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FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

WORK SESSION

VOLUME II

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE BUILDING

Anchorage, Alaska

August 5, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anthony Christianson
Rhonda Pitka, Public Member
Charles Brower, Public Member
Raymond Oney, Public Member
Frank Woods, Public Member
Jill Klein, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Striker, National Park Service
Kevin Pendergast, Bureau of Land Management
Jolene John, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Nicole Grewe, U.S. Forest Service

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 8/5/2026)

(On record - 1:30 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Welcome this afternoon. We just came out of executive session this morning and we're going to resume our regular work session of the Federal Subsistence Board. With that, I'll turn it over to Crystal for the next item.

MS. LEONETTI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This is Crystal Leonetti, Director Office of Subsistence Management. And we're moving into the time certain item on the agenda, which is Wildlife Special Action 26-04 Unit 24A moose and to present that is Brian Ubelaker.

MR. UBELAKER: Thank you. Good afternoon Mr. Chair, Members of the Board. For the record my name is Brian Ubelaker. I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management. I will be providing you a summary of the analysis of Temporary Wildlife Special Action Request WSA26-04. This analysis can be found on Page 93 of your meeting materials.

WSA26-04 submitted by the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission asks to establish a winter moose season within Gates of the Arctic National Park in Unit 24A from December 15th through April 15th with a harvest limit of one bull with at least a one inch antler for the 2026/2028 regulatory cycle.

The proponent stated this request was in response to the loss of opportunity caused by Public land Order 7966, which transferred 2.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land to the State of Alaska. This loss of Federal public lands reduced the opportunity for local subsistence users to harvest a moose during the fall season. They also stated the winter season would match the current season in adjacent Unit 24B and would allow for the use of snowmachines for the hunt.

Recent regulatory changes have occurred due to the issuance of PLO7966. Prior to this PLO, BLM

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1 lands comprised the majority of the Dalton Highway
2 Corridor Management Area within Unit 24A. Federally-
3 qualified subsistence users residing within the
4 corridor were permitted to hunt there using firearms
5 and snowmachines under Federal regulations. Since the
6 transfer of lands included most of the corridor Federal
7 users will now be required to follow State regulations
8 to harvest moose in the area, which are more
9 restrictive, like the prohibition of snowmachines and
10 firearms. However, the State of Alaska, Department of
11 Natural Resources, has recently undertaken action to
12 provide for some motorized use within the corridor. A
13 DNR Commissioner's finding from April 2026 authorized
14 winter snowmachine use on certain rights-of-way within
15 the corridor for the purpose of accessing lands outside
16 of the corridor. The DNR is also gathering public
17 input on land access to ensure Federally-qualified
18 subsistence users have adequate access to Federal
19 public lands.

20
21 A population survey has never been
22 specifically conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish
23 and Game to estimate moose abundance within Unit 24A
24 itself. Currently, ADF&G estimates abundance by
25 extrapolating data from population estimation surveys
26 conducted in Unit 24B combined with composition survey
27 data from Unit 24A. The National Park Service has
28 conducted population surveys within 24A as well, but
29 due to survey timing, results are not directly
30 comparable with ADF&G results. However, individual
31 results of both these surveys indicate a stable moose
32 population where bulls are not being overharvested.

33
34 Reported Federal harvest of moose in
35 Unit 24A has been steadily declining since 2004 with an
36 average harvest of 3.9 moose per year during that same
37 time. No State harvest has occurred within the area
38 under consideration but State harvest from 24A did
39 occur within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
40 Area by an archery only draw permit, which is not
41 typically a subsistence harvest method. Limited
42 Federal and State harvest has occurred within Unit 24B
43 during the winter season which mirrors this request.
44 Since 2015 fewer than 13 permits have been issued each
45 year for this hunt resulting in an average annual
46 harvest of less than one moose.

47
48 Culturally