to get in a landing craft with
8 my hunting machine and go across the Copper River and
9 go 20 miles in, on a trail to get away from everybody
10 else. Now, not everybody can do that, and it costs. So,
11 my point is, it now is extremely hard to get to where
12 the moose are and it costs a lot of money, which moves
13 the ability for people who would have traditionally
14 hunted around their regional area. It makes it very
15 difficult for them, not only because -- in time and
16 space but also because of the amount that it costs to
17 get there. So, you have to go somewhere else to go hunt.
18 And if you end up in those austere areas and you shoot
19 a moose early in the season and I understand that there's
20 people, who do it and are able to get the meat out
21 quickly. But if you shoot a moose when it's 80 degrees
22 outside, you're in -- and you're 20 miles in and it's
23 going to take you 2 days at least to get out. You're in
24 trouble and that meat's in trouble. So, I just wanted
25 to kind of give some clarification on the thought process
26 to which way the season went. And it wasn't trying to
27 exclude anybody out of it. It was more that's just kind
28 of the way the thought process went. And I also wanted
29 to take the time to kind of explain the challenges to
30 get to where the moose are. So, thank you for your time,
31 Mr. Chair.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank
34 you. That's good info. Yeah, I agree with you. Is there
35 any other public testimony on it? Anyone out there?

36
37 (No response)

38
39 Okay, let's go ahead and have the
40 Council take this up, if Council wants to make a motion
41 in the affirmative to entertain it, I'll accept it.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll make a motion to
44 accept WP26-28a, Unit 11 moose season to September 30th.

45
46 MR. GREYBEAR: Second.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
49 Edward. Thank you. Okay, we're open for discussion
50 for the Council. We're gonna [sic] go ahead and talk some

1 more on this, we can. Go ahead, Ed.

2

3 MR. GREYBEAR: This is Edward GreyBear.
4 Personally, hunting in Unit 11, that was the last time
5 I was successful in my hunt, and it didn't happen until
6 near the closing dates with the last 3 days before the
7 actual date closed. And that is with the increase -- or
8 the warmer weather in the beginning of the season. I
9 stayed out there for 2 weeks, and I know the Unit 11
10 area pretty well and I've been out there, and so we had
11 to go really close to the higher grounds in order to see
12 the moose, where it was a lot colder. And so, with the
13 added extended days, it will be more successful for
14 federal qualified hunters.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes. And you had
17 no problem preserving that meat, correct?

18

19 MR. GREYBEAR: Correct.

20

21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank
22 you. Go ahead, Andy.

23

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Yeah, just to speak to some experience from my
26 moose camps. I've kept data for 25 years, literally
27 spreadsheets on the day that was harvested and all that.
28 And about half of them come -- can be from opening day
29 first few days, way in the beginning, you know, August
30 20-ish, up to about 50% of them, like, right at dark on
31 the last day, you know, so, you know, later into
32 September, even so, that's a factor and I -- I've
33 never had the spoilage factor, but you got to start
34 working right now when the when the weather's warm so
35 that, you know.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy.

38

39 MS. CAMINER: Thanks, Mr. Chair. A few
40 comments. I wanted to say that that chart on page 191,
41 I find that really useful and kind of a nice visual to
42 help explain when people are taking their moose. And I
43 understand people's comments about seemingly being
44 overrun but that's a little -- it's a little bit out of
45 our control. And I kind of wanted to go back to our
46 purposes. I'm quite concerned with the OSM information
47 that there's a conservation concern here. Now, we all
48 want to provide a subsistence priority. That's part of
49 our mandate. But going back to ANILCA 802, consistent
50 with sound management principles and the conservation

1 of healthy populations of fish and wildlife and so on.
2 But our -- all our guiding principles are not only
3 providing subsistence opportunity, but conservation of
4 those subsistence resources so that there are those
5 opportunities for young people now and in the future.
6 So, I hope in our discussion, we can carefully balance
7 what we've heard about the conservation concern and I -
8 - and our obligation to provide a subsistence priority.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
11 Faye. You bet.
12

13 MS. EWAN: Excuse me. This is Faye, Kluti
14 Kaah. My concern is that in Unit 11 area, there's a lot
15 of state land there that have a lot of the population -
16 - people living in that area and end of that Nabesna
17 Road. You know, there's a lot of population, private
18 property there. And I think you pretty much have to go
19 past Copper Lake to -- pretty much to get to area where
20 you see wild moose and stuff. I mean, where you really
21 see a good-sized bull is up in the mountains. And a lot
22 of times when in the fall time, August 1st, you'll start
23 seeing up Eureka, Paxson all of that way, all filling
24 up with motorhomes and whatever to come to do their
25 little cowboy thing. And then pretty soon you go up
26 around the road and you're driving, you know, you're
27 going there and you want to look around in the woods.
28 But my concern is that getting shot. That is very --
29 that is a safety issue. We had to holler, said, hey, you
30 know where just walk in here. What are you doing? And
31 those people were ready to shoot. This little girl came
32 running out, said, that's my uncle. And these are the
33 populations that come from the up here, urban, wherever
34 they come from, I don't know. But to me, when you say -
35 - when they started doing subsistence hunting and
36 fishing, you had to be below a lower level of poverty
37 to meet the standards. And then when you went out
38 hunting, you paid \$5 to the state to get this hunting
39 license. But to me, you know, as far as all that, state
40 picks up all this money for hunting, nothing comes back
41 to us. The state of Alaska, Fish and Game. They pick up
42 meat and stuff, you know, like you say, it's spoiled
43 because it's warm and everything. Is that the people
44 that go out there and dress those moose, a lot of them
45 don't even know how to cut it up, they just cut the skin
46 in half and they, you know, they just break the moose
47 and that's not how we do it. My concern is why Unit 11
48 is Chistochina, Mentasta people that live there, the
49 Native people that live in that community. Nabesna, they
50 have a Native community there. If this opportunity opens

1 up for them, are they going to be invaded? You know,
2 because the Tok area, aren't they Federal Subsistence?
3 And there's major -- a lot of people that comes into
4 Copper River to hunt from Tok area and Delta area that
5 they're federal subsistence users; they will be coming
6 into that area. That's what concerns me, is that these
7 people have federal subsistence rights, can go there and
8 hunt. And, you know, in 10 days, all the moose is, you
9 know, in with the cows and they'll be there hunting them
10 out. And then pretty soon in 10 years, you'll be having
11 issues like caribou. And that's my concern right there.
12 But, you know, whatever day you guys want to open, it's
13 fine with me as long as it's legal. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. I'm not
16 sure on the crossover, if they can come from other
17 regions, you know, if they're not qualified in that area.
18 Kirk you could go ahead and talk to it. But I'll just
19 give you a little comment that, I know, on the Peninsula.
20 I'm a great proponent of giving more opportunity to
21 federal subsistence users, and it's needed, so, I
22 support that. The Kenai we had concerns of climate
23 change, getting too warm on the early hunt. And so that's
24 kind of one of the reasons they moved back 5 days, 10
25 days. But I do know for myself, and we have other reps
26 from Ninilchik here that, you know, in the opening of
27 the season anymore with warmer weather, you don't see
28 those moose moving around as much as you go in the woods
29 looking for them. They're pretty stable. They're not
30 moving much. You don't see much movement until about the
31 10th, and then they start coming out and start moving a
32 little. And then you have the opportunity, of course,
33 later in the fall. And you got to watch them before they
34 get married up with a bunch of cows because then they'll
35 go and rut. But if you are careful and you take good
36 care of that meat, you could preserve it. And it's very
37 good. So anyway, that's my comment, but Kurt, go ahead.

38
39 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just wanted to
40 comment because I appreciate your comment on the game
41 and stuff. And as I look at these numbers here, it looks
42 like the subsistence hunters are below what state
43 hunters are, because the state people take more moose
44 than the subsistence hunters. That's just one comment
45 on that. Now, I talked to the lodge owner on Nabesna
46 Road at about the -- and what he talked to me about his
47 major thing. He always went to the end and Nabesna Road
48 and there's a big parking lot where he says, you cannot
49 do that anymore. That's not available to him anymore.
50 It's just like the rest of every place.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well.
3 Okay. Go ahead, Lisa.
4

5 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah. Lisa Grediagin and
6 I just wanted to throw out an option for you guys that
7 wasn't considered in the analysis. Because, as Judy
8 mentioned, there are conservation concerns for the Unit
9 11 moose population and increasing the harvest. Just one
10 -- another option is to delegate authority to an in-
11 season manager to close the season or, you know, set a
12 harvest quota, limit number of permits. But basically,
13 if they have the ability to close the season, then they
14 might be able to address, you know, on a more flexible,
15 in-season manner, you know, shutting -- closing that
16 season if the moose population continues to decline or
17 it does look like there's a lot of additional harvest
18 occurring.
19

20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you, that
21 would be an option. But unless we restrict the state
22 harvest, it's not going to do a lot of good. Go ahead.
23

24 MS. HOLMAN: Mr. Chair, I just -- I
25 wanted to make sure and point something out. I don't
26 know if I made it clear in my talking points on Table
27 3, where it does show this different state and federal
28 harvest, that's based on the permits and the state permit
29 RM291 is in the state total. That is actually a state
30 and federal permit. So, there is federal harvest,
31 federal subsistence user harvest within those state
32 numbers. It's just because they did it under the state
33 permit versus the federal permit.
34

35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
36 we've got pretty good information on it. We're ready to
37 go to a motion or you got more talking points, Kirk.
38

39 MR. WILSON: I'll make a motion.
40

41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
42

43 (Talking)
44

45 Yeah, I'm sorry. We got the motion,
46 we're in the public, we're debating it. I meant to call
47 a question.
48

49 MR. WILSON: I'll call for the question.
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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good.
Thank you. Questions have been called for. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All those, any
opposed?

MS. CAMINER: Aye.

MR. OPHIEM: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Two.

MR. ZADRA: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Three, I
counted 3.

MS. CAMINER: Michael, me and Dennis.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, okay, the
motion carries. So, passes. Alright, it's 12:20 on my
clock and we have to take a break for lunch. We got a
1:30 commitment to come back to. So, let's be here by
1:30. And we'll go to swap gears a little bit and we'll
go back to 10. Correct? Okay. Enjoy your lunch, I don't
know where it is, I don't think anyone's bringing us
lunch, so I'm assuming we got to go somewhere.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, well,
welcome back. I hope you guys found a place for lunch.
We found a place across the street, that brown bear is
awful skinny over there, but just to let you know he
looked pretty miserable. But anyway, we're going to have
some information document and the subject. Anyway,
Nissa, you want to explain what we're going to do here
and then how we're going to do it, and I have a copy of
it, but it's going to be projected behind me here. So,
we'll just tell you that we want the presentation to
kind of go through, and then we'll ask questions and
open it up at the end.

MS. PILCHER: Okay everyone, this is
Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, just to give everybody

1 a rundown of what we're going to do in the next hour or
2 so, is we're going to get a presentation from Kara
3 Moriarty. It's going to be on the phone. She does live
4 here, but she happens to be in D.C. this week. She is
5 with the Office of the Secretary. So, she'll give us a
6 brief presentation on the Secretary review. We can ask
7 her questions. Then we can take -- so, we can ask her
8 questions in relation to the information that she
9 presented. Then we'll take public comments, if there are
10 any, and then we can move into Council, deliberations
11 is the wrong word, but discussion. The intent of the
12 discussion is to draft a comment or letter to the Office
13 of the Secretary on this Secretary review, on these seven
14 topics, with the eighth topic being 'other' that we can
15 then submit to them. It is due the -- pretty early in
16 February, so it's a pretty quick turnaround. So, it won't
17 be until -- it'll be after, it'll -- the due date is
18 before your transcripts will get to us. So, we've got
19 multiple people taking notes. Of course, I'll be working
20 with Greg, and if he wants to involve anybody else, we
21 can certainly do that. But I will turn it back over to
22 him. And we can go from there.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, welcome.
25 Kara, are you on the phone?

26
27 MS. MORIARTY: Yep, I sure am. I don't
28 know if you can see my face on, I don't know how your
29 room is set up. I turned my camera off. I don't know if
30 you can see my face or not.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I can't because
33 I've got my back to you. Hang on.

34
35 MS. MORIARTY Oh!

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're working
38 on it here. Were plugging in some more stuff.

39
40 MS. MORIARTY: No worries. no worries.
41 I'm just happy while I'm chatting. I'm just happy to be
42 on camera. But if the room's not set up for that, I can
43 certainly turn my camera off, too.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I can look
46 over here at Nissa's, I got you.

47
48 MS. MORIARTY: Okay. Awesome.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I can see
2 you great, and I think the people back there, you're
3 good enough. We're good here. And the rest of you, you
4 can see behind us.

5
6 MS. PILCHER: Up there.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON MORIARTY: Oh! Technical
9 difficulties.

10
11 MS. MORIARTY: Well, in any event, Mr.
12 Chairman, thank you for allowing me to take a little bit
13 of time to talk about the comprehensive review that the
14 Office of the Secretary is undergoing. As you all know
15 the Secretaries of Interior and, of course, Agriculture
16 have announced this review of the Federal Subsistence
17 Program for Alaska. And the review is meant to encourage
18 participation from all Alaskans, including and
19 especially probably the RACs like yourselves, to help
20 us ensure that the program is effectively serving
21 Alaskans. I think I think why we're hearing an echo is
22 maybe because the Hyatt is still -- there, the echo
23 gone? I think the echo is gone, great. So, on the first
24 day in office, President Trump signed Executive Order
25 14153, directing all Interior Alaska or Interior
26 Department, bureaus, to consider and the cultural
27 significance of hunting and fishing in Alaska, and the
28 statutory priority for subsistence management required
29 by ANILCA, and to conduct meaningful consultation with
30 the Department of Fish and Game prior to enacting
31 management plans or other regulations that affect the
32 ability of Alaskans to hunt and fish on public lands.
33 So, that is the text from the executive order. I think
34 it's Section 22, if you look up Executive Order 14153.
35 And the president also ordered, in a different executive
36 order, all government departments, including the
37 Department of Interior, to review all programs and
38 services. And so, of course, then that would include a
39 review of the Federal Subsistence Program. So, I think
40 the main thing that I want to emphasize today is that
41 this review is not a formal rulemaking process. The
42 scoping period is really meant for Alaskans to inform
43 us, here at the Department of the Interior, about the
44 program. No decisions have been made at this time about
45 anything. And there may be no changes after this review
46 is completed. But we did specifically say and -- I saw
47 your note and I say yes, I don't think there's an echo
48 anymore. But the review will focus on a couple of
49 specific areas. One, the relocation of the Office of
50 Subsistence Management from the Fish and Wildlife

1 Service to the Office of the Secretary. Two, the
2 membership criteria for the Regional Advisory Councils.
3 Three, the composition of the Federal Subsistence Board.
4 Four, duplication and inconsistencies that may exist
5 between federal and state regulations. Five, your
6 thoughts on special action regulations. Six, the role
7 of the state and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
8 in subsistence. And finally, procedures for rural
9 determinations. And again, there's an eighth: if you
10 believe that there are other areas of the program that
11 we should be evaluating, please let us know that as
12 well. I know I've seen a couple of comments come in. One
13 that came in by a hard copy letter to my office in
14 Anchorage with another, and I don't remember what it is
15 off the top of my head, but I thought, 'Oh, that comment
16 about the program is not part of the current seven'. So,
17 we will log that, those comments to see, in those areas
18 of the Federal Subsistence Program. And, you know, it's
19 just good for us, if there's other portions of the
20 program that are not meeting the needs of Alaskans, we
21 need to know that. Again, you know, I was just on the
22 phone with somebody else before I called in here, and
23 they referred to this as a rulemaking. This is not a
24 rulemaking. It is really about listening, learning and
25 gathering information. If the Secretary is determined
26 that they would like to make changes in a future date,
27 an official rulemaking process would start then. And
28 there -- if there is a the rulemaking, then, obviously,
29 that would open up a whole new round of public comment.
30 But again, this is just a Scoping Notice. We are kind
31 of opening the channel of communication, if you will.
32 There's no predetermined timeline; there's no
33 requirement for us at the Department of the Interior to
34 do anything and nor does it require us to do a lot of
35 things. It really is an opportunity for us here at the
36 Department to learn about these specific items within -
37 - or these specific categories within the program. And
38 I just really appreciate your time, and especially since
39 this is a RAC, I just really want to thank you for your
40 service. And stepping forward to represent your
41 communities and your viewpoints for the Federal
42 Subsistence Program. I know that it's not without
43 sacrifice of your time and your talent and probably your
44 treasure in some -- in a lot of ways. And so, I just
45 wanted to thank you on behalf of the Secretary for your
46 service to Alaska. And I would just -- happy to open up
47 comments now, take any questions that folks might have.
48 I am in DC, as you can see and I do have an event I need
49 to get to this evening. But I, Sarah Taylor, in the
50 Office of the Secretary, were the two DOI employees that

1 are based in Anchorage for the Office of the Secretary.
2 I believe Sarah can stay on longer than I can. But as
3 the Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs, I'm trying to
4 participate in as many Regional Advisory Committee
5 meetings as I can, and since I can't be there in person
6 for this one, hopefully I can be in person, just to
7 learn and meet you all in person at your next meeting.
8 So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I'll end my comments and
9 again, happy to answer any questions that folks might
10 have.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thanks,
13 Kara. Is [sic] there any questions for her at this time?
14 General questions? It kind of enlightened me that it's
15 definitely not rulemaking. It's a Scoping Notice,
16 listening and questions so, that's good to know. And we
17 definitely have a lot of good constructive feedback for
18 you.

19
20 MS. MORIARTY: Excellent.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So, if you want
23 to press on, that'd be fine. I got all the Council
24 members present, I don't see anyone jumping up so, if
25 you want to go forward, that'd be good.

26
27 MS. MORIARTY: Okay, awesome. I will --
28 and the office has my email and my cell phone so, if you
29 think of something later, please feel free to reach out
30 to me directly about this or anything else related to
31 the Department of the Interior. Happy to try to help.
32 So, thank you very much for your time.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: All right. So, this is
35 Nissa Pilcher for the record. So, moving forward, if
36 there's anybody that has public comments, both in the
37 room and online, that would like to address the Council
38 on this topic, I know Ms. Linnel spoke earlier on it,
39 but if there's anyone else, the Council can hear that
40 now.

41
42 (No response)

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Good
45 opportunity to bring up concerns. And I see a hand raised
46 in the back. Okay.

47
48 MS. PILCHER: Oh, there's one, Thomas
49 Smith.

50

00080

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We got one
2 online. Whoever's online, we see a.....

3
4 MS. PILCHER: Mr. Smith?

5
6 MR. SMITH: Hello, can you hear me?

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yep.

9
10 MR. SMITH: All right. I do have a
11 comment on the things from the Secretary. I did think
12 she would go on a little bit longer, and I thought she
13 had a minor presentation, but that's okay. For the
14 record, my name is Thomas Smith. I will be representing
15 myself today. I am Yup'ik and Athabascan from Iliamna,
16 Alaska. I was born in Anchorage and raised in Kenai, and
17 I would like to comment on kind of what the Secretary
18 said she had planned for our Subsistence Management
19 System moving forward. As we can see, and I've heard
20 from previous testimony today, the system has been
21 crucial in maintaining our community, indigenous voices
22 and traditional ways of life at the center of the, this
23 process and the foundation of decision making in the
24 system. I have been active in the Southeast Council
25 through my participation in classes at UAS, an
26 internship with Sitka Conservation Society, and my
27 continued interest within occupational endorsement in
28 aquaculture and my application for a youth position on
29 this Council sitting in DC. These subsistence meetings
30 allow anyone to express their grievances and share their
31 observations regarding their harvesting experiences.
32 This means anyone, from elders to youth. As a Native
33 Alaskan who grew up in the Southcentral region and now
34 lives in Sitka, I would like to demand that our voices
35 be heard throughout this process. Many of these
36 processes, these systems in place give us a way to speak
37 up and be heard by the government that unfortunately,
38 many generations ago has placed it a blanket over our
39 system and our ways of life. This blanket effect is
40 slowly suffocating our ways of life; we can see that in
41 Board reports: that Native Villages are, in fact,
42 struggling. There are no perfect systems and many need
43 improving, but there are many aspects of the system that
44 I would like to see maintained. These Regional Councils
45 and the subsistence regulatory processes have been some
46 of the most publicly available testimony opportunities
47 and are crucial to elevating public concerns and
48 indigenous voices to higher levels of government. I will
49 now read my concerns regarding the review for this
50 Federal Subsistence Program on the record. After, I can

1 go back and discuss them more thoroughly. I would like
2 to keep the initial deference to the original Advisory
3 Councils, maintain the makeup of the Board, including
4 six public seats and the youth seats on the Board and
5 the Regional Advisory Councils. The existing criteria,
6 including knowledge of the subsistence resources for
7 serving on the Councils. The Board, and the continued
8 expression of the rural voices versus the promotion of
9 our resource commercialization. As I learn more about
10 the history and listen to the testimony, it is clear
11 that many people over the years have fought very hard
12 to make ourselves heard, as Alaskans, and to see attempts
13 at minimizing our power, as public voices in this
14 process. has been infuriating. I've admired the strict
15 coherence to the Board in deference to the Councils,
16 because those Councils are those who truly know our
17 communities. The recommendations from the Councils
18 directly reflect the members of that region and their
19 concerns. To cut that chord is to inhibit the communities
20 affected from voicing their concerns through one of the
21 most direct channels they have. Deference to the
22 Regional Councils, and therefore community members, is
23 written into ANILCA. Along the same way, removing or
24 otherwise altering the public seats on our Councils or
25 Boards directly changes the way we are allowed to be
26 represented. We need these people who can speak up for
27 what they need as subsistence users. Not more looking
28 out for economic minded interests. Since high school,
29 I've had a deep appreciation for this Board and how it
30 operates, and because it was one of the only times I
31 have witnessed culture and tradition being integrated
32 into the system. Many of these spaces are extremely
33 intimidating and not often approached by youth members
34 because of the different linguistics and education
35 levels required to get anything effective done. I want
36 to remind the Council that Native peoples and
37 specifically Alaskans, will find a way to survive. We
38 have endured much and we are still here. We continue to
39 find ways to, forward and learning to be effective,
40 sorry. Allowing some of those, the suggested changes to
41 be made would erode footholds that have been gained for
42 rural people. The system is work -- the system we have
43 worked so hard for is helping us sustain populations
44 like essential caribou, moose, and wolf populations. If
45 we have no say, we can't help anyone build these
46 populations up to have a harvestable surplus for anyone.
47 With that being said, we still rely on the lands for
48 survival. The adverse parties do not. We hunt to fill
49 our freezers and feed our families. They don't. Without
50 access to these resources and continuation of these

1 harvest practices, we will not be able to sustain our
2 well-rounded ways of life and therefore our identities.
3 Subsistence has always been our way of life for
4 millennia. It has been the channel of integrational
5 healing -- intergenerational healing, sorry. And the
6 connections cultivated through these processes have
7 given us a vital community to battle violence and drug
8 use. Subsistence harvesting practices provide a
9 connection to who we are, even if we are lost. This
10 feeling isn't about money. To put it on the level of
11 other user groups, and to involve subsistence management
12 in these local commercial allocation battles over
13 resources, wasn't the purpose of these Councils or this
14 process. I urge the Council and the respective Board to
15 listen to the communities moving forward in this review
16 process and recognize that it is instigated by people
17 outside of our villages. We have the right to bypass
18 money because this is about family, human livelihood,
19 cultural richness and traditional ways of life. As a
20 young person from these communities fighting trauma,
21 global warming and rising costs for basic needs, we need
22 to heal our communities and help prop-up upcoming
23 generations. The challenges we will be facing are only
24 going to be harder, and I would like to encourage the
25 younger generations to get involved. I would like to
26 wrap up my comment here by thanking you all for your
27 continued engagement on behalf of your communities and
28 the constant drive to help our beautiful state. I look
29 forward to working with all of you in the future, and
30 the work that you have done to ensure our resources will
31 not go in vain. Thank you so much for doing whatever you
32 believe in. Quayana (In Native). We'll see you guys later.
33 Thank you.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
36 Thomas. Good comments and I'm going to open it up to the
37 Council here if they want questions from you. I know we
38 certainly, a lot of the things you stated, we promote
39 very vigorously to have youth involvement and
40 involvement on this open policy, to have testimony,
41 public testimony. That is definitely the voice of the
42 communities. So, Council members, if you would like --
43 Michael Opheim has a question for you, Thomas.

44
45 MR. OPHEIM: Mike Opheim. Not much of a
46 question, just thank you for your time and effort. That
47 was a great testimonial. And, you know, it gave me
48 something to think about. We took a trip, for work, a
49 couple of years ago, now, I think, a couple summers,
50 springs ago, maybe last year, I don't know, but it was

1 to Hawaii. And one of the things that they found was
2 that subsistence -- and they had lost that lifestyle.
3 And a lot of traumas came from not having that. And so,
4 I think you hit on something that we should definitely
5 consider deeply, that we are a part of our environment
6 and we are what we eat. So, I thank you for your
7 testimony there and giving us some thought.

8
9 CHAIRMAN ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
10 Michael.

11
12 MR. SMITH: Thank you so much. Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Other
15 questions, comments?

16
17 (No response).

18
19 Faye, you'd like to make comment.

20
21 MS. EWAN: Well, I don't know who this
22 guy is, but he did a really good presentation on
23 presenting, you know, what is really happening here in
24 Alaska to us indigenous people. You know, as government
25 to government, it seems like we're, you know, we speak
26 and talk and we testify all the time for our way of life
27 and we're not being heard. Even Department of Interior
28 has turned their back on us. Except the last Secretary,
29 Haalan, was trying to work that out but sometimes, you
30 know, the people that make decisions on our behalf are
31 supposed to ask us, you know, what we're supposed to do,
32 what we're supposed to, you know, what we want. And they
33 consult with one person, two person [sic], maybe they
34 meet in our community and they say, this is a
35 consultation we did, we met with them and we'll ask
36 them, who did you meet? Well, we talk to your Tribal
37 Administrator. I said, 'That's not consultation to our
38 tribe'. As a community, as a whole, wide state, the
39 responsibility on the state of Alaska and the federal
40 government is to make sure that we have, you know, our
41 way of life is implemented in the law. It's a federal
42 law and ANILCA law. And it's also in the Constitution
43 of Alaska that we are protected, it's not being upheld
44 today. Constitution, Section 12, Article 12 says that
45 we shall have the right to hunt and fish in time of
46 shortage. Well, that shortage, I don't know how to define
47 shortage. Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good
50 comments, Faye, thank you. Anyone else? Angela, go right

1 ahead.

2

3 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
4 thank you, Mr. Smith, for your comments. I am very proud
5 that you brought, you know, forward those and I
6 appreciate everything that you said. What wasn't clear
7 to me during what was her name? Ms. Taylor's
8 presentation? Pardon? Moriarty? Is there a timeline on
9 what the review is going to be? I know she addressed
10 what it was and do we have -- and my second part of that
11 question is, are we prepared as this group, as this
12 Council to submit our support for the Council itself?
13 So, two-pronged question.

14

15 MS. MORIARTY: As -- hi, this is Kara.
16 As far as the timing, the scoping period closes on
17 February 13th. And again, this is a discretionary
18 process for us to gather information. We are under no
19 timeline following that. So, I'm not quite sure what
20 will happen moving forward. But I do know to receive
21 official comment -- to receive comments in this official
22 scoping period they need to be submitted by the 13th of
23 February.

24

25 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, ma'am. My -- I
26 guess my other part of the question is, do you know who
27 evaluates the comments coming through? And is there a
28 weighted process that goes forward of local versus non-
29 local? Because right now I know that there are some
30 organizations that are outside of Alaska that are
31 submitting their comments on it. So, I'm just wondering
32 if there's a priority for -- or if it's weighted if more
33 if you're weighing local comments more than others
34 outside of Alaska.

35

36 MS. MORIARTY: Yeah. We, you know, we
37 don't -- I think the comments are going to be reviewed
38 internally by a variety of agencies and staff that are
39 engaged and likely solicitors that are engaged in the
40 Federal Subsistence Program, both at Interior and at AG.
41 I don't -- Department of Agriculture. As far as weight
42 over, you know, what comments are going to be weighted
43 over the others, you know, we are going to follow all
44 of FACA guidelines and public comment guidelines. And
45 we will follow the law and evaluate all comments. You
46 know, obviously this is a program for Alaska. And so,
47 you know, I think, you know, Alaskans' comments are going
48 to be incredibly valuable.

49

50 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Angela, I think part of your question might have been, are we prepared to give comments? And I certainly hope we will provide comments today that can be written up and submitted as part of the scoping.

CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I think we can, I think we probably should. I don't know about the time, but it doesn't sound like there's a real -- there's -- this -- Anderson. But anyway, it's going to be a challenge to get it in in time. We got Matt Anderson on the phone. You want to go ahead?

MR. ANDERSTROM: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Chair and members of the South Central Regional Advisory Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Matthew Anderstrom. I serve as the second vice president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Grand Camp. I am speaking on behalf of our statewide organization and the Alaska Native and rural communities we represent. The Alaska Native Brotherhood is the oldest Native civil rights organization in the world. For more than a century, we have worked to protect Native rights, land access, and subsistence ways of life across Alaska. I'm here today to express concern about the proposed changes put forward by Safari Club International and the federal programmatic review that closely follows those proposals. In Southcentral Alaska, subsistence users face unique pressure: road systems, aircraft access, guide activity and population density, all concentrate hunting and fishing pressure into limited areas. When federal subsistence protections are weakened, it is not sport or commercial users who feel the impact first. It is rural and Native families who are pushed out of their traditional use areas. Reducing the rule of Regional Advisory Councils, limiting special actions, or shifting greater deference to the state of Alaska would make this worse. The state remains out of compliance with ANILCA, and history has shown that when subsistence is treated as just another use, it loses. Emergency and special action authority is especially important in south central Alaska, where rapid access and high participation can quickly overwhelm local resources. Federal flexibility allows managers to respond when conditions change before harm becomes permanent. Maintaining status quo is not about expanding federal control. It is about honoring the law, as

1 Congress intended: prioritizing subsistence first,
2 relying on local and traditional knowledge, and
3 preventing displacement of those who depend on these
4 resources to feed their families. From the perspective
5 of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, Grand Camp, ANILCA is
6 working. Weakening it would increase conflict, reduce
7 food security, and further marginalize subsistence users
8 in Southcentral Alaska. We urge this Council to oppose
9 changes that weaken federal subsistence authority, and
10 to defend the role of the Regional Advisory Councils in
11 protecting subsistence rights. Thank you for your time
12 and for the work that you do.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
15 Thank you for the comments, very well taken. Any
16 questions for the gentleman?

17
18 (No response)

19
20 Kristen, are you there? Christina?

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED: Christine Deweese.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Deweese, there
25 you go.

26
27 MS. BREMER: Yes, I am, but I'm actually
28 going to use my -- Deweese is my maiden name, and I
29 haven't went through the whole legalities of it, so I'm
30 going to use my maiden name, which is Bremer, just
31 because it's legal. So, my name is Christine Bremer, and
32 I'm representing myself as an Alaskan and as an
33 anthropologist. The federal system is paramount to
34 subsistence in Alaska. And I was born and raised in
35 Anchorage, where I still live today. And I wanted to
36 make that a point, very clear, because I am not a rural
37 user, but I am here speaking up for my rural neighbors
38 who depend on the land, ocean, and the air for their
39 livelihoods. The federal program is a place to protect
40 my rural neighbors and the system is working. And it
41 took a really long time for us to get where we are today
42 and have a balanced Federal Subsistence Board that
43 represents our rural Alaskans and the federal agencies
44 whose lands are -- the subsistence is happening on,
45 because that's what this program is about. So, I don't
46 really see a reason to fix what's not broken. And it is
47 pretty frustrating to have outside interests coming in
48 to give their two cents about our system and try to
49 change it. Because that is very detrimental to the rural
50 Alaskan subsistence way of life. And so, I'm not going

1 to beat around the bush on that topic, but those are my
2 comments that I wanted to make. And I agree with
3 everybody else's beautiful testimonies today. And thank
4 you for giving me the opportunity to share with you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank you
7 and thank you for not beating around the bush. That's
8 great, so thank you. Anyone else on the phone or in the
9 room or other Council members want to make comment.
10 Micheal.

11
12 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I just -- I read
13 something last night that I was hoping would, you know,
14 reflect well on this. That the U.S. Supreme Court has
15 declined the review of the state's attempt to get rid
16 of Katie John again. So, I'm hoping that in this review
17 that they that the Supreme Court.....

18
19 (Simultaneous speech)

20
21 MS. BREMER: Your main speakers are off.

22
23 MR. OPHEIM: ...have fought enough of
24 this to

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're
27 good now.

28
29 MR. OPHEIM: Okay. And so, yeah, I just,
30 I'm just hoping that, yeah, this here will reflect on
31 the review process well. So, thank you.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think
34 that's a great victory, I think that was joyous song we
35 started with, thank you.

36
37 MS. EWAN: Yeah. Faye Ewan, Kluti Kaah.
38 I believe that ANILCA has helped us in a long ways, and
39 I believe that, when the state is trying to attack
40 certain people's way of life, is discriminating against
41 me as a woman, as a grandma, as a human being. And ANILCA
42 has -- the law has helped our people in the Copper River
43 region a lot of different ways. That when we develop
44 that place -- because at that time the land claims went
45 through, we didn't have that protection until 1978 or
46 '77. Anyways, I have a long story about how ANILCA
47 became. Not a long story, but a legal story. It was my
48 mom that shot the padlock off in the state of Alaska,
49 cut their fishery off and fishing, and they told her
50 there was no fish. And my mom said, "No, there's fish,

1 I know there's fish." And she locked her padlock up and
2 chain on, my mom had .30-06. She said, "I have two
3 bullets, one for that lock and one for you, and you
4 better run", she said. She, my mom disrupted. Anyway,
5 she shot the padlock up and when that wheel turned,
6 maybe 50 fish flew out of that basket, one basket. Second
7 one, another bunch of it came in. We had 300 fish in one
8 hour and the state of Alaska told us there was no fish.
9 So, my mom and dad went to court, that's where Copper
10 River Four came from. And that's how ANILCA started. To
11 me, that benefited us because we had no protection. The
12 state of Alaska would have just completely ran us out
13 and overran us, our people. So that's a story, I support
14 ANILCA and I believe that it should be kept in place.
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I believe too,
18 and I'll have to get some more bullets with you. So,
19 thank you. Next, Andy.

20
21 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. It seems to me the State of Alaska bases a lot
23 of their decisions on political reasons and not
24 practical ones. And they're based solely on the
25 Constitution of Alaska, which gives every citizen in the
26 state an equal right to the resources that are here. But
27 federally, according to ANILCA, there's a rural
28 subsistence priority. So, in order to -- be told that
29 we should defer federal to the state regulations or make
30 these things equal, that doesn't jive because they're
31 both based on different principles.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good
34 comment.

35
36 MS. CAMINER: We going through one by one
37 I'm just going to say.....

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, I don't
40 think we're going by one by one. We're just going by
41 whatever you feel. You know there's no systematic, these
42 are whatever comments you got, come up, bring them up
43 now. And we're going to try and put them together in
44 some type of document, a letter of support. Scott, you
45 got a question where we got off the rails or we're just
46 rounding up the troops?

47
48 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
49 again, for the record, Scott Ayers with OSM. I just
50 wanted to let the Council know, if you would like, we

1 are prepared to put up those bullet points, the seven
2 different topics on the screen, one at a time, so that
3 the Council can have one topic, have a conversation about
4 it and move forward. Or, alternatively, we can do however
5 you would like, but that's an option available to you
6 if you'd like to do it that way.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, we
9 certainly started out doing it however we like because
10 we answered all of them, but if you guys want to go back
11 and be systematic, we could take one at a time and I
12 would be -- I would entertain that. And the only thing
13 that I will not entertain is that we go back again to
14 one again after we get to seven. So, let's try and start
15 out and make a move and work through them.

16
17 MR. AYERS: Fantastic.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Number one: the
20 number one I see is the 2024 move of the Office of
21 Subsistence Management from within the U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior to
23 the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy,
24 Management and Budget of the Department of Interior. And
25 that happens so, Judy, you go first.

26
27 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. From
28 my point of view, the move was seamless. I'm sure for
29 those people specifically involved, it was probably very
30 challenging on many different levels. But I think our
31 Council really appreciates Nissa's steady, you know,
32 guidance to us. And we really didn't notice too much
33 difference.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I see some
36 smiles, maybe there was some difference.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: Thank you for not saying
39 it on the record.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
42 any other comments to that movement that, when we moved
43 to the Management of Budget Department of Interior? Did
44 it get worse, better in between? Anything you want us
45 to put together in a letter? And I'm joking too, if you
46 do come up later, we certainly could add it, but we'd
47 like to keep it moving. Go ahead, Michael.

48
49 MR. OPHEIM: Well, it was like Judy was
50 saying, it was seamless for me, I'm sure. Lots of ducks

1 looking calm on top of the water kind of action. You
2 know, did it, you know, help their funding, did it --
3 and, you know, did it benefit them in any way, I guess
4 to move, make that move? So, that would be interesting
5 to hear if in the -- how that's going to plan out in the
6 long run and hopefully not be something that, you know,
7 turns around, bites us all.

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I guess
10 time may tell on that. For me, I haven't heard much,
11 that's been very quiet. It's a, there has been crickets
12 since the move so, it's been helpful, maybe, I don't
13 know. Karen, you got a question, number one? That I just
14 read?

15
16 MS. LINNEL: Just a quick comment, Mr.
17 Chair. With the move there was some financial changes
18 in tracking the funding that was going to Fish and
19 Wildlife Service, that should have gone to the
20 Secretary. It did affect the FRMP programs and that kind
21 of thing. And being able to find that two years of
22 funding, where did it go? And being able to get those
23 grant projects funded was one of the issues that we had
24 had. Thanks.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank
27 you, I did hear about that a little bit. Is there a DB
28 Mike out there? We see you came up on the phone a while
29 ago, we were in the middle of something, if you're still
30 there you could go ahead and take the mic.

31
32 MR. MIKE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 My name is Donald Mike, I'm a resident of Alaska and
34 resident of the Earth, and subsistence user. I support
35 the OSM's move from Fish and Wildlife Service to Office
36 of the -- Special Office of the Secretary. And I think
37 it just takes the optics of a particular agency having
38 control over OSM and OSM under the Federal Assistance
39 Board is working fine. So, the other thing too is that
40 let's -- the Safari Clubs wanting to have an effect on
41 OSM program, and they're seeking to limit the program
42 that required the federal government to give deference
43 to the state on wildlife issues, but ANILCA, Title VIII,
44 does not require the program to give deference to the
45 state. ANILCA Title VIII gives deference to the
46 subsistence users, rural priority. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Donald Mike,
49 it's great to hear you. And we got great respect for you
50 and we miss you. But when I seen the DB Mike, I was

1 wondering who the hell that is. I'm sorry about that,
2 but it's great to hear you. And, yeah, I agree with you.
3 The federal is completely separate, and the Safari Club
4 is so far off base it's pathetic. But anyway, we'll move
5 on with our comments. And thank you, Donald. Wow. I got
6 moved to point number two, that's great, okay. Criteria
7 for Regional Advisory Council membership. Comments.

8
9 MR. OPHEIM: I think it's been going
10 fairly well. The process seems lengthy though, I mean,
11 18 months or whatever it is for somebody to be approved
12 or re-approved seems to be a bit excessive. I know, in
13 the past, they've even cold called people in my community
14 and -- which is fine, but it's just, yeah, it just seems
15 like a long process that could be streamlined a bit
16 more. And we've lost people off of the RAC, you know,
17 and had empty seats, you know, and so, it's -- I think
18 being able to keep people on until somebody can fill
19 that seat or whatever, there needs to be something,
20 alternates or whatever. But yeah, that's just -- I think
21 the criteria for choosing who sits at the table, I think
22 has been pretty good.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. If
25 there's not another comment, I think the criteria has
26 been pretty good but Michael's completely right. It's
27 been slow and arduous sometimes. But we do have a full
28 RAC now, which is interesting, and it's good. So, it's
29 been a long time coming, but I know they're stacked up
30 like cordwood, and I'm in the running there again because
31 someone put me there. But, anyway, we'll see. It takes
32 a long time to get approved.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Just a second.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: Oh, sorry.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Can I just.....
41 Okay, I have a note here that I have an opportunity to
42 mention something. Actually, it's something that's been
43 brought up for the criteria, and that is the stipend for
44 the members. I mean, they do a lot of travel and a lot
45 of out of pocket, a lot of other things that are fairly
46 costly so, I know that some of the other RACs before,
47 and I've heard testimony about it, that they didn't get
48 compensated for their out of pocket expenses and paid
49 timely so, it's just something to throw out there. And
50 if they're going to make the criteria, let's throw it

1 all in there. We don't want to paid job, we're all
2 volunteers, we would volunteer for a long time. But, you
3 know, at least you could order a pizza once in a while
4 or something. But anyway, very good, I'm not saying that
5 Scott wrote it down, okay. Of course, he won't give him
6 enough in his check to cover it, so that's okay. But
7 anyway. Faye?

8
9 MS. EWAN: You know, when we, when I
10 applied for -- to get on to C tier, it was in '23. '23?
11 I mean, '24 and they find it. And '25, last year, in
12 January, they sent me a notice that I was on here. And
13 I'm really happy and thankful and grateful, I got to sit
14 on here. This is my second meeting, and my term is up
15 next month. So, I learned a lot from all of you. And you
16 know, to me, when you put people on seats like that and
17 it's vacant, or did we rebuilt them one seat or was it
18 vacant? Because to me, normally, to get a good membership
19 out of any Council member, you should give them at least
20 2- or 3-years term. That way you get things done. And
21 if you keep switching seats, you know, and people from
22 different areas -- our area sometimes don't get covered
23 in a lot of issues and -- to me, I'm okay with it, you
24 know, but whoever gets into seats or, you know, there
25 should be somewhere where it says you're like Edward's
26 on two year seat and we incur -- our term is up in
27 February, so I recommend that this Council here has a
28 two-year term for one people and three-year term for
29 another, that way you can rotate and you won't just lose
30 people as you go along. Thank you. And it was fun.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, thank you
33 Faye. It's been a pleasure having you, but I didn't know
34 you was, your term was up. I thought everyone never got.
35 I never heard of him throwing anyone out, so..... But
36 anyway, I guess. Let Nissa speak to that, thank you.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, just, this is Nissa,
39 for the record. Just to just to clarify, Faye, you filled
40 the seat that already had a predetermined term. So, you
41 basically filled a seat that somebody had abdicated
42 from. Terms are generally three years. You will be
43 getting an incumbent evaluation. Or not evaluation,
44 incumbent application. And the -- with the idea that,
45 if you're appointed for the next term, it would be three
46 years.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

49
50

1 MR. OPHEIM: Yeah, I got the same comment
2 because I didn't think I got on. I mean, I thought
3 I wasn't coming here. It was out of the blue. I thought
4 it was -- it took so long, I just give [sic] up.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, no,
7 that's a good comment to put in there, Michael, you came
8 up with, it is a long, arduous process, but I don't
9 know, I'm not sure of all the vetting and how much they
10 do and who they evaluate and how they evaluate, but.....
11 Judy, you've been waiting, so go ahead.

12
13 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. I don't think it's
14 lost on all of us that these points that Interior wants
15 comments on pretty closely follow what Safari Club
16 International suggested for changes in our program. So,
17 in terms of criteria for selecting the RACs, I mean,
18 ANILCA laid out an administrative system for how to
19 implement ANILCA. And the -- you know, these, the RACs
20 are specifically named in there and how they should be
21 structured. And I also wanted to say that,
22 deliberately, the Congress did not design a system
23 focused on multiple users but rather people who
24 understood the need of rural and subsistence uses and
25 priorities. And so, probably 20, 25 years ago, our system
26 did change a little bit to allow people who were not
27 primarily subsistence users to be on the RAC, commercial
28 sport fishing guides. And that role, though, was kept
29 to a minimum, as you can see on our Council and,
30 specifically, the role does not eclipse the central role
31 that must be played by the approximately 70% of the
32 members that are knowledgeable about subsistence uses.
33 So, I would endorse that the system in place seems to
34 be working pretty well. We're balanced, we represent as
35 many different uses as possible, and many of you also
36 serve on local advisory committees that brings in other
37 aspects, too. But I don't think we recommend -- I would
38 not recommend any changes in how our membership is
39 structured or any other acts.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
42 Judy. Good point. Very good point. Okay. Now we -- go
43 ahead, Andy.

44
45 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
46 Chair. Yeah, I just think rural subsistence users are
47 the stewards of the land, we have our finger on the
48 pulse of what's going on, I'm in the camp of if it ain't
49 broke, don't fix it. We're subsistence users, and we are
50 the ones that care about those resources and their

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1 populations existing into perpetuity for future
2 generations. And I'm not seeing that same type of
3 management happen on the state level. So anyhow.....

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Other
6 comments?

7
8 (No response)

9
10 Well, I do know this for a fact, that
11 we serve a very dynamic need, I would say, of an
12 opportunity for all the public to come forward and all
13 of us representing our communities and with knowledge
14 of that area and bring people forward so they could
15 present their, you know, their C&Ts, all they're
16 different questions. And we had very good success at
17 taking it to the Federal Board to give us deference,
18 unless they found it illegal or something like that. So,
19 I think it's a very good process, sometimes I think the
20 process has not -- I've been here for a long time, and
21 I'm seeing a lot more younger people getting involved,
22 which is really great even on our RAC. So, I'm looking
23 forward to that. The reality is we have more challenges
24 than we've ever had in our life because of the shortage
25 of fish and game. So, I don't see that we need some
26 major changes there, but..... Okay, someone head up.
27 Angela, you had your question.

28
29 MS. TOTEMOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
30 Yeah, just reiterating and agreeing with Andy over
31 there, and I believe it was comments by Mr. Smith when
32 he was mentioning that there's a real opportunity for
33 rural and Alaska Native voices to be heard. And I think
34 the real strength comes from exactly what you guys were
35 talking about. Everybody on this Council, you guys are
36 the real hunters, the real fishermen, the real
37 gatherers. Keeping these - this -- the spirit of being
38 a true spirit of the land alive. And so, I think that's
39 definitely where the strength comes in, that -- and, you
40 know, like Karen alluded to, we're not at an armchair
41 reading a report. We actually have been able to see and
42 feel and be part of this land out there and the
43 waterways. So, I think that's where the real strength
44 comes from. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we're
47 ready to go to number three here. Membership of the
48 Federal Subsistence Board. It's a good question. I have
49 great comments, but I will open it up to the rest of
50 you. Go ahead, Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, as somebody longtime in the program, just a reminder, the secretaries do have the discretion to expand the Federal Subsistence Board to administer subsistence taking and uses of wildlife and fisheries on public lands. When I first started in the program, there were six members. And the Board in -- almost invariably, voted 4 to 2 against whatever subsistence proposal was on the up for discussion. And so, the two was the Chair and BIA and the agencies not. That did change over the years for the better, I have to say. And then, as was mentioned before, a couple of public members were added several years ago, and that gave more local on-the-ground experience to the Board. And that went through a huge public process, to get to that point. Most recently, think about a year and a half ago, also, Interior and Agriculture went through a detailed and complete comprehensive process to add tribal representatives to the Board. And I think it does, it certainly shifts the perspective. Not in a bad way, from our perspective, but perhaps to others. But it gives the Board better capability to ensure that ANILCA is being upheld the way it was designed because they understand. Anyway, I don't think changing that has any benefit at this point and that, again, Congress said that the Secretary should develop an administrative structure that would enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife of subsistence uses on public lands. I think these, I'll just say newer, members provide that perspective. Thank you.

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I think
35 Judy hit the nail on the head. You know, there's -- when
36 we didn't have the public members like she told you the
37 4 to 2 vote but since it's been added to the Federal
38 Subsistence Board, I know they've been much more apt to
39 look at our recommendations from the RACs. And, as they
40 added the tribal members, I had a little hiccup there
41 because I wanted to support tribal members from this
42 region in this RAC and, but tribal members are tribal
43 members, so they picked them somehow. We didn't get
44 notification, but they got them on there. But the good
45 thing is that they are subsistence users and they are
46 people that support the federal process. And so now,
47 going backwards to reduce it would be a real detriment
48 to our behalf. So that's my comment. Go ahead.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, members of
2 the Board, my name is Darrel Williams. I'm with Ninilchik
3 Traditional Council. I just wanted to comment on this,
4 too. I have two things. One: so, we've been doing this
5 a long time, right? We've seen the abuse of the Federal
6 Assistance Board, like Judy was referring to, where the
7 agencies say no because we're an agency. Personally, I
8 think that the RACs, the people who are from the Regional
9 Advisory Councils, who have that working knowledge,
10 should also be sitting as a voting seat in the Federal
11 Subsistence Board to end that. That abuse was uncalled
12 for. We had to litigate. We had to get an insurance
13 policies in our fishery. I mean, it was ludicrous. And
14 those kind of mistakes can't happen again. That's one.
15 The other thing is, I think it's ripe to start talking
16 about the Winters Doctrine. And this is something that
17 we haven't talked about in federal subsistence, because
18 we rely on ANILCA and we rely on the agencies and we
19 rely on all these other things to happen. What we don't
20 talk about is the Winters Doctrine that we see in the
21 contiguous states when it comes to fish and game
22 management. Now, personally I think the state has done
23 a poor job at best in terms of fish and game management.
24 And I also have to say the federal agency has done a
25 poor job at best. I've come to these meetings for years
26 and years and years, and I hear about its conservation
27 concern. Okay, well, what is it, right? We have the
28 eight factors of ANILCA to get a C&T, but we don't talk
29 about what the factors are to make a conservation
30 concern, for example. Now, when you apply the Winters
31 Doctrine, where Indian tribes have a direct seat at the
32 table in fish and game management. So, we joke about,
33 you know, here in Alaska, hey, is this a state fish or
34 is this a federal fish, right? It depends on where it's
35 at in the waters. Well, down the contiguous states where
36 there's reservations, where they have jurisdiction over
37 their land because of the trust process that we're seeing
38 that's developing now in Alaska, the fee-to-trust
39 process applies to jurisdiction, which makes the Winters
40 Doctrine apply. That means that tribes will have -- they
41 will have to have a seat at the table, it's the law. To
42 be able to discuss about what resources need to be
43 reserved for American Indians, Alaska Natives. We worked
44 this process a long time, but this is something that's
45 going to have to change, and this may be a really good
46 time to start talking about it. Because the Alaska Native
47 people have a significant claim to this, absolutely.
48 Well, so do the rural people. I mean, there's all kinds
49 of claims that happens in this. But we start talking
50 about tribal, we start talking about fee-to-trust that's

1 happening in Alaska, this process, the establishment of
2 trust lands and the establishment of jurisdiction, the
3 Winters Doctrine will apply. And it's good enough for
4 the Navajo, it's good enough for Ninilchik, right? I
5 mean, Indian tribe stuff, right? And I think it's
6 something that we need to think about. I bring, you
7 know, I bring this up, we're talking about the makeup
8 of the Federal Subsistence Board, and I understand
9 having tribes having a seat, but I also think if the
10 tribes are going to have a seat, they need to have the
11 correct flavor in that seat. And that's the Winters
12 Doctrine. So, if you guys want to look something up and
13 think about it and include this in this, this is the way
14 it's done nationally with Indian tribes, except for
15 Alaska. And now things are changing in Alaska, it's going
16 to make that happen here, too. It's just -- hasn't
17 happened yet. So, if we get ahead of it, we'll be better
18 off. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
21 Darrel. We know we got something else to think about.
22 Thank you. Yeah, very good. Anyone else on the membership
23 of the Federal Subsistence Board?

24
25 (No response)

26
27 I think we talked enough on it, okay.
28 We're going to move on to number four: Federal
29 Regulations and State Regulations for Duplications of
30 Inconsistencies. Oh, my gosh. Okay, we'll dig into it.
31 Who wants to start?

32
33 MS. EWAN: Judy.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Judy? Yeah,
36 Judy wants to start. Okay.

37
38 MS. CAMINER: Faye and Greg are saying
39 I'm going, okay. A few quick but clear comments on it,
40 and that is that, if that kind of deference happened,
41 it would only obviously weaken the program. And Title
42 Eight was put into place because the state wasn't
43 providing for a subsistence priority for ANIL- well, in
44 ANILCA was put into place, overcoming the state's
45 basically opposition to hunting and fishing. And it
46 would really be -- the secretaries would be violating
47 federal law if they revise the subsistence regulations
48 to require the Board to defer to the state. So, the
49 courts have said, as we've mentioned a few times over
50 and over again, that the deference to the federal

1 agencies' interpretation is based on its own expertise,
2 and that goes for the Board itself. The -- unlike a
3 federal agency, the state is not delegated any authority
4 under ANILCA. Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Andy.

7
8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. In the realm of continually diminishing resources
10 that are in competition -- I lost my train of thought.
11 Sorry.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is it back?

14
15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: No. Go ahead, continue
16 on, sorry. Come back to me, yeah.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: See, resources.
19 I got that one. But you think about it, we'll come back
20 to you. Go ahead, Kirk.

21
22 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I can't imagine
23 wanting to duplicate something when I've heard so many
24 comments on how the State of Alaska runs the
25 organization. And for us as a Board, when we make rules
26 on federal land, the state overrules us on most of it.
27 Now, there's some they don't, but some they do, and some
28 will be talking about today. And I guess that's about
29 all I got to say about that. Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. That's
32 true. Go ahead, Judy, follow up.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: Thank you. I don't mean to
35 diminish the value that the state brings to the program.
36 On a local level, clearly people who have the delegated
37 authority consult with the state. It's all valuable. We
38 do joint surveys and coordination consultation and same
39 here, probably at the Anchorage level and with the Boards
40 of Fish and Game. But this is a federal program and
41 that's the bottom line. Yeah.

42
43 MR. WILSON: My comment to that is, why
44 haven't they done that with the Native people?

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's rural.
47 Go ahead, Andy.

48
49 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I regained my
50 thoughts on that. In the diminishing resources, it was

1 stemming from Judy's comments there that it would be a
2 violation of Section Eight but, in particular, one thing
3 that we've relied on heavily here, in these diminishing
4 resources, is the 804 analysis. And at some point, in
5 time when a resource gets so low, it's like, hey, who
6 gets priority? Who gets the meaningful preference? Who
7 gets to use that? An 804 analysis is ran, and that's
8 from Section 804 of ANILCA. And the state does not
9 provide any type of provision for that type of
10 prioritization.

11
12 MS. EWAN: Mr. Chair

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

15
16 MS. EWAN: The way -- this is Faye,
17 Native Village of Kluti-Kaah. The way I see the federal
18 and the state work together is a big conflict, especially
19 living in Copper River area. They make one rule and then
20 the feds -- I'm a federal permit, I go through federal
21 permit for the state, and I don't go to the state because
22 it works better for me and my family and my people and
23 the less requirements, and it's better to work with the
24 Federal National Park Service in Copper River area
25 because they're not like the way the state of Alaska
26 treat us up there, and they listen to us when we talk
27 to them. It seemed like when we have meetings with the
28 state, it's just they turn around and they sue my people
29 on personal. This is my personal opinion. When the State
30 of Alaska sues my people for our way of life and trying
31 to change and make so much rules and regulations that
32 affects us every day. We won't do that to you guys, to
33 the state of Alaska, you know, the Board members. We
34 wouldn't do that to them, they look -- I asked them to
35 limit the fishing for per person till it comes back and
36 they -- what they did the next day? Somerville, he upped
37 it and everybody wiped out the king salmon by July 1st.
38 Five kings per family. The next thing you know, we're
39 cut off. And that kind of regulations and rules when it
40 goes against the state and the federal, you know, that's
41 hard on us, that they should be negotiating and working
42 and asking us as real preference, what we really could
43 see to make benefits work for the animals and our people.
44 And it just seemed like a big conflict over nothing.
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, who else
48 wants to speak?

49
50 (No response)

1
2 Well, I'll say a couple words. It's
3 really, to me, really simple. It's not simple, but it
4 should be. The federal program is here because the state
5 did not provide the preference, pure and simple. And
6 they don't, they continue not to provide the prince --
7 preference. And they continue to ask us to mirror their
8 proposals. And when I seen that happening here, I seen
9 us losing more and more ground. And we have, the federal
10 program is designed for the subsistence users. Example:
11 we get a few more moose, we get a few more cow moose,
12 we get this and that. And that's been a preference. And
13 we've fought it very hard, and we have it on the Kenai
14 Peninsula now. And I think Todd could talk to that; it's
15 been very helpful for us. The federal fisheries on the
16 Kenai, we would have never, ever seen that under state
17 management, ever. And so, we would not have, we'd have
18 zero subsistence if we didn't have federal support. So,
19 ANILCA's for a reason, and we need to defend it to the
20 end. Thank you. In the back. Karen, was that you? Go
21 ahead.

22
23 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Karen
24 Linnell, Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission. I just
25 wanted to say, in regards to the regulations and things.
26 When we went immediately, it was a rather sudden change
27 to the dual management system. We did; the Federal
28 Subsistence Board had no basis. And so, they copied the
29 state regulations almost identically across the Board.
30 And the changes in the differences happened with
31 observations and a lot of forethought put into it
32 regarding what they're seeing on the ground and the
33 differences in mission with conservation in mind versus
34 sport or commercial uses. And looking at what's
35 happening on the ground and allowing for that rural
36 preference and the deference to traditional practices
37 as well. The main differences in most cases are sizes
38 and bag limits, like the any bull versus a 50 inch for
39 brow tine. And for me, as an Ahtna person, if I turn
40 down a moose because, when it showed up to me, I may not
41 get one for years to come. And if I have to look around
42 for a measuring tape and, you know, or stare at it so
43 long to find out whether it had the four brow tines or
44 not, I could lose that moose and I could lose the
45 opportunity to harvest in years to come. Those are things
46 that happen and that this system, the federal
47 subsistence system, recognized the traditional ways of
48 knowing and the traditional practices of rural Alaskans
49 across the board. Both tribal and non-tribal, and so,
50 being able to take those differences and incorporate

1 them into federal regulation is what this body does and
2 what the Federal Subsistence Board does. And so, that,
3 for me, that's an important part to this system, being
4 able to recognize our traditional uses of the resources
5 on the land and the traditional practices and how they
6 harvest those animals. And you folks talked about some
7 today. You know, we've seen blanket, cookie-cutter
8 approaches happen, and then we end up modifying them to
9 fit different areas because there -- Alaska is so large
10 and the practices are different across the state, the
11 terrain is different across the state. And so, I
12 appreciate the work and the thought that you folks are
13 putting into this. I did have one comment that I thought
14 of in regards to the makeup of the RAC, and the RAC also
15 provides for diversity in rural versus non-rural
16 participants, depending on which region they live in.
17 We have several folks that live in cities serving on
18 this RAC and on the Eastern Interior RAC. You know,
19 they, you know, some live in Anchorage, some live in
20 Fairbanks, some live in Homer, some live in Juneau. They
21 are -- still have the ability to serve on the RAC and
22 represent that region and the resources in that region.
23 And I think that's an important fact that needs to be
24 included that this is not a rural versus urban issue and
25 that they have an opportunity to serve on here as well
26 if they put their name into the Secretary. And I
27 appreciate that the Secretary keeps this committee very
28 broad and across the region. So anyway, I just want to
29 thank you for the opportunity to speak. Thanks.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
32 Karen. Judy wouldn't be here. Please.

33
34 MS. CAMINER: I'm so sorry.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, I just say
37 you wouldn't be here.

38
39 MS. CAMINER: I know.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, okay.
42 Okay, we can knock this one out quick. 'Regulations
43 Applicable to Special Actions'. I put that down there
44 for you, Andy. That -- do you want to speak to that?

45
46 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher. for
47 the record. So, to give you guys an idea about how
48 special actions work -- and Scott, please interrupt if
49 I get this incorrect. So, there's two different versions
50 of special actions. There's an emergency special action

1 and that is something that is an emergency, needs to
2 happen now. There's very limited public process in that.
3 It's basically -- it goes right up to the Federal
4 Subsistence Board to then decide on whether or not action
5 needs to be taken. The one that generally happens is a,
6 just a regular special action. And that has built into
7 it different consultations. There's a responsibility to
8 hold a public comment period, either in person or
9 telephonically. There's consultations with applicable
10 individuals, the state, tribes and Councils. In the
11 example of when there's been special actions in Unit 13,
12 Greg gets called into the mix and he generally would
13 then include, when it has happened, Gloria into the mix
14 and she gives, Gloria Stickwan was the Unit 13
15 representative or she resided in Unit 13 so, he did
16 involve her. So, that's an option. So, that's what's
17 currently happening. So, if --what this is asking is,
18 is the current way things are done working for this
19 Council? And if it isn't, what would you like to see
20 that might make it better? Thank you.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Judy.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: I mean, just a quick
27 comment. This whole idea of special actions has also
28 been litigated. And the courts have, again, sort of
29 upheld that the secretaries have vested the power and
30 duty under Title VIII to the Board, who in turn has
31 transferred that to local people, federal people, to
32 ensure that subsistence resources, including taking
33 emergency or special actions, are necessary to carry out
34 our mandate. So, there's probably ways they could work
35 better, timely, whatever we want to say but it should
36 stay in place as -- or as we'll see later, some of the
37 delegated authority might be incorporated into
38 regulation.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think,
41 Scott, you want to go ahead and make a couple comments
42 here, I know it's been helpful in the past.

43
44 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members
45 of the Council again, Scott Ayers. I just wanted to note
46 that, as Nissa said, we do have two different types of
47 special actions that are in regulation. There is the
48 emergency special action, those are -- there's something
49 that needs to be taken care of immediately, they can
50 last up to 60 days. Then there's a temporary special

1 action that can last up until the end of the current
2 regulatory cycle. So, in theory, up to two years until
3 the next regulatory cycle starts. And that's for a larger
4 issue that needs to be dealt with. There is -- the
5 requests can come directly to the Board or oftentimes
6 they are part of the delegations to the managers so the
7 managers can do that. There is a requirement for some
8 level of communication between the manager and others,
9 such as the Council Chairs and the state and other
10 groups, depending on which letter it is and what's going
11 on in that situation before action takes place. So,
12 there's supposed to be a level of communication and not
13 just one person deciding, 'No, okay, I'm going to do
14 this.'" And I just, I guess I kind of wanted to get that
15 last little bit on the table, that it's not just the
16 Board, but there's also the managers that have this
17 ability to do this. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Andy.

20
21 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. So, these delegation of authority letters are
23 intended, from what I've been reading, is temporary and
24 not a permanent thing.

25
26 MR. AYERS: The letters are delegation
27 of authority from the Board to specific individuals. And
28 not individuals per se, but roles, positions, thank you.
29 And the idea is -- it's a little challenging because
30 there's a slight difference between the way that they're
31 implemented, whether we're talking about a fisheries
32 issue or a wildlife issue, and they've been issued in
33 slightly different manners. And that's just a product
34 of the way that this has rolled out over time. The
35 letters themselves are effectively the way that the
36 Board delegates their authority to that manager to be
37 able to take on whatever particular issue for wildlife,
38 oftentimes it is, as you well know, relates to a quota
39 or things of that nature, to set that at the start of
40 the hunt. On the fisheries side, it's been more broad
41 related to -- you are delegated this authority for this
42 particular region, for the federal public waters to
43 attend to whatever type of emergency or temporary action
44 comes up as the time goes on.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Anything else
47 on the special action? Go ahead.

48
49 MS. EWAN: What is the reason to take
50 special action like, emergency special action is like

1 regulations or something like a low fish count or low
2 moose count, stuff like that, that's when you do that?

3
4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Something dire
6 needs attention quickly that they need to get more
7 animals or less fish in or maybe the fishing died off,
8 they got to close it. So, something special is supposed
9 to be coming out of the norm that we can't work and vet
10 through the regular process.

11
12 MS. EWAN: I wanted to mention something
13 that caught my attention is when they had that Hanlong
14 Typhoon that they open up moose hunting for the people.
15 And, I mean, I'd like to say thank you to the Board
16 members that did that for the people that have a hard
17 time up there. Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I don't want to
20 hear. Okay, Andy, go ahead.

21
22 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
23 Chair. I just like to reiterate that, in my opinion, I'm
24 a proponent of delegation of authority letters not being
25 a permanent fixture, and that having some type of sunset
26 clause or some type of review process or a short-term
27 limit to where that gets reviewed over time.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I would
30 agree with you, but I don't think we quite got the
31 delegation authority but that's.....

32
33 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Special action.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Special action,
36 that's different.

37
38 MS. PILCHER: No, delegation of authority
39 letters are outside of the special action requests.
40 Delegation? Well, I'm not going to say something that's
41 going to give me trouble, but this specific bullet type
42 that we're talking about right now is just on special
43 actions, specific one discussion topic is, does the
44 Council think that emergency actions are used? Not only
45 is the process working, but does this Council think that
46 there's any special actions that have been enacted
47 without recourse, without due public process, without
48 due consultations? Oh, and Lisa's up.

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa, again, just
2 clarifying for the Council: delegation -- in-season
3 management actions taken through a delegation of
4 authority letter are considered special actions. But I
5 -- and actually to your point, Andy, there's actually a
6 proposal coming up that I think will address a lot of
7 your concerns where we're moving the delegation of
8 authority from a letter into the regulations. And so --
9 but I think this bullet point is geared towards not in-
10 season management actions, but those kind of, quote,
11 true emergency situations where you might be closing an
12 area out of cycle. And if those are being overused, if
13 the closures are being implemented appropriately. You
14 know, if there's a lack of public process or involvement
15 in some of these closures and, you know, lack of recourse
16 if you don't agree with them sort of thing. So, you
17 know, technically in-season management actions, when
18 they're done through a delegation of authority letter
19 are special actions. That's not -- I don't think that's
20 what the department's trying to get at with this bullet
21 point. It's getting at those more -- true emergency
22 situations of extending a season or closure, you know,
23 out of a cycle. Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I think we got
26 that there. They can be in, but they are different. So,
27 we -- Darrel, do you want to talk about special actions?
28 We've -- actions.

29
30 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman, members of
31 the Board, real quick. So, I'm trying to think, I think
32 it was 2018 when they closed our fishery because of a
33 low run return through special action. One thing I'd
34 like to see on this bullet list would be that the way
35 subsistence works is that everything else seems to be
36 closed, subsistence is the last thing to get closed.
37 Calling the state and saying, 'We're closing the
38 fishery' and five minutes later calling the subsistence
39 guys, saying, 'We're closing your fishery' is not how
40 that's supposed to work. There should be a time frame
41 with special actions. If they're -- if they cannot make
42 a reasonable judgment in a time frame, one: you got to
43 question why the job's not getting done, whether they
44 have the information. But two: that is how it's supposed
45 to work for subsistence preference. I don't think five
46 minutes from phone call to phone call justifies the
47 criteria of what a special action should be in closing
48 a subsistence fishery or hunting season or something
49 like that. Thank you.

50

1 UNIDENTIFIED: I was going to agree with
2 Andy and also with you a bit on just the special actions
3 I've seen, you know, in my short time here seem to, you
4 know, when they call you and, and, you know, you get the
5 others involved, I think that works fairly well. So,
6 I've been pretty happy with that process. You know that
7 they are including the RACs, you know, at that level.
8 So hopefully that will continue. And it will continue
9 to be as -- a good tool in the toolbox for them.

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and I
12 think that's worked good. The one that Andy was getting
13 to is the delegation of authority, which is a little --
14 it's different than the bullet point were on my opinion.
15 But that's a whole another story, they're wanting to put
16 that in regulation eventually. And the delegations of
17 authority, we always had a problem with that because we
18 wanted some to sunset, we wanted them to be reevaluated
19 and the timeliness of it and - otherwise, we don't need
20 a RAC, we just let them go out there and delegate
21 whatever they want. So that was the thing there but, I
22 think we're just about due for a break. So, let's see
23 how you guys feel. You got any more on this alignment
24 of.....

25
26 (Talking)

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: A special
29 action?

30
31 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm just trying
34 to finish up the special action. Okay, that said, we're
35 going to go ahead and let's take a short break, stretch
36 your legs.

37
38 (Talking)

39
40 Yeah, we have several more. We have 'The
41 'Role of the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and
42 Game', and we got the 'Board Policies' and then we got
43 'Other'. So, we got three more on the list to do.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty folks,
50 we'll go ahead and get back in order. We got a very

1 large agenda that we haven't started much on yet, so
2 we're going to try and keep moving forward a little bit
3 and knock it out as much as possible. The next one that
4 we're going to talk about is number six, The Role of the
5 State of Alaska and its Department of Fish and Game in
6 the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Nissa, Go
7 ahead.

8
9 MS. PILCHER: I was going to -- you guys
10 do have quite a -- you have comments on the record on
11 an earlier comment about the state involvement so, we
12 can also refer to those as well.

13
14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, is anyone
15 else, Michael, go ahead.

16
17 MR. OPHEIM: You know, the state is out
18 there doing a lot of the groundwork, you know, that we
19 rely on to make our decisions. So, you know, in that
20 regard, I think we've got a pretty good relationship
21 with them and their role with the, with us here so, just
22 my thought.

23
24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

25
26 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, and thank you,
27 Nissa, for capturing., I didn't realize I'd run over
28 into the other topic when I talked about the good work
29 that is being done with Fish and Game but, for example,
30 in today's meeting, it would have been so helpful to me
31 if Fish and Game had comments on our proposals. I mean,
32 it would have given us better background information so,
33 I'd ask that the department be perhaps more ready to
34 provide their comments when we need them and not wait
35 until the Board level.

36
37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and I
38 think that's happened before quite a few times, they're
39 not ready and then they take them to the Board official,
40 Board of Game. And you know, it doesn't do us any good,
41 so. Right, Andy?

42
43 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I'm thankful for
44 the data that the state provides for us. We can use
45 their information about population dynamics and things
46 like that that are -- it's very warranted for us to be
47 able to -- and the blessing that we have that as a
48 resource because we don't always have financially,
49 federally, the means of doing that monitoring so, we do
50 that. You know, conversely, the jurisdiction thing is

1 completely separate issue, you know, if they got
2 jurisdiction over something that we are using resources
3 from, but federal can't apply to that specifically in
4 the marine waters of Prince William Sound, that's a big
5 issue.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any comments?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 Darrel, for the record, what you had
12 testified to earlier, I agree with you 100%, and I'll
13 put it on record that I agree with you. Thank you.
14 Whoops, The roles of the State. Will you agree that they
15 do you know -- needed work and they're needed partners,
16 but they don't want to follow ANILCA and don't believe
17 in it, and they want to take over control so, it's a
18 two-block situation, and we need to have the separation
19 in order to survive. And so, we'll move forward with
20 that. Next one is a Board Policies and Procedures for
21 Rural Determination. And I think we've vetted that quite
22 a bit on the Board level on the RAC level here. But
23 there's always could be improvement. The one thing that
24 we have always requested before is that rural
25 determination, you know, they come forth and back up
26 their testimony of why they're qualified or why they
27 should be considered. So, I know we've done broad stuff,
28 even with Hope and Cooper Landing and different places
29 that we -- so, it was pretty good. Judy, you got it.

30
31 MS. CAMINER: I guess my only comment is
32 the Board left those policies and procedures very, very
33 open. And I'm imagining they will want to take a look
34 at it to see if it can be tightened up a little bit.
35 Pretty much almost everywhere in the state except for
36 the largest urban areas are considered rural at this
37 point.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, and, you
40 know, they say they don't use the eight factors, but if
41 you really refer to them, they're there for a reason.
42 But we've had a lot of communities come and come out of
43 the woodwork that are very small or moved into an extra
44 area and wanted to be considered under the rural
45 determination. But they don't have the history or the
46 you know, the customary and traditional use is not there,
47 and they try to pick out a road and name a road after
48 it and say that, 'Oh yeah, there's Joe Blow here'. I
49 know we had the problem with Anchor Point. We had the
50 problem with the Russian Village. We had a lot of

1 problems and yeah, they're rural, but they sure as hell
2 don't have no long-term customary, traditional use, you
3 know. So go ahead, Andy.

4
5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
6 Chair. Instead of us reinventing the wheel and coming
7 up with stuff, we've already hit this so many times, I
8 mean, I think three different meetings, like half the
9 day was, it was rural determination and then, oh,
10 suddenly! Oh, well, now what determines a non-rural. And
11 then we go for another, you know, 24-hour period of
12 deliberating and talking about it so, I think that could
13 be accessed from some old minutes and there'd be a lot
14 of information there.

15
16 MS. EWAN: Who makes those determinations
17 of -- Federal Board?

18
19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes.
20

21 MA. EWAN: And we just give them advices?
22 Well, you know, I remember when the Federal Board first
23 started, they gave seats to most of the rural areas. And
24 I don't know when they started including people from
25 this area, Anchorage, you know, and different places but
26 to -- what I see, I mean, what I know is that it's been
27 a lot, caused a lot of discrimination towards me as an
28 indigenous woman, as a human being. Because they look
29 at it like we have real, I mean, we have rights, you
30 know, over other people. But what to me is that the only
31 way we could have got in to go hunting and whatever we
32 how we live off the land is that we had to do something
33 because the state was going to cut us off of everything.
34 And this is back in the 70s. And this is why -- our
35 people, when they went to DC, Roy Ewan and then went
36 down there and advocated and wanted, you know, some kind
37 of protection from the federal government. And that's
38 how we started a new crop in Copper River. And that's
39 when we had Roy Ewan on the seat and now, you know, I
40 don't even know how they do determinations with, working
41 with the state or do they just do it on their own because
42 seem like, you know, I just seen earlier, somewhere it
43 says this federal was trying to give back to the state
44 under regulatory efforts. And that's going to really
45 hurt us in the rural area, big time. Because right now,
46 you know, they're hostile against Ahtna people. Thank
47 you.

48
49 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.
50 That's why the determination is very important. Any

1 other comments about it? I think Andy had a good thing.
2 There was there was the RAC here I know. Oops. Excuse
3 me. Andy you addressed all the information and the
4 deliberations that we had in the past, on our own
5 determination. And just quite recently, we did Hope and
6 we added that to the Cooper Landing site.

7
8 MR. MCCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you. Mr.....
9 Before that Hope thing, there was like a, almost a full
10 day and it was rural determination, that would be the
11 one to look at because, man, we talked about post
12 offices, schools, you know, miles, distances, all sorts
13 of things.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And just for the
16 general information of the public, we rotated our
17 meetings so we could be in those communities. We actually
18 went to Hope and had a meeting in Seward and different
19 things like that. Those were very helpful when the
20 weather wasn't so radical and we could make; we could
21 do some better traveling but anyway. Yeah, okay. Okay,
22 got enough on the rural determination. Now we got other,
23 whoops! Now she gotta [sic] keep me going with her. I
24 drink my coffee, I guess. Anyway, we're going to go to
25 'Other' and we discussed everything 'other' under the
26 sun, but I know we missed something. So, Judy, you go
27 ahead.

28
29 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Not
30 that we missed it, but just a couple other thoughts. One
31 would be..... Several discussions we had today, people
32 said we need more monitoring. But there's really not a
33 system in place to have that monitoring. Hopefully the
34 agencies could pick up the slack, that's unlikely, given
35 the federal funding these days. State, I don't know what
36 the situation is for monitoring. We have a Fisheries
37 Monitoring Program. If there's any way to institute a
38 Wildlife Resource Monitoring Program, where funds could
39 be designated for that purpose. And along the lines of
40 funding, I'd like to strongly recommend that no further
41 staffing or funding decreases happen to the Office of
42 Subsistence Management.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: In fact, I'll
45 add that it may need to be increased because I think
46 they're running at a 60% capacity and it's way too low.
47 And, yeah.....

48
49 MS. CAMINER: One more. I should amend
50 that to say also for the federal field offices to not

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1 decrease the funding and staffing anymore.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, it always
4 comes up that they can't do this and we can't do that.
5 We can't do the surveys. Well, if you can't do it, you're
6 not going to know so we do need the funding to support
7 us. Anyone got anything other burning on their mind?

8

9 (No response)

10

11 If not, Nissa, that is your marching
12 orders or reporting orders. And thank you Scott. Thank
13 you everyone. And it's open for more comment as it goes
14 along so, if you come up with something, you can submit
15 it, right?

16

17 MS. PILCHER: Yes. The -- well, unless a
18 motion is made to add stuff from this Council at this
19 meeting, the Council can't. but of course, there's
20 always the public comment, Tribal Council or tribal
21 comment. All of that is encouraged to be submitted as
22 comments to the scoping project.

23

24 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, then we
25 should make a motion to add our comments that were
26 recorded.

27

28 MS. PILCHER: Yeah, that's actually a
29 very good point. This is an action item; I do need a
30 motion to.....

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Action
33 item. Action, let's have action.

34

35 MR. OPHEIM: I'll make a motion.

36

37 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
38 Michael, is there a second?

39

40 MS. EWAN: Second.

41

42 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Second, Faye.
43 You didn't even hear the motion, but you guys are doing
44 good, okay. That is to add it to the record. Any other
45 discussion?

46

47 (No response)

48

49 Hearing none, all in favor, aye.

50

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1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

4

5 (No response)

6

7 So, carries is added to the record,
8 thank you.

9

10 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so the unanimous
11 consent to comprise a comment based off of your guys'
12 previous conversation and submit it to the scoping, the
13 Department of Interior through their scoping project.

14

15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That is
16 correct. But it wasn't unanimous consent, it was
17 unanimous vote.

18

19 MS. PILCHER: Unanimous vote. Excuse me.
20 Yes.

21

22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

23

24 UNIDENTIFIED: I just have one question.
25 So, this was comments from the Southcentral RAC. Do we
26 have -- are there any conversations started with other
27 RACs and what they're submitting? It's just, be nice if
28 we can all kind of get together on a united front, just
29 to make sure that we are really just supporting our
30 program, just in general.

31

32 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher, for
33 the record. So, the timing of the scoping period has
34 been so short that we haven't really been able to draft,
35 formally draft and then submit RAC comments. But the
36 Councils that I have coordinated and have participated
37 in, comments are very similar. So, I believe you guys
38 will all be -- most, I mean, I can't think of a single
39 way that you guys aren't all, mostly all supporting
40 yourselves with your individual comments about the
41 program and about the scoping process.

42

43 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you. I just think
44 it's really important that we have open dialogue and
45 constant communication with other RACs, just in general.
46 And I think it's been a while since we had an all RAC
47 meeting, and I think that's probably due, and I know
48 this is not necessarily the right time to bring it up,
49 but I think it's really important that we maintain
50 that conversation and communication with everybody else

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1 across the state.

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: Lisa.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Move on, Lisa.

6

7 MS. GREDIAGIN Okay. Lisa Grendiagin,
8 I'll talk really fast. The Bristol Bay Council put in
9 their comments that in all Council meeting should be
10 required before these recommendations on the program
11 review are implemented. So, you're not alone.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: So how are you
14 going to make it happen? Yeah, okay. We all agree on
15 that.

16

17 MS. PILCHER: That would actually take
18 another motion to add that back in because the -- it's
19 already been. But if you guys would like to, it was
20 pretty clear on the record what you -- if you want to
21 just mirror what Bristol Bay did.

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED: So, moved.

24

25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Is there
26 a second to that?

27

28 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Second

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
31 Andy. Any discussion?

32

33 (No response)

34

35 Hearing none, Michael calls the
36 question. All in favor, aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Any opposed?

41

42 (No response)

43

44 So, carries, thank you. Well, good. We
45 did good there. Nissa, you tell me if I'm right. My
46 mic is on, and I have Wildlife Proposal 26-27, Unit
47 13, caribou. We're going back to that with Brian now.

48

49 MS. PILCHER: Nope. We are actually --
50 if we are on the list, it's WP26-28b, -29, -30.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: That's what
3 happens when you listen to the to the Co-Chair.
4

5 MS. PILCHER: We did, we skipped 2627
6 because I accidentally left it on the list, that's
7 Brian's proposal. We moved it down. So, the first one
8 under the Southcentral Region to be taken up. So,
9 it's.....

10
11 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, we'll
12 keep skipping it. So, let's go to Wildlife Proposal 26-
13 28/29/30. That's right can we -- we're not done with
14 their, we got several yet. Okay, okay.
15

16 MS. HOLMAN: Couple more with me.
17

18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. All
19 right, you go right ahead.
20

21 MS. HOLMAN: All right, Mr. Chair,
22 members of the Council again, for the record, Kendra
23 Holman, Wildlife Biologist with OSM. So, I'm going to
24 start with a summary of the analysis for Wildlife
25 Proposal WP26-28b, -29 and -30. This can be found in --
26 starting on page one of your supplemental materials. So,
27 not your book. The other one. Was submitted by the --
28 so WP26-28b was submitted by the Southcentral Alaska
29 Council so, this Council. WP26-29 was submitted by -Nick
30 Jackson and WP26-30 was submitted by Shirley Smelcer.
31 Hopefully I said that correctly. All three of these
32 proposals request to extend the moose season in Unit 13.
33 So, WP26-20b specifically was from this Council. They
34 requested to extend the moose season in Unit 13 by ten
35 days to close September 30th. 26-29 request to shift the
36 moose season by -- in Unit 13 by five days. So, it would
37 be August 6th through September 25th. The proponent for
38 WP26-30 requested to shift the moose season in Unit 13
39 by ten days. So, slightly different for each one of
40 them, but all are for adjustments with the moose season
41 for Unit 13. In July of 2020, the -- so, kind of the
42 most recent history, regulatory history. The Board
43 adopted the modification for Temporary Wildlife Special
44 Action WSA20-03, which requested a closure of federal
45 public lands in Unit 13 to caribou and moose hunting by
46 non-federally qualified users for the 2020-2021 season.
47 The Board supported this closure due to its necessity
48 for reasons for public safety and continuation of
49 subsistence uses. The Board limited the closure to Units
50 13A and 13B, because this is the area where most of the

1 overcrowding, disruption of hunts and serious safety
2 concerns have occurred. The Board extended the request
3 to the 2021-22 regulatory year, as a regulatory proposal
4 could not become effective until July 1st, 2022, to
5 reduce the administrative burden associated with
6 processing additional requests. In 2024, the Unit 13
7 antlerless moose draw hunts did not occur under state
8 regulation. Because the antlerless moose hunts were not
9 reauthorized by the State Board of Game. Are you
10 stealing my book? In July of 2024, the Board adopted
11 WSA2406 with modification. This requested to close
12 federal public lands in Unit 13 to the hunting of moose
13 by non-federally qualified users for the 2024-25 and the
14 2025-26 seasons. The Board modified the request to close
15 federal public lands in Unit 13B. In January of 2025,
16 the Board of Game changed the population and harvest
17 objectives for moose in Unit 13B, 13C and 13E. These
18 changes can be found in table two on page 13 of your
19 supplemental book. So, it's going to show you what they
20 were and what they were changed to so you can see what
21 those are. So, currently in August of 2024, the Board
22 did reject Wildlife Special Action 2504, which requested
23 the closure of federal public lands in Unit 13 to non-
24 federally qualified users for the 2025 season. This
25 request was rejected because there's no imminent
26 conservation concerns for the moose in Unit 13C, or
27 threats to the continuation of subsistence uses
28 necessitating closure for the 2025 season. The Board
29 recognized the small amount of federal public lands in
30 Unit 13C may be important for rural users, but felt the
31 evidence was needed to justify the requested action. So,
32 in September of 2025, ADF&G issued two emergency orders
33 changing the harvest limit for the community hunts in
34 Unit 13E and 13C from one bull moose to one bull moose
35 with spiked fork -- spiked or fork antlers or antlers
36 50 inches wide or wider, or antlers with four or more
37 brow tines to at least one side. General season antler
38 restrictions is what it changed to. The quotas of 24
39 bulls for Unit 13E and five any bulls for Unit 13C had
40 not been met, resulting in the harvest change limit. So,
41 table two can be found on page 13 of your supplemental
42 book, shows those, again, those new population
43 objectives. Moose abundance in unit 13A 13C and 13E meet
44 or exceed population objectives and has remained
45 relatively stable since 2010. Again, figure two on page
46 two -- page 16 of your supplemental materials shows the
47 estimated population by Subunit. The Unit 13A moose
48 population estimates remain within management
49 objectives. The Unit 13B moose populations, however,
50 have exhibited a consistently declining trend since

1 2010. And in 2024, the 13B moose population estimate
2 increased slightly, while the population objective was
3 reduced, indicating that the Unit 13B moose population
4 is currently at 60% of the lower end of the new
5 population objective range. So, Unit 13C moose
6 population estimate decreased substantially in 2024,
7 while its population objective increased, resulting in
8 the most recent Unit 13 moose population estimate to be
9 below, 28% below management objectives. Unit 13D moose
10 population estimate dipped below objectives in 2022,
11 where it has remained. Unit 13E population estimate
12 dipped just below objectives in 2023 and remained here
13 in 2024. On table three of your -- table three, on page
14 14 of your supplemental material, it shows Unit 13 moose
15 composition and population estimates from the fall
16 aerial surveys and trend counts. Early calf mortality
17 has been high -- excuse me, resulting in most cows not
18 lactating over the summer, suggesting nutrition may be
19 limited -- limiting especially in the Unit 13C and 13B.
20 Harvest between 2000 and 2023 averaged 4,332 people
21 hunted over -- under state regulations each year,
22 reporting an average harvest of 728 moose for a success
23 rate of 17%. Over the same period, an average of 579
24 people hunted under federal regulations each year,
25 reporting an average annual harvest of 62 moose, which
26 is an 11% success rate. Table five on page 21 of your
27 supplemental material has some of this information.
28 Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under
29 federal regulations comprise of about 12% of the total
30 moose hunters and account for 7% of the total reported
31 harvest in Unit 13, on average. However, that federally
32 qualified subsistence users hunt under both federal and
33 state regulations, which increases that percentage in
34 Unit to 13 moose hunters. Table six on page 22 of your
35 supplemental materials shows the average moose harvest
36 statistics for federal and state hunters in Unit 13.
37 Table seven, which is on the same page; if not 21-22,
38 they're back-to-back. Shows the total harvest of the
39 state community, subsistence for moose in Units 11, 13
40 and a portion of Unit 12. So, there were alternatives
41 considered. I can go into those if you would like. This
42 one is a very complex, with three different proposals,
43 three different season dates, and a lot of data regarding
44 the moose in the different Subunits. If this proposal
45 were adopted, the federal moose season in Unit -- I
46 copied my notes from another one over this one. I need
47 a supplemental material. Thank you, sorry. The rest of
48 my notes just went to Unit 9B. I'm like, wait a minute.
49
50 UNIDENTIFIED: Almost muskox.

1
2 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah. It was almost moose
3 in Unit 9B. I'm like, oh, wait a minute, that's not
4 right, so sorry about that. Okay, so within this one,
5 if this proposal is adopted, Unit 13 moose will close
6 later in the season depending on which proposal this
7 Council should choose to support, if they choose to
8 support one. The state season closes on September 20th
9 for all of these proposal areas and provide -- all of
10 these proposals provide federally qualified subsistence
11 users with a priority. As stated by the proponents by
12 the submitted proposals, shifting the season later
13 corresponds with these changing weather patterns that
14 have been seen. Adopting these proposals could also help
15 with food security concerns. However, the state would --
16 -- as the state would be closed, users would have to
17 distinguish land status in the field to ensure that
18 they're hunting in the right place during the extended
19 season. Impacts to the Unit 13 moose are uncertain. Unit
20 wide, the moose population has been declining since 2021
21 and is currently below management objective. However,
22 you recently just heard the differences in some of the
23 Subunits. The state has also been issuing their
24 emergency orders changing. So, adopting any of these
25 proposals increases regulatory complexity. The outcome
26 of proposal WP26-31, which you'll hear next, can also
27 play into this one, as well. So, extending the moose
28 season in Unit 13 increases subsistence opportunity and
29 provides a meaningful subsistence priority, allowing
30 federally qualified subsistence users to hunt during
31 biologically and culturally -- whoa, that was hard for
32 me! Sorry. Appropriate times as the state hunt is closed,
33 all competition currently in the field would be gone --
34 out of the field. The extended season also provides
35 better hunting conditions due to the later onset of the
36 rut in recent years, and cooler weather that makes field
37 storage easier. The OSM preliminary conclusion is to
38 support WP26-28b and take no action on WP26-29 and 26-
39 29/30. So, of the three, 26-28b, which we support, would
40 be to extend the moose season by ten days to close
41 September 30th. 26-29, which we recommend to take no
42 action on, would be shifting the moose season back by
43 five days. And 26-29/30, same thing, take no action on
44 is. The OSM preliminary conclusion would be to shift the
45 moose season back by ten days. Hopefully, I did not
46 confuse you too much.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, you
49 straighten it up at the end, we got her. 20-28b,
50 WP26-28b you recommend and we recommend to the 30th. The

1 other two are take no action, 29/30. Correct?

2

3 MS. HOLMAN: Exactly, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. I
6 knew that. Andy.

7

8 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
9 Chair. So, forgive my ignorance here. So, at the 26-28B,
10 why are the other two a no action? But I didn't get this
11 ahead of time, I haven't reviewed this.

12

13 MS. HOLMAN: I see that again, sorry.

14

15 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Why take no action on
16 the last two but take action on the first one?

17

18 MS. HOLMAN: So, by.....

19

20 (Talking)

21

22 MS. HOLMAN: Yeah, so, there's.....

23

24 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, I see the
25 different dates, yeah.

26

27 MS. HOLMAN: So, they're different dates.
28 So, extending the season by ten days. So, the first two
29 just shift it and maintain the exact same amount of
30 dates. Whereas extending the season actually provides
31 additional days.

32

33 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: For the last two.

34

35 MS. HOLMAN: For the -- so, the last two
36 only move the season dates. The first one, 12B, which
37 we are supporting, preliminary supporting, adds days.
38 So, you actually end up with more days to potentially
39 hunt as weather patterns are all over the place right
40 now, we'll go with that one. And so, this does help
41 address some of that issue, I know we've had several
42 special actions from some of that area for moose seasons
43 in the last couple of years, just based on weather
44 patterns and when the moose are actually moving around
45 and when RET is happening. And so, that is addressed,
46 as well as providing the additional opportunity with the
47 first option versus the two other options, it remains
48 the same amount of days, just moving them. Does that
49 help answer?

50

000119

1 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah, kind of.

2
3 MS. HOLMAN: Kind of?

4
5 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I'm partway there. I
6 wish I had got this ahead of time.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I think
9 we'll -- when you get it -- we can move on, but.....

10
11 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI Yeah, it's, 28
14 goes through the 30th, and the other two would be moving
15 the dates forward, chopping them up a little different,
16 so. Anyway, I think the public comments received during
17 that open comment period, were there any?

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, there were -
20 - was one written public comment received from Ahtna
21 Inter-Tribal Resource Commission in support of this. And
22 that can be found actually in your meeting book, starting
23 on page 221. They have individual comments on each of
24 the three proposals so, there is comments. Start on page
25 221 and they run through 223. All of them are in support.

26
27 (Whispered conversation)

28
29 MS. HOLMAN: Yes, I would have, I could
30 give you a summary. It.....

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. They
33 supported them all, okay? Okay. Orville, you want to go
34 ahead and take a shot at it, how many people consulted
35 you?

36
37 MR. LIND: Yeah. Thank you, good
38 afternoon, Chairman, Council members. Orville Lind,
39 Native Liaison for OSM. There was representation from
40 Ahtna and they shared that, they recognized that
41 proposals for Unit 13 to extend moose season on federal
42 lands, and willing to try that change and support, and
43 also supporting that their monitoring efforts are being
44 done to get a density in the population Unit 13. And
45 that's all I have for summary.

46
47 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Judy, you
48 get a question on that? Go ahead.

49
50

1 MS. CAMINER: Mr. Chair, thank you.
2 Actually, a question for Kendra. When you were going
3 through each of the Subunits, I mean, except for A, you
4 use words like reduced or low or below. So, I mean,
5 we're okay on -- you still feel we're okay on a
6 conservation level to have the whole Unit with the extra
7 time?

8
9 MS. HOLMAN: So, a lot of these
10 populations are lower than management objectives. They
11 have recently also changed the management objectives.
12 There is still delicate monitoring that needs to be done.
13 And acknowledging that there are conservation concerns
14 out there but also attempting -- it's that weighing,
15 that fine line of providing additional opportunity
16 versus a population that has been -- we've learned that
17 it should be lower. The ori -- so, the original
18 objectives from the state were based on previous numbers
19 that they've learned recently should be lowered so the
20 Board of Game changed their management objectives.
21 Through that process, we've learned that this is just a
22 lower population than originally thought. So, some of
23 that has come out of this. But there's a -- trying to
24 find that fine line, as well as -- we've had
25 conversations with several other biologists around kind
26 of piecing this together, because the biology of this
27 one is very complicated. There is still good bull-cow
28 ratios in this area, so there is still bulls available,
29 while there's conservation concerns in the other
30 numbers. Your calf-cow ratios, your bull -- so, it's
31 been this very complicated puzzle that we've spent a lot
32 of time coordinating with a lot of different people to
33 try and piece together. I know that's not a straight
34 answer, and I am sorry for that, but it's not -- it's a
35 very complicated puzzle with a lot of considerations.

36
37 MS. CAMINER: Thanks. I'm just trying to
38 understand some of those considerations. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, I could
41 talk to him, but let's -- Lisa wanted to go, go ahead.

42
43 MS. GREADIAGIN: Yeah, Lisa Greadiagin,
44 just to add on to what Kendra said, that one of the
45 biggest considerations is that this is a bulls-only
46 harvest and the bull-cow ratios are adequate, especially
47 in like Unit 13B, where the heavy harvest pressure
48 occurs. And another consideration is what's happening
49 on the state side, that the state has pretty -- they
50 have antler restrictions, which really limits the

1 harvest on the state side. And there's limited federal
2 lands in Unit 13 that, you know, even extending the
3 season gives you a priority, but not in a very big area,
4 you're pretty constrained on where you can hunt in Unit
5 13. And we also, through this analysis process,
6 something we didn't realize during the special action
7 process is that the state will reduce the any-bulls quota
8 through their community hunt in response to, you know,
9 in season, you know, like what the harvest is and what
10 the conservation concerns are and so, once we found out,
11 you know, from the state that they're reducing that any-
12 bulls quota through the community hunt, coupled with the
13 limited federal lands in the area, adequate bull-cow
14 ratios, you know, antler restrictions on the state side
15 and the bulls-only harvest limit, you know, we felt that
16 it was -- even though there are some conservation
17 concerns for this population, that extending the season
18 would provide a really valuable subsistence priority
19 without compromising the moose population.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Understand. Go
22 ahead, Kirk.

23
24 MR. WILSON: Yeah, when you take a look
25 at these federally harvested moose here, during our
26 regular season, the federally harvesters don't take that
27 many moose. And even if they open the area for another
28 ten days, I don't think we're going to be annihilating
29 the population. I mean, it's going to be very low kill.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, good
32 comment. Any other questions on it?

33
34 MS. EWAN: Yes.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

37
38 MS. EWAN: I know moose migrates. They
39 don't stay in one area. And when we do the community
40 hunt in August and September, I know that I always. for
41 the last ten years, 13E is always the number one that's
42 closed. And then after that, they closed down the Eureka
43 area. And when they closed down the 13B and 13E, guess
44 where they go? They go down to 13C and D, which is well
45 past Copper River and Copper Center. And then they go
46 down there and know, you know, who knows how many moose
47 they got in each area, nobody knows, they don't turn in
48 their tickets to the state, but maybe to the feds after
49 they're done. But I know that moose migrates, they don't
50 stay in one area. And the moose population, I know I

1 never got a bull moose in the last 15 years because we
2 don't see them. We see a lot of cows and calves, but no
3 bulls. And if you do see a bull, it has to be -- meet
4 regulation standards and a lot of people lose their meat
5 because they don't, the regulations, you know, they
6 didn't meet it. Well, how are you going to see 50, 52-
7 inch rack with 300 yards unless you got Superman's eyes?

8
9 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I got one bad
10 eye, but the other one's super. Anyway, no, I know it's
11 a problem and its different areas, too. I will testify
12 to the fact that in the Ninilchik area, you know, we're
13 concerned about cows and calves. We don't see very many
14 calves and cows, but the bulls are quite prolific,
15 especially the mid-sized bulls, since they went to the
16 antler restrictions. So, it depends and I understand
17 they move, they migrate and the shortness, we don't want
18 to get into a bind there. But I agree with Kirk there,
19 that I don't think you're going to affect it by the
20 subsistence users. Okay, I'm moving on to the next one,
21 I got here is agencies. Alaska Department of Fish and
22 Game, got a comment? Are they, anyone on the phone?

23
24 MR. POETTER: Yeah, Aaron Poetter with
25 the Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Chair. I think a
26 lot of excellent points were brought up related to this
27 proposal. Extension of the season would only apply to
28 federal lands. The reduction of community subsistence
29 harvest is a potential anytime there's the, a
30 reallocation of harvest in an area where it's not, you
31 know, an abundance of animals available is always
32 something you're going to have to take into
33 consideration. I agree that looking at trying to count
34 for brow tines or know that our moose is 50 inches from
35 a long ways away is, can be a difficult thing to
36 accomplish. So, there are so many things, it is a
37 complicated issue, certainly. This would be a deviation
38 from state regulations and something else to consider.
39 And one last point is that, you know, while federal
40 lands are a very small portion of Unit 13, there's
41 potential to see more localized depletion by extending
42 the season in such a fashion. That may not be reflected
43 in larger Subunit populations of moose, depending on how
44 the surveys are conducted. So, what folks are seeing on
45 the ground may not be consistent with what's happening
46 throughout the rest of the Subunit. So, it's a
47 complicated issue. Points to consider. And that's what
48 I have for you. Thank you.

49
50

000123

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, good
2 points. Appreciate it. Good. Questions?

3
4 (No response)

5
6 Okay. Any federal agencies that want to
7 comment on it?

8
9 (No response)

10
11 Whoops! Tribes or ANCSA corps. Okay,

12
13 MS. CAMINER: Karen was coming up.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I almost beat
16 you to it.

17
18 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you.

21
22 MS. LINNELL: I wanted to make a point
23 of clarification. There were no cow hunts authorized
24 because none of the local advisory committees with the
25 jurisdiction approved a cow hunt for 2025. Based on what
26 they were seeing on the ground. So, that was why no cow
27 hunts were authorized by the Board of Game. They were
28 trying to encourage us to have a special meeting so that
29 we could continue to address it. But the Copper Basin
30 Advisory Council and, I think it's Paxson and Denali and
31 Tok cut off Nabesna Road. Those folks did not authorize
32 a cow hunt. And that's why there wasn't one. Also, they
33 do move the quotas for the state community harvest and
34 adjust those to fit where populations can handle the
35 animals. And for the last couple years, Unit 13C, where
36 I hunt, was down, was only five. So, therefore, to me,
37 when it's only five that there's a lower population of
38 moose there and you know, I'm understanding and hearing
39 your concerns for the populations and the harvest
40 amounts. And if, rather than adding more days, maybe we
41 shift the days by five to take into consideration the
42 warmer temperatures. I was out there from the beginning
43 of September this year, September 1st, through the 8th,
44 the 16th. And I had to leave. But that first nine days
45 we were out there, it was 70 degrees, that was out there
46 in T-shirts, tennis shoes. I didn't have to bundle up.
47 I've had years where September 3rd, we had snow and so,
48 it was really, really warm this year. And earlier today,
49 I heard comments about maybe adopting the seasons and
50 then giving a delegation of authority for managers to

1 adjust that and pick the set dates within, you know,
2 having a fluctuating date, start date, by ten day, up
3 to ten days and extending it up to ten days. And that
4 way if, you know, depending on weather, depending on
5 different things that they might -- the Glennallen Field
6 Office manager might be able to set the dates, you know,
7 say one year instead of August 1st, it'll be August 10th
8 and then go to September 30th, that kind of thing. But
9 -- and again, this is just my personal opinion. You've
10 seen the comments from our -- from the tribes and, and
11 everybody else that AITRC represents. I want to say that
12 we -- you know, the pressure that we receive in Copper
13 River Basin and the federal closure requests that have
14 been put in, are to help provide for federally qualified
15 users to get, have more opportunity. One of the things
16 that happens and, when we look at proposals such as this
17 one to extend the season, is, and when we talk about the
18 federal closures of or, you know, to non-federally
19 qualified users, the State of Alaska and many other
20 members of the public comment on how much opportunity
21 we have at the at the beginning of August in the height
22 of summer, right? And while there are a couple folks
23 that do hunt that early in the summer, a majority don't
24 because of the ability to refrigerate or get their whole
25 moose cool enough for them to let it hang and process.
26 And so, those are some of the things that, you know, we
27 encounter. And then, a lot of times the moose are way
28 high in the hills at that time of year. They don't like
29 the bugs, just like we don't like the bugs, right? And
30 so, they're not moving. And so, that means you have to
31 have the equipment that was mentioned earlier today and
32 getting higher up in the hills to be able to get to
33 them. Those things are what we need to look at. And so,
34 I know this is something for you folks to make a
35 recommendation to the full Board. I just wanted to bring
36 those concerns forward. And looking at temperatures and
37 changes that we're seeing on the ground, just like the
38 fish are returning later, the moose are moving later,
39 the caribou are migrating differently. And a lot of it
40 has to do with these warmer temperatures and things like
41 that. So anyway, that's all I had to say. Thank you, Mr.
42 Chair.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, thank
45 you, Karen. You know, that's a -- there's a lot of good
46 points. And I, you know, I like the information. I know
47 that, you know, it's real hard to give an in-season
48 manager the ability to make quick change. And so,
49 calculating the weather and stuff, I know we could
50 probably get a good week out, but maybe not more. And

1 then people trying to get in the field or hunters in
2 there, that plays a part to it, too. I know down in our
3 area we just moved to a later date. We moved to September
4 1st through the 25th and it seems to work pretty well.
5 Yeah.

6
7 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
8 those are things that I think we considered, one of our
9 elders is the one that put in the proposal to shift it
10 by five days. He's like, ten days might be too much and
11 get into that rut season, he said. But he thought that
12 we could handle five days and not get into that rut. And
13 I trust his judgment on that. And you've seen Nick
14 Jackson before this committee many times. He's the one
15 that submitted that proposal. And I appreciate, you
16 know, his years of experience and judgment on that. So
17 again, thank you.

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, I was just
20 kind of going to give you a little bit more information.
21 I know this Council isn't the most fond of the delegation
22 of authority letters. I will say that if that idea maybe
23 not of the letter but being able to give the in-season
24 manager that ability to shift the seasons, it can be put
25 into regulations. You're going to see another proposal
26 later about moving all -- most of them. But there is an
27 example of this currently, already in regulations, if
28 you wanted to take a look at it, so you'd be able to see
29 this, just for your information, if that was a direction
30 you wanted to go or something you were interested in,
31 it has already been done. So, you can take a look at an
32 example.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Kendra,
35 I appreciate that. We've looked at that quite a bit,
36 but we've looked at it a lot, actually. Very lot. But
37 I'm in tribal consultation now but thank you. Anyone
38 want to do any more, go back on it, that we could go
39 out of cycle here, but this is -- some follow on my
40 instructions. So, was there any other RACs?

41
42 (No response)

43
44 Advisory comments?

45
46 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair. Oh, make sure
47 I'm looking at the right one. Eastern Interior was the
48 other Council, and they did not consider this proposal.

000126

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
2 you. How about Fish and Game Advisory Councils, anyone?

3
4 (No response).

5
6
7 How about the Subsistence Resource
8 Commissions? Yes. Okay.

9
10 MS. COHEN: For the record, this is Amber
11 Cohen, Cultural Anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias.
12 The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
13 Resource Commission supported WP26-29 as written and
14 took no action on WP26-28b and WP26-30. Shifting the
15 season five days to August 6th to September 25th would
16 provide hunting opportunities during cooler weather
17 conditions, which would avoid meat spoiling and provide
18 opportunity after the state moose hunt, and it also
19 avoids hunting deep into the ruts.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
22 Thank you. Any other written public comments?

23
24 (No response)

25
26 Do you have any, Nissa?

27
28 MS. PILCHER: There were no other written
29 comments for this proposal that received after.

30
31 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Would anyone
32 like to have some public testimony on this proposal?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Now it's up to the Council to put it
37 before the table. Make a motion. Kirk?

38
39 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'm going to support
40 WP26-28b. And the reason that I support it is I don't
41 believe we should take anything away from the community
42 hunters. I think, if anything, we need to give them more
43 time in the field when there are no other hunters out
44 there. And that's the reason I take a stand. And I
45 believe that that's the one that we should go with.
46 Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Great. Is there
49 a second to it?

50

000127

1 MR. OPHEIM: Second.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Seconded by
4 Michael. Okay, we're open for discussion. Andy?

5

6

7 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: He just said support,
8 not made a motion, I just.....

9

10 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. I'll make the
11 motion.

12

13 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, you
14 seconded it.

15

16 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: I knew where he was
17 going.

18

19 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I had a second,
20 I know that. Okay. Okay, so we got a motion. We got a
21 second. Thank you for -- that's for 2628-B. Move to the
22 30th. Is there comments on that, or anyone got a burning
23 desire to change it or go to a different.....?

24

25 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair, I'm sorry to
26 confuse it, but the proposed federal regulation would
27 be just what's written here. At this point, there's
28 nothing about any in-season management?

29

30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No.

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: We're good? Do
35 you call the question?

36

37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Question.

38

39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
40 Andy. Okay. The question has been called. All in favor
41 of WP26-28b signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Is anyone
46 opposed?

47

48 (No response)

49

50

1 So, carries you. Kendra, I believe you
2 have more work to do.

3
4 MS. LINNELL: So, Mr. Chair, one more
5 note. We -- if you could, please, I'm going to maybe
6 step in on Nissa's toes here for a minute, but you took
7 action on 28B. We do need action taken on 29 and 30.
8 You..... Oh, it's being corrected. Okay, I was told, but
9 now I'm being corrected.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: I'm blaming Scott Prescott.
12 We are good as is. The intent on the record.

13
14 MS. LINNELL: Okay, perfect. We're good.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You were good at
17 the end of the day. Okay.

18
19 MS. HOLMAN: All right, WP26-31. This
20 will be a summary of the analysis. Can be found starting
21 on page 33 of your supplemental materials. This one was
22 submitted by Mr. Kirk Wilson. Proponent states that this
23 proposal was initially submitted as a special action,
24 WSA246. The Board adopted this special action with
25 modification, closing Unit 13B to moose hunting by non-
26 federally qualified subsistence users for the 2024-25
27 and the 2025-26 regulatory years. The food security
28 situation for residents in Unit 13 is now more dire than
29 when the special action was submitted. Without the
30 Nelchina Caribou Herd, federally qualified subsistence
31 users rely heavily on moose as an alternative resource.
32 But there is much competition, so much competition that
33 people are unable to continue their subsistence uses of
34 the species. So, that was from the proponent. The
35 regulatory history was the same as the previous
36 proposal. Current events: this was submitted as Wildlife
37 Special Action, which I covered in the last proposal as
38 well. Biologic and harvest information was also the same
39 as the previous proposal. So, if WP26-31 is adopted,
40 unencumbered BLM lands in Unit 13 would be closed to
41 moose hunting by non-federally qualified users. These
42 are the BLM lands depicted in the Unit 13 map included
43 in the Federal Wildlife Regulation booklet, figure 1 of
44 the proposal. The unencumbered -- or excuse me, the
45 encumbered BLM lands in Unit 13, i.e. land selected for
46 conveyance to other entities, are not open to hunting
47 under federal regulations and are not depicted in the
48 Unit 13 map in the Federal Regulations booklet. Closure
49 for conservation of the healthy moose population may be
50 warranted in Units 13B and 13D, where the moose

1 population has declined substantially according to the
2 state surveys and trend counts - and trend count areas.
3 Figure 2 from the previous analysis, on page 16 of your
4 supplemental materials has this information. In unit 13B
5 moose population has steadily declined 49% since 2010
6 and is currently 32% below recently reduced state
7 management objectives. While bull-cow ratios have
8 remained within state management objectives, fall calf-
9 cow ratios have consistently been below objective and
10 were very low in 2023 at only ten calves per 100 cows.
11 Additionally, yearling bull-cow ratios have been
12 consistently -- have also consistently been below
13 objectives, indicating few bulls may be harvestable --
14 available for harvest in the future. However, the States
15 General Moose season in Unit 13 antler restrictions
16 substantially mitigate conservation concerns. While the
17 state's community hunt is any-bull, ADF&G reduces the
18 annual quota as appropriate, mitigating these
19 conservation concerns in Unit 13 for the moose
20 population. In Unit 13D, moose population estimates
21 declined precipitously in 2023. While the estimate
22 improved somewhat in 2024, it is still below management
23 objectives. Additionally, the bull-cow ratios in 13D
24 have consistently been extremely high since 2010,
25 indicating there is a surplus of bulls available for
26 harvest. Closure for conservation concerns is not
27 warranted in 13A and 13E, where the moose populations
28 have remained relatively stable and are within or just
29 below management objectives. While Unit 13C moose
30 population estimate has consistently been within
31 management objectives, the 2024 estimate decreased
32 substantially, while management objectives increased.
33 However, similar to 13D, additional years of population,
34 estimates are needed before drawing decisive conclusions
35 as to the status of this moose population. Closure for
36 continuation of subsistence uses of moose may be
37 warranted in Unit 13B. Moose hunters and harvests are
38 concentrated in Unit 13B under both federal and state
39 regulations. Available evidence indicates that federally
40 qualified subsistence users in 13, Unit 13 faced
41 significant challenges to harvest sufficient moose, and
42 will face challenges to meet subsistence needs due to
43 recent closures of caribou harvest. While OSM recognizes
44 these challenges, OSM supports extending the moose
45 season in Unit 13 as requested by proposal WP26-28b,
46 rather than closing to non-federally qualified
47 subsistence users. To provide for continuation of
48 subsistence uses at a meaningful subsistence priority,
49 extending the season provides opportunity for users to
50 hunt without any competition from state hunters, as the

1 state land -- state hunt will be closed. The extended
2 season also provides a better hunting conditions due to
3 later onset of the rut in recent years, and cooler
4 weather that makes meat storage in the field easier.
5 Therefore, OSM considers extending the season more
6 appropriate and beneficial than restricting the non-
7 federally qualified subsistence users. OSM's preliminary
8 conclusion is to oppose this proposal. Thank you, Mr.
9 Chair, members of the Council, I will be happy to address
10 questions.

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. We got
13 questions. Yeah. Michael, go ahead.

14
15 MR. OPHEIM: So, do we need to take
16 action on this since we supported 26-28B?

17
18 MS. EWAN: Yeah, we just passed it.

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, we
21 extended the season. But now do we want to close it?

22
23 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Oh.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Kirk do you want
26 to speak to your proposal?

27
28 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I think you
29 misrepresented in your reading there about the area
30 we're hunting. We're talking about the federal lands
31 being open to only qualified hunters. It's not the season
32 thing.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. Go ahead,
35 Andy.

36
37 MR. MCLAUGHLIN: Yeah. A little confusion
38 here, because I heard you say 28b a couple times in
39 that. And I thought we were on 26-31.

40
41 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

42
43 MS. HOLMAN: Through the Chair, sorry.
44 So, I didn't mean to cause any confusion, sorry about
45 it. So, the two -- the group of three proposals, and the
46 last one, and this one had the same biologic, same
47 harvest information, same things like that. This was
48 just another piece in the puzzle. This proposal was
49 another piece in that complex puzzle. In looking at all
50 four proposals and all four options, OSM considers the

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1 options from just 28B the best -- not the best, but the
2 most practicable option at this time. Partially based
3 on things like land size and other mitigating factors
4 that are happening on both sides. So -- and we passed
5 B, but this is technically a different analysis because
6 it was very different, it was not about the season dates,
7 it's about closing to federally -- non-federally
8 qualified users. So, it is a separate proposal and was
9 not done exactly with them. While it still is another
10 piece of that.....

11
12 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWKI: Puzzle.

13
14 MS. HOLMAN: Puzzle.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Do you
17 follow that Michael? It's still different.

18
19 MR. OPHIEM: Now that helped me a lot.
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

23
24 MR. WILSON: I will talk to my proposal,
25 if that's okay now.

26
27 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: You bet, go
28 ahead.

29
30 MR. WILSON: You know a lot of it I said
31 earlier today. But if you look at your map sitting on
32 the table there right now, in Unit 13, you'll see down
33 at the very bottom down there, there's a little yellow
34 line going up the road. That's all the federal land
35 there is down in that area. And 13A and 13E, there's one
36 federal area that's way off the road system in that,
37 those two particular areas and one little spot over there
38 that's off the road system. Then when you get up to 13B,
39 it covers the road system and a little bit of that out
40 on the Denali Highway. And the rest of that big orange
41 area you see up there is pretty much off limits to
42 hunters, I mean, there's no way to access that so, what
43 we're talking about here is a very small area of Unit
44 13, this federal land. And you heard me talk to the
45 amount of people there are in other places now. And I'm
46 trying to get an area where our subsistence users in our
47 area have a place to go where they don't have to compete
48 with the rest of the world now, because that's what's
49 happening to us. And in these other areas that I talked
50 about earlier, with all these vehicles that these --

1 we're not going to hunt there, none of us, none of the
2 Native people, none of the subsistence, we don't have
3 the equipment to compete with them people. Those parking
4 lots are not just full of pickup trucks with little --
5 they're full of semis with these great dig vehicles. And
6 I mean, as far as a four-wheeler or one of our local
7 guys going out there with their -- they just can't
8 compete with them. You're going to have to get a long
9 ways off the road and this is one of those things where
10 we talk about the warm weather. When you see all those
11 people in those parking lots along the highway, and they
12 went out there 30 miles and they're from someplace else,
13 never got a moose, by the time they get it to that
14 parking lot, it doesn't matter what time of year it is,
15 if it's 60 to 80 degrees and you've had a moose in
16 plastic bags for three days, I mean, you ain't going to
17 have no moose when you -- and that's what's going on in
18 our area. Plus, a lot -- you heard me talk about Eureka,
19 and I was in the Fish and Game office, and I heard that
20 statement 28 illegal moose confiscated and two caribou.
21 They had three wardens in that -- we don't have three
22 wardens in our area; they have to come from someplace
23 else. So, what about all of the rest of the parking lots
24 in Unit 13? And the point of that being is, I'm talking
25 about areas that are out of federal land. But that's
26 where these people used to hunt. They could -- it's no
27 longer available to them anymore, in those places. It
28 just isn't available. And this, especially for village
29 people along these villages where we live there, there's
30 a little bit of opportunity to road hunt, you can go up
31 and actually walk out from the highway and kill an
32 animal, and that's impossible, the way it is now, with
33 all these people, you just, you're going to have -- you
34 are one lucky soul if you get one next to the road
35 nowadays. They've pushed them back. The next thing I got
36 to talk about here just a little bit is, bear with me,
37 please, is the cultural thing. You heard me talk about
38 the illegal moose and it goes along with roadkill; those
39 animals go to the same place that roadkill goes. And
40 I've done a little surveying around my community.
41 There's at least two villages in my community. Over 50%
42 of their wild game protein comes from illegal or roadkill
43 moose. And it's hard to keep a culture alive on roadkill.
44 We need to have these -- and you heard me a little
45 earlier today. I'm so proud of our villages and AITRC
46 coming up with these programs for these young people to
47 learn the cultural traditions, and they can't continue
48 to do that unless they have a place to hunt. And that's
49 what this proposal is about. I mean, it's a pretty small
50 area where they'll have to hunt to be able to get away

1 from these other people. That's the -- it's the only
2 place. And this is for -- this is one of the important
3 points about this. These little yellow areas you see,
4 you heard 13B was pretty productive. Not only is this
5 going to help the subsistence hunters, but this is
6 eventually going to help the sport hunters because the
7 moose will have a sanctuary. They'll have a place to go
8 because there's very little place for them to go during
9 our hunting season now. Just give me a second here,
10 please. I guess for us as a Board if we pass this
11 proposal, this will be one of the only areas that we
12 have any kind of control over whatsoever. Because when
13 we set the rules and we have to compete with the State
14 of Alaska, we do not have much control over anything.
15 And I guess that's the last I'll say, unless anybody's
16 got any questions or anything.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: No, we -- you'll
19 have another chance when we get into deliberation too.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Okay

22
23 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I'm going to go
24 through, I just let you speak to the proposal so, we're
25 just on number two here so, thank you, Kirk. We'll move
26 on then to tribal and ANSCA corporations' consultation.
27 Orville?

28
29 (No response)

30
31 Did he leave? Was there any consultation
32 on this one?

33
34 (No response)

35
36 Does anyone know?

37
38 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa, for the
39 record. There was consultation, let me quickly find --
40 we can keep going through the process, and I will let
41 you know if.....

42
43 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I'm going
44 to do agencies and tribal comments so, the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game.

46
47 MR. POETTER: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chair.
48 Aaron Poetter, Department of Fish and Game. So, you know,
49 where we would be opposed to a closure to non-federally
50 qualified users only within these areas. We don't see

1 any biological justification, population trends, etc.,
2 to justify that. Wouldn't agree that this would provide
3 a refugia for moose, as in the BLM land, just all tracks
4 along the road system and functionally just be
5 supporting more road hunting, so. Anyway, that's what
6 we have, thank you, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alrighty. Thank
9 you. Federal agencies, any comments?

10
11 (No response).
12

13 Tribal and ANCSA corporations? I saw
14 Karen coming up.

15
16 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
17 the record, my name is Karen Linnell. I'm the Executive
18 Director of Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission.
19 There's a couple things that wasn't [sic] included in
20 the in the summary is that this is the federal lands
21 that is open for federal hunting. There are additional
22 lands that are under BLM management that have been
23 selected or encumbered, and those are being hunted under
24 the state regulations. So, it's not that it's not being
25 hunted at all. They are being hunted under state
26 regulations. And so, they already have an additional, I
27 think it's 2.5 million acres of BLM lands that they're
28 hunting. Around 2, I'll keep it approximate, because I
29 don't have the exact numbers that are being hunted under
30 state regulations. This [sic] little pieces here, the
31 federal lands within Denali National Park, are only
32 available to residents of Cantwell who live within three
33 miles of Denali of the post office. So, nobody from even
34 outside Cantwell, in Healy or anywhere else, can hunt
35 Denali National Park. The -- and so that has a portion
36 in Unit 13, Wrangell-St. Elias, that little sliver,
37 which is super tiny. And if you don't know where it's
38 at, you'll drive right by it. It's just a little tiny
39 triangle in Unit 13 that's probably not even a half a
40 mile. And the width of the road to the river, that's it.
41 And that section is already available for federal users.
42 The 13B, E and D, which is not even a town site in Unit
43 13D, that's what I'm -- it's such a small percentage of
44 all of Unit 13 in total, I think if you don't count
45 Wrangell-St. Elias and you don't count Denali National
46 Park, because they have their own resident zones, you're
47 talking about 5% of the land, maybe seven. And you're -
48 - the state is objecting to us being able to use our
49 federal permits and only federal permits on that less
50 than five, you know, about 5% of the land, it's just

1 ridiculous. If you can look, you look at the harvest
2 numbers, there are over -- in the last ten years or so,
3 about a thousand moose are taken out of that area. Over
4 900 of them are on -- under state permits and maybe
5 we'll get some -- last, the last couple years it's
6 dropped significantly, down to 573 animals, I think. And
7 I don't have for 2024 or 523, something like that, and
8 I don't have the 2025 numbers, the harvest for Unit 13.
9 But it's not, it's dropped significantly. And the
10 ability and the federal harvest is along those same
11 lines, with that drop the federal hunt is dropped as
12 well. Allowing for a federal priority on federal lands,
13 a rural priority on federal lands is important. Even
14 with the changes in dates, I can't use my federal permit
15 on state land. I can't take my state community harvest
16 and hunt on federal lands with it; I have to get a
17 federal permit to hunt on federal lands. Why are we
18 allowing for state hunters to harvest on federal lands
19 if they're not federally qualified? That's been my
20 question for many years now. And when we're seeing a
21 drop in harvest in -- overall for all of Unit 13, the
22 dependence on the resource with the drop in the salmon,
23 with the loss of the caribou, the dependence on the
24 moose, is even more vital, more important to being able
25 to take care of our families and our communities. And
26 so, I just wanted to bring that forward. There's quite
27 a bit of land selections there that -- I think Caroline
28 has had me ask her these questions many times, could
29 probably give you some numbers as far as the -- Caroline
30 Ketron with BLM, the acres of land that are available
31 that are encumbered and are being hunted under state
32 regulations. So, thank you.

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you very
35 much, Karen, good info. So, you support it then? Yeah.

36
37 MS. LINNELL: Oh, yes. Definitely. Thank
38 you.

39
40 MR. WILSON: Yeah, I just want to speak
41 to what Karen said about not being qualified. I just --
42 clear it up a little bit. If you don't live in one of
43 those communities, and qualify in that community, you
44 can't hunt like Karen and myself, for instance. We can't
45 hunt in the park, because we don't live in one of those
46 communities. Now, we could go in and get a special C&T
47 permit and then we'd be able to go, but that's just the
48 facts of it is, not all qualified subsistence hunters
49 get to go over into that park and hunt. That's why these
50 areas are so important to some of those people, they

1 don't have the opportunity to go anyplace. That's the
2 only place they're going to have a viable place to go
3 and get an animal.

4
5 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
6 you. Karen, go ahead.

7
8 MS. LINNELL: Yeah. Thank you. I -- and
9 that's true. Kirk lives 25 miles away from me, 20 miles.
10 He's not eligible Wrangell-St. Elias. He doesn't live
11 in one of the Wrangell-St. Elias resident zones so, he's
12 not able to go into that and hunt under a federally
13 qualified permit within Wrangell-St. Elias, and he's not
14 eligible for Denali National Park. So, these yellow line
15 areas are even that much more important to him and folks
16 like him. And we have to remember that this is not just
17 the residents of Mentasta, Chistochina, Slana, Takotna,
18 Gulkana, Tazlina, Kluti Kaah and Copper Center or
19 Chitina and Cantwell. It also includes Delta.

20
21 MR. WILSON: Yes.

22
23 MS. LINNELL: And there are several --
24 there are 2,500 permits, at least from Delta that, for
25 moose permits. And so, we have that competition as well,
26 they're rural residents, on their federally qualified
27 to hunt moose and caribou in Unit 13. On federal lands.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Well, I
30 got another one off the -- but just up in the Cantwell
31 area, I'm trying to think what I need to bring you so I
32 could go hunt up there. Because I filed for a Native
33 Allotment in Cantwell, I think I'm within three miles
34 of the post office. But anyway, I might be trying to
35 come into your town but thank you.

36
37 MS. LINNELL: I can't even give you
38 permission to go to Cantwell. You have to talk to a
39 Cantwell tribal citizen. Thank you, sir.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Alright, I - we
42 -- I think we understand that you're closer, I'll talk
43 to you. Okay, go ahead, Faye.

44
45 MS. EWAN: Yeah, I don't -- this is Faye
46 Ewan, I'm from Native Village of Kluti Kaah. I hunt
47 there all the time, and the area you're talking about
48 is that -- that's where we hunt for our potlatch moose.
49 And we used that -- we get the permit from the state to
50 get moose. And in the fall time when we make potlatches

1 and getting ready to do our ceremony, we go to that
2 area. We hunt from all the way from Sourdough, where's
3 that little patch of land there? And then it goes up to
4 Paxson, little patch of land by Paxson Lake. And then
5 you go further up the slope, past Paxson Lodge. And as
6 you get into Delta area, there is massive hunters in
7 that area. I mean, there is more -- I mean, every parking
8 lot, there's 10, 20 cars there. They're just like Eureka
9 and Paxson and Tangle Lakes area. And a lot of times we
10 go there and when we try to get moose or we see a moose,
11 those hunters would already be out on top of their truck
12 and all ready to shoot at one moose. And you know, to
13 me, that's against, that should be a law against that.
14 It's scary. I mean, I tell, let's just go, you know, let
15 them have it. We're not going to war over a moose. But
16 I think that if we kept it the way it is, it's fine.
17 Thank you.

18
19 MS. LINNELL: Mr. Chair, just one more
20 statement I heard. Mr. Wilson's talk about road hunting.
21 The Ahtna people were not road hunters until they started
22 imposing regulations on us, on what size the moose we
23 have to harvest. And again, like I talked to you this
24 morning, about being able to continue my traditional
25 practice of taking what comes before me. Remember, our
26 chief Fred Ewan talking about, what am I supposed to do?
27 Carry around measuring tape? And that's when they went
28 to the 36-inch bull. And then we went to the 40. Then
29 the 44, then the 48 and now 50 and or four brow tines.
30 So, that has chased us away because we have to practice
31 our traditional way of taking what comes in front of us
32 and not turning away something that's given itself to
33 us. And so, by regulation and their -- as the late Roy
34 Ewan said, 'They're regulating us out of our way of
35 life' and so, being able to harvest in these areas, with
36 the any-bull under the federal regulations and not have
37 competition there, would be most beneficial to rural
38 residents. Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good.
41 Thank you, Karen. Okay, I'm still on -- I think I'm on
42 tribal and ANCSA corporations. Is there anyone else on
43 the tribal side?

44
45 (No response)

46
47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game? They
48 already addressed us. Pardon?

49
50 MS. LINNELL: They already spoke.

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1
2 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: They already
3 spoke so, I already got them, the federal agencies, I
4 called and I spoke to the tribes so, I got all of them.
5 Okay. And any advisory groups, any other RACs that put
6 in.

7
8 (No response)

9
10 You don't know?

11
12 MS. HOLMAN: Sorry, Eastern Interior, Mr.
13 Chair. Eastern Interior did not take action on this
14 proposal. And I was notified that as far as Orville's
15 report that there were no comments.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. He's back
18 now.

19
20 MS. HOLMAN: Oh, he did come back. Okay.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, thank
23 you, Orville. If you want to put it on the record, come
24 on up. Yeah, we'll.....

25
26 MR. LIND: Put it on the record.

27
28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay.

29
30 MR. LIND: You gotta be on record.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah, exactly.
33 Get in the Chair.

34
35 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Chairman,
36 Council members, Orville Lind, Native Liaison for OSM.
37 There were no comments or questions on that proposal.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, very
40 good, thank you, Orville. Okay. Subsistence Resource
41 Commissions. There we go.

42
43 MS. COHEN: For the record, this is Amber
44 Cohen, cultural Anthropologist at Wrangell-St. Elias
45 National Park and Preserve. So, the Wrangell-St. Elias
46 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission did not
47 support WP26-31 due to a tie vote. So, some commission
48 members were concerned about high levels of competition
49 in Unit 13, as they heard in public testimony during the
50 meeting, and from their own experiences moose hunting

1 in this Unit. Other commission members felt that Unit
2 13 federal lands were so small that a closure would not
3 have an impact. These commission members would prefer
4 to see the season date shift rather than close federal
5 lands to non-federally qualified hunters.

6
7 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. Thank
8 you. I think that's good. Okay. There are written
9 comments.

10
11 MS. PILCHER: This is Nissa Pilcher for
12 the record. So, after the deadline, we did receive one
13 public comment. It is in your additional material
14 received packet that was on your table. There was one
15 member of the public that was in opposition to this
16 proposal, and Kendra might have on time comments as well.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Kendra.

19
20 MS. HOLMAN: So, Mr. Chair, we received
21 one written public comment during the open period from
22 the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission in support
23 of this proposal. It can be found on page 222 of your
24 meeting book. I can provide a summary if needed.

25
26 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay. I'm going
27 to ask if there's no one else on there, about public
28 testimony, anyone want to make a testimony to this?

29
30 MS. PILCHER: Mr. Dave Sarafin.

31
32 MR. SARAFIN: Mr. Chair.....

33
34 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, I got Dave
35 online. I just got your message, go ahead.

36
37 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair.
38 Yeah, this is Dave Sarafin, a rural resident and
39 subsistence user, lives in Tazlina. And I would like to,
40 you know, confirm what you've heard about the hunting
41 pressure in 13. I've hunted, mostly in 13B some, in 13A,
42 under federal regulations. And yes, it's extensive, even
43 among the federal users. You know, I've seen -- had
44 federal users camp right near me and get a moose that I
45 was watching. It's, you know, it's a tough -- I know
46 it's a tough decision to close federal public lands.
47 Many of us do have ties to non-federal users that may
48 want to hunt, and it might be good to invite them along.
49 And this idea of closing the lands to some can be
50 challenging to accept. However, it is only, it's listed

1 as 6%, 5 to 6% in the analysis. And, you know,
2 designating just that 6% to fed-only, seems reasonable.
3 Justified, you know, as a federal priority, to have a
4 chance to harvest something. Again, I made comments
5 earlier about the later season, not necessarily equating
6 to eliminating competition because it's already gone
7 through weeks of higher pressure mostly from state users
8 that could have thinned out the animals, you know, we
9 all, it is a lot, the pressure is concentrated along the
10 road and waterways in 13B and some moose are going to
11 hang out along the roadway, some along shorelines. And
12 they're the ones that get called out quicker. It's --
13 you do get some movements coming in and might have a
14 chance at another bull that's coming through, but still,
15 it's been thinned out. I think another, you know,
16 consideration on the timing has been these later seasons
17 and delayed leaf drops on the foliage, is a big part of
18 it. When you're glassing for moose, it's much more
19 efficient after leaves have dropped off a lot of the
20 foliage. But, oh and I see mention of users needing to
21 become familiar with distinguishing land status, and
22 that's already done been there. It's somewhat checker
23 boarded, some of those areas on which, if it's federal
24 or state, and federal users, state users that are --
25 have been hunting there should be aware of how to, you
26 know, where they are hunting. And so, that's, I think
27 all I wanted to, to throw in there. So, thank you for
28 the opportunity.

29
30 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: All right,
31 thank you Dave. All right. That concludes the public
32 testimony, unless I have someone else.

33
34 (No comment)

35
36 I'm going to go ahead and move to the
37 Council of Motion.

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED: I'll make a motion that
40 we support WP26-31 to request that the Bureau of Land
41 Management lands in Unit 13 be closed to moose hunting
42 by non-qualified users.

43
44 MS. TOTEMOFF: This is Angela. Second.

45
46 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Angela, you
47 second. Thank you. Okay, it's been moved and seconded.
48 We're up to discussion, go right ahead.

49
50

1 MR. ZADRA: Okay, thanks. And for the
2 record, Dennis Zadra and I'm looking at your map and
3 things and correct me if I'm wrong, Kirk, but this will
4 eliminate the opportunity for the state hunters to hunt
5 on these lands, but it will not eliminate their
6 opportunity to cross these lands, to access the state
7 land. Is that correct? Yeah so, looking at this, you
8 know, I mean, like you're saying, these guys are loading
9 up their monster machines and going 20 miles out. And
10 again, I completely support your proposal. But to me it
11 seems like they're still going to do what they're going
12 to do. They just can't hunt that little corridor that
13 they're doing. And again, if they're going 20 miles in
14 they're not hunting it anyway. They're hunting the state
15 land. And I see -- and I'm not familiar with this country
16 at all, and I see where, up by Paxson, it is different,
17 there is a lot more percentage of the BLM land but that's
18 all. I guess my clarification was, it still isn't going
19 to stop these guys from going across the land to access
20 the state land.

21
22 MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So,
23 just a reminder to everybody. I mean, closing to non-
24 federally recognized subsistence users -- non-federally
25 recognized users is a fairly big deal. And what ANILCA
26 says that closures occur when it's necessary for the
27 conservation of healthy fish and wildlife populations
28 or to allow for continuation of subsistence uses,
29 specifically when there's a shortage of resources. And
30 as much as we'd like to, I'm not hearing that we have,
31 maybe we're on the verge of a conservation concern, but
32 I'm not hearing that we have one. So, I guess I would
33 say that it would be -- it might be prudent to go with
34 what we just decided on extending the season and that
35 provides extra time for subsistence users. But not try
36 to exclude, I think it'll be -- could be challenging to
37 get support for that higher up. We have to have a really
38 good reason for doing it and I haven't heard it.

39
40 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Well, I'll give
41 you the reason.

42
43 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

44
45 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I believe the
46 reason is shortage. And I think that's defensible.

47
48 MS. CAMINER: Okay.

49
50

1 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you. Go
2 ahead, Eddie.

3
4 MR. GREYBEAR: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
5 Chair. This is a tough one for me. I concur with Ms.
6 Caminer about the extending the season, is -- I voted
7 to support that because that's giving you this
8 additional opportunity, I really hope that that helps
9 connect you. I myself am in dire straits with what I
10 consider my subsistence. But as we heard from some
11 earlier testimonies, there's times where subsistence
12 users that are federally qualified in other places
13 actually take advantage of the sport hunt opportunity
14 in order to be able to fill their subsistence needs. And
15 I myself am included, and I do hunt that corridor along
16 there. So, this is a really tough thing for me. You
17 know, I'm maybe a very different exception to the rule
18 of all this major competition and believe me, the parking
19 lots, I've counted over 100 cars in parking lots. I
20 mean, it's like Walmart, it's unbelievable, in the
21 millions of dollars worth of stuff. And so, I'm in the
22 same shoes as you for the competition, for those limited
23 resources that are there. It's amazing that it moose can
24 even live amidst all that, at least a legal one, you
25 know? So, I'm really glad that you got the extension of
26 the season, but I can't see this conservation concern
27 level, even though I always have my -- we got concerns
28 about everything, you know. But the percentages wise,
29 you know, to open this for a 5%. So, I'm going to have
30 to oppose it.

31
32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Okay, Hannah, I
33 got a notice that you got a hand up?

34
35 DR. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 just wanted to chime in briefly to clarify that
37 continuation of subsistence as a criterion for closure,
38 actually, it doesn't have to exclusively be due to
39 conservation concerns or reduced numbers of animals.
40 Conflict between users has been used as a valid reason
41 to close to non-federally qualified users by the Board
42 in the past. Thanks.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Very good,
45 conflict between users. Thank you. Kirk, go ahead.

46
47 MR. WILSON: Yeah. I'd like to make a
48 comment to what you said about these people going. When
49 our moose shortage first started, which really started
50 about 5 or 6 years ago, and it's when them hunters, with

1 all these vehicles showed up, probably in the last ten
2 years, mostly. What I found was, when they showed up is
3 our road hunting got better. Because there's so many
4 people out in the field, they run the moose out to you.
5 That's no longer available where I am now, because
6 there's just not that many moose around. I mean, I
7 personally, I got my moose in the first of season, but
8 I still go every day, during hunting season and drive
9 around. I never saw a bull moose on the road in my area,
10 that's first year ever not seeing a moose, a bull moose
11 in my -- and I don't know anybody in my community that
12 got a moose this year. That's just kind of the thing --
13 when those people go out, you heard me say earlier,
14 we're creating a sanctuary for the moose, too. Because
15 we don't have that many qualified subsistence hunters,
16 the moose are going to -- and especially in some of
17 these little areas where it's not right next to the
18 road, the moose are going to have a place to go, to
19 survive.

20
21 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead, Faye.

22
23 MS. EWAN: You know, Faye Ewan, Kluti
24 Kaah. When we go out hunting and we see all these people
25 there, it's very dangerous to go out in the field, even
26 just to walk off the car and go towards the woods.
27 There's other people that's all dressed up in like going
28 into water, and they're sitting there all dark and
29 matching with the grass, and you're walking on these
30 traditional trails that our ancestors left us, and
31 you're going way back to all you see is camps, tents
32 and camps, all the way back, maybe 20 miles. I know that
33 country, I grew up there, it's where my grandpa comes
34 from. Paxson is my grandpa's country, hunting country,
35 traditional. Eureka is my mother's country and down
36 toward Copper Center way, that belongs to other clans.
37 But when we go out hunting and we see these people, you
38 know, we can't hunt, you can't -- there's a regulations
39 where you can't shoot, you know, be around people 100ft.
40 And these tents are all along the roads, I mean, they're
41 in the woods, everywhere. And you -- unless you get off
42 the car, you won't see them. But when you go into these
43 back trails like Tangle Lake, it's supposed to be no
44 road vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, you can drive all the
45 way to Tyone Lake now and go all the way to Susitna
46 River, and the federal and the state land there, the
47 state allows that. But on the federal land, it's still
48 the same way it was 50 years ago. And that's a big impact
49 because there's all that trail, you go up Eureka and you
50 see all those roads that they open up on wetland, which

1 supposed to be only no-terrain vehicles. And this is
2 something that, I really see that our way of life is
3 being threatened by modern day hunters, and it affects
4 me because I never got a moose for ten years, you know,
5 and that's really sad. But somehow or another, the
6 creator, you know, gives me meat to share with my family.
7 And when I share with my family, I mean Alaska and all
8 over Lower 48. Right now, we got a caribou kill,
9 roadkill. We salvaged what we have, we give it to the
10 elders, and the elders said, I haven't had caribou in
11 seven years. And those kids ask him, what kind of meat
12 is this? That's the kind -- I mean, this encroachment
13 is really affecting me and my family, big time. And when
14 you extend these days, that's okay. As long as we feed
15 our people, there's food security is involved in this,
16 food shortage is involved in this. And that is something
17 that the federal government has to uphold a fiduciary
18 responsibility to our people, especially our tribe, as
19 a federal government. And this is something that we
20 shouldn't be even fighting over, we should be allowed
21 to, you know, go hunt where we want and not have other
22 people, strangers, come into our land and just rape our
23 land and leave with nothing. And they give, they have
24 this distinct community hunt where they leave the --
25 what they don't want. They don't want the moose head;
26 they take the tongue. They don't want certain parts of
27 it; they leave it there Ahtna. But they don't eat moose
28 skin, which we will turn that into, you know, to hide,
29 to use for sewing. This is - how -- is this what you
30 call community hunt, harvest to share? And these hunters
31 are all from up Eureka, up in Paxson area, that bring
32 this stuff into us. And to me, I would not do that to
33 you. I would ask you what, you know, what meat you want?
34 You want hindquarter? I'll give it to you, as a respect.
35 That shows me no respect from the state hunters, period.
36 Because I had to turn it in, how many times? And tell
37 the state of Alaska where -- the Fish and Game, where'd
38 you guys find this meat? I said, "It's rotten." And it's
39 sad because in my traditional way, I do not waste food.
40 And it's sad that we have to do that. And I just wanted
41 to share that about this long hunt and all of the things
42 -- we used to hunt from August 1st to September 20th;
43 there was no problem then. And then all of a sudden, the
44 state opened up all this caribou to 2 to 4 caribou and
45 then now we got no caribou. And then all of a sudden we
46 got moose and we're having crisis with moose. Now, what
47 else are we going to eat? Cow? Reindeer? That's not our
48 staple; it's not my traditional food. That's what we're
49 looking into now, we're going to have to bring reindeers
50 in to feed our people, it's sad. This is not just, you

000145

1 know, what the sports hunting, whatever way you do it.
2 This is my traditional way of life. I support this
3 proposal here, but I would like to see more monitoring
4 and more regulation put down at the federal level, follow
5 up and do a harsher punishment on people that misuse the
6 animals. Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
9 Faye. Definitely a conflict between users. Angela, go
10 ahead.

11
12 MS. TOTEMOFF: I'd like to call the
13 question.

14
15 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Question has
16 been called for, thank you. Question's been called for.
17 You raised your hand. Why are you trying to stop me?

18
19 MS. PILCHER: I would just like to do a
20 roll call vote on this one.

21
22 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, I would not
23 like to do a roll call vote. I'd like to take a vote,
24 and then we'll see if we need a roll call. Okay? All
25 those in favor, aye.

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Those opposed?

30
31 UNIDENTIFIED: Nay.

32
33 UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

36
37 UNIDENTIFIED: Nay.

38
39 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I see three
40 names.

41
42 MS. PILCHER: I saw four.

43
44 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I saw three.
45 1,2,3,4, okay, 4. You opposed it? Four, five? I'm
46 teaching her how to count, five. Okay, what do we got?
47 We got support. Two, three, four.....

48
49 MS. PILCHER: Okay, so with -- you said
50 five?

1 MS. EWAN: Yes.

2

3 MS. PILCHER: So, it's five ayes and five
4 nays so, that means it actually fails. Because it's a
5 tie vote.

6

7 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, through the Chair. I'd
8 like to just add, I was thinking, if this passes, I'm
9 so happy for you. And if it doesn't, you did the legwork
10 on this. Keep it, you've already got the season extension
11 and bring it back and give us an update of how that
12 season extension has helped your harvest or not.

13

14 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Doesn't help
15 here, thank you. Okay, it failed, by five, if you count.
16 Is there someone else we could call? Hope is gone. She
17 had to go, I told her she could be excused, she had the
18 kids take care of, so she left early. Hopefully she'll
19 be here tomorrow. Okay. Question?

20

21 MS. PILCHER: I just wanted to remind
22 everyone, I know it is currently exactly 5 p.m. But we
23 did say that Jackie with Fish and Game could -- she has
24 a very, very short presentation and then Deanna with
25 Ahtna, were going to go today. So, I didn't know if we
26 wanted to do that now?

27

28 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yes, we do.

29

30 MS. PILCHER: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: I don't want to
33 hold people up, but let's get with it. We got about
34 three days of work yet. We've got one day left so it's
35 going to be interesting.

36

37 MS. KEATING: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
38 the record, Jackie Keating, Division of Subsistence,
39 work on a number of projects in the Southcentral region.
40 I'm going to save our longer update for your March
41 meeting. I know we're at the end of the day, so in the
42 interim, I just wanted to make sure that Council members
43 are aware of the fact that before you all meet again in
44 March, we are collaborating with the Native Village of
45 Eyak and the Chugach Regional Resources Commission with
46 additional funding support from the Forest Service to
47 survey Cordova for the first time in ten years. So,
48 we'll be out there conducting 200 household harvest
49 surveys, in the first two weeks of February. The Native
50 Village of Eyak is currently hiring local research

1 assistants to work on that project. Last time I checked,
2 they had six folks hired. They're giving preference to
3 tribal members, but anybody is welcome to apply and that
4 is still open. And I also wanted to put on folks' radar
5 that we in the spring are starting another project,
6 collaborating with the Division of Wildlife Conservation
7 to eventually conduct a survey of permit holders for the
8 black bear hunt in Prince William Sound. Prior to that,
9 we're going to be conducting a number of focus groups
10 with people that are knowledgeable about that, to help
11 us design the survey. So, I'm going to have a lot more
12 information about that in March, but I wanted to put it
13 on everybody's radar and hope folks will reach out and
14 be interested in either participating yourself or
15 recommending folks that should be involved in that
16 process. So, thank you.

17
18 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
19 Jackie. I think Judy's going to have a long list of
20 questions for you, but anyway, no, we appreciate your
21 work. Go ahead.

22
23 MS. CAMINER: Actually, you just
24 summarized it. We do appreciate your division's work,
25 and it's very valuable. We appreciate how closely you
26 work with our federal agencies also. So, thanks, we look
27 forward to hearing the details in March.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: And we
30 appreciate it so much. We're going to let you go so you
31 can be here for tomorrow. So, anyway thank you. Okay.
32 One other.

33
34 MS. PILCHER: Yeah.

35
36 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Deanna, where's
37 Deanna? Can you see Deanna?

38
39 MS. PILCHER: Yeah. She's in the back.

40
41 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Oh, she's
42 getting ready. That could be a long update.

43
44 MS. KOSBRUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
45 Council members. My name is Deanna Kosbruk, I work for
46 Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission as the Regulatory
47 Specialist. So, I wanted to give you guys an update on
48 our Community Harvest System Report. And I had sent this
49 out to Nissa last week and she had made copies for you
50 guys. So, it is the eight pages. And there's just a

1 little background of our Community Harvest System and
2 who it serves, the federally qualified users of each
3 region in the Ahtna territory. And this -- it reflects
4 a cooperative management framework grounded in federal
5 law, indigenous knowledge and scientific wildlife
6 management. While harvest success has been limited,
7 participation has steadily increased. The administrative
8 efficiencies has improved, and the program has generated
9 valuable data on hunting efforts across challenges and
10 subsistence participation within Game Management Units
11 11, 12 and 13. This report includes recommendations for
12 the ongoing wildlife cycle for the Federal Subsistence
13 Management Program, in which the Regional Advisory
14 Councils and the federal Subsistence Management will
15 deliberate on several regulatory changes. Change
16 proposals to extend or shift the moose season, hunting
17 seasons. So, as I had mentioned, Ahtna Inter-Tribal
18 Resource Commission represents the eight federally
19 recognized tribes and the two ANC -- Alaska Native ANCSA
20 settlement, the ANCSA Native corporations, excuse me,
21 within the Ahtna traditional territory. There's a
22 representative from each of these ten entities. So, what
23 is the Community Harvest System? Our community hunts
24 under both state and federal subsistence regulations,
25 recognize community patterns of customary and
26 traditional use that differ from individual or household
27 patterns of use. Participants in a Community Harvest
28 System pool their individual household bag limits into
29 a community bag limit, where an individual participant
30 can harvest more than an individual's hunters bag limit
31 in order to provide for the community's needs. Since the
32 80s, ADF&G Division of Subsistence Research has
33 demonstrated that, on average, 30% of the rural
34 community's household harvest 70% of the wild food used
35 by the community. The AITRC Community Harvest System
36 serves to recognize this community pattern of use in
37 federal subsistence hunting regulations. There was a
38 memorandum of agreement back in 2016 with the Department
39 of Interior and its authorized cooperative wildlife
40 management activities. In 2018 AITRC submitted a special
41 action request. So, I'm not going to go through, you
42 know, the whole history, but that is there for you guys
43 to look through and understand. What I did want to touch
44 on was, you know, with this framework that we have
45 implemented, you know, we have point of contacts who we
46 are responsible to keep in contact with on a weekly
47 basis, which is Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
48 Service, as well as Denali Park Service with the U.S.
49 Fish and Wildlife Tetlin Refuge, as well as Bureau of
50 Land Management and so, we just -- our responsibility

1 is to update each entity that if there are new
2 registrants that sign up with AITRC Community Harvest
3 System and so, we're -- and we help distribute the
4 federal hunt permit. Excuse me. So, as you'll see, the
5 participation trends and our observations is that since
6 2023, we had -- that was our first year administering
7 federal moose permits through -- and we had about 12
8 participants and two reported hunting, ten reported no
9 hunting, with a total of 15 days were hunted by the two
10 registrants, with an average of seven days. There was
11 no successful harvest, and then we go into fall of 2024
12 season, where we had a total of ten participants. Eight
13 reported hunting activity, two reported no hunting, with
14 a total of 81 days that were hunted by eight registrants
15 with an average of 13 days. And there were -- there was
16 still no successful harvest reported under the AITRC
17 Community Harvest System during this season. Now, as we
18 go into fall 2025, we had reached -- we had 26
19 participants that had registered under the AITRC
20 Community Harvest System for Game Management 11, 12 and
21 13. We ensured timely and accurate harvest reports
22 reporting to its federal agency partners. As I
23 mentioned, the National Park Service, Wrangell-St. Elias
24 and Denali, the Bureau of Land Management and the Office
25 of Subsistence Management, as well as U.S. Fish and
26 Wildlife Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. Under the -- with the
27 26 participants, out of the 26 participants, 24 reported
28 hunting activity, whereas two reported no hunting
29 activity, with a total of 290 days of hunting by the 24
30 registrants, with the average of 12 days, and there was
31 still no successful harvest under the AITRC Community
32 Harvest System during the 2025 season. So, I put together
33 a graph, and it's on page six, just to show you guys the
34 -- with the blue bar graph, it shows the number of days
35 hunted and the red line that is increasing, that is our
36 number of registrants growing over the years. And, as
37 years go by, we'll update this so you guys can see year-
38 to-year. But -- and I think -- and that -- with that,
39 our conclusion was the increased participation over
40 time, the reduced administrative burden for our federal
41 agencies, and enhanced communication and outreach to our
42 rural communities. Our -- the feedback that we
43 consistently heard was, not seeing moose due to reduced
44 population sizes, the environmental conditions, access
45 constraints, and increased competition as barriers to
46 successful harvest. These observations underscore the
47 importance of continued collaboration, adaptive
48 management, and data driven decision making. We -- AITRC
49 remains committed to administering the Community
50 Harvest System in accordance with federal law,

1 indigenous values, and conservation principles. The
2 Commission appreciates the cooperation of subsistence
3 users in our -- and federal partners, and look forward
4 to continue the collaboration in the future seasons,
5 with continued increases in participation, with the hope
6 that soon there will be successful harvests under the
7 AITRC Community Harvest System Program, and you'll see
8 our recommendations and why we supported the proposed
9 regulations that were submitted and like -- as it was
10 mentioned throughout the whole afternoon of, you know,
11 the warmer climates the, you know, the challenges with
12 urban hunters coming out and overpopulating our region
13 as well as -- excuse me, as well as our concerns with
14 the time of the rut season so -- and our, the safety
15 concerns that we have, especially with the backcountry
16 and, you know, there's certain times that hunters like
17 to go out in the backcountry rather than when it's warm,
18 so..... Are there any questions?

19
20 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Go ahead.

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED: How many were seen during
23 these hunts? Did, do they have that information, do they
24 share that with you when they get back?

25
26 MS. KOSBRUK: That was one of the main
27 things that we were hearing, that, you know, they'd be
28 out there and wouldn't see anything. You know, it kind
29 of -- it goes back to that being overpopulated with
30 urban hunters and just that extra competition with their
31 UTVs and driving the moose further out, so. And the
32 warmer weather as well, the moose don't really move in
33 warm weather.

34
35 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. It's a
36 true story. Anyone else have questions down here,
37 Dennis?

38
39 MR. ZADRA: For the record, Dennis Zadra.
40 How many permits are given for this hunt?

41
42 MS. KOSBRUK: One per household.

43
44 MR. ZADRA: Okay.

45
46 MS. KOSBRUK: Are you asking for the year
47 of 2025?

48
49 MR. ZADRA: Yeah, just..... So, basically
50 one per -- is there a cap on the number of permits that

1 can be taken? This is what, CM 300 or whatever is that?

2

3 MS. KOSBRUK: No, this is not CM 300.
4 This is through -- this is under federal, the federal
5 moose hunt. So, what this is, is a registrant under the
6 National Park Service and the BLM, the Bureau of Land
7 Management, their federal permit, moose permit. And it's
8 just tied into one to where rural subsistence users are
9 not having to say, have to go to a National Park Service
10 for a permit, and then go to BLM for the second permit,
11 so they can hunt on those lands. So, this is just a --
12 we wanted to simplify it to where they can just go to
13 one place for both the National Park Service and the
14 Bureau of Land Management. Am I saying that correct?
15 Yes. Thank you, Caroline.

16

17 MS. KETRON: Deanna was doing a wonderful
18 job, so I didn't want to help her if she didn't need it.
19 But to clarify, well, for the record, this is Caroline
20 Ketron, I'm the Subsistence Coordinator at the Bureau
21 of Land Management in Glennallen. And she's correct.
22 This is the -- essentially the exact same federal
23 opportunity that's offered under the National Park
24 Service and the Bureau of Land Management, federal
25 permits, it's just a different place to go get them for
26 community members. And it -- as she said, it simplifies
27 folks from having to go to three different offices to
28 obtain their federal opportunity. So, it's essentially
29 a convenience option and then we have communications
30 during the season to make sure that, if there's harvests,
31 that we account for that under our federal program, but
32 it's not an additional opportunity, if that helps.

33

34 MR. ZADRA: Okay, but just so I
35 understand, but this is just on federal land, is that
36 correct?

37

38 MS. KETRON: Yeah, this is a federal
39 permit, on -- only on federal public lands. And it's --
40 the name community makes it confusing, but it's not the
41 community hunt, it's the Community Harvest System.

42

43 MR. ZADRA: Thank you.

44

45 MS. LEONETTI: If you'll let me, thank
46 you.

47

48 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Yeah. We'll let
49 you, absolutely.

50

1 MS. LEONETTI: Okay, thank you, Chair
2 Encelewski. (In Native), everybody. My name is Ciisquq.
3 I also go by Crystal Leonetti, and I'm the Director for
4 the Office of Subsistence Management. And while Deanna
5 was up here at the mic, I just wanted to spend a moment
6 to say thank you to AITRC for not just this amazing work
7 that they're doing, including all the data collection,
8 scientific, TEK, the work with elders, the work with
9 youth, but they also hosted us, OSM and the new Senior
10 Advisor to the Secretary's Office for Department of
11 Interior, Kara Moriarty, earlier this summer at Fish
12 Camp. So, thank you to Karen Linnell for hosting us at
13 her ancestral homelands. Her relations, bones make up
14 the soil there. She showed us the cemetery and sang to
15 them and honored them. We also harvested fish. Deanna
16 and I had a fun time on the fish wheel. Nobody died. I
17 may have gone for a ride. Brian saved me. I didn't go
18 for a dip. But that was an amazing experience, especially
19 as Kara was stepping into that role at the Department
20 of Interior. We spent a couple nights there, and Karen
21 shared with us some really important cultural aspects
22 of this Federal Subsistence Management Program, as well
23 as just the ancestral knowledge that exists across the
24 state. So, I wanted to spend just a second here to say
25 thank you to AITRC and to Karen.

26
27 MS. EWAN: A young lady from Yukon River.

28
29 CHAIRPERSON ENCELEWSKI: Thank you,
30 Crystal, thank you, Deanna, very good. Yeah, there's
31 lots of good things coming out of AITRC and some of the
32 tribes and everyone else and all the support. We could
33 help Jackie, too, but she's doing good. Anyway, you guys,
34 we only got an hour left, so don't worry about it,
35 but..... I'm kidding, okay? Yeah, we're going to take a
36 pause for the night, and we'll be back here at nine in
37 the morning. If we don't finish up in time, Judy will
38 stay and finish for us. But anyway, we do have ten
39 proposals. We spend an hour on each one. That's ten
40 hours. You guys could do the math. That's without any
41 reports or anything else. So, I'm going to truncate that
42 down to five. So, it's not me, but I'm going to drink
43 lots of coffee and we're going to go. Thank you.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47
48
49
50

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Rafael Morel, for Lighthouse Integrated Services Corp, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 152 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I recorded on the 13th day of January;

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 Isabela, Puerto Rico this 12th day of February 2026.

Rafael Morel
Chief Project Manager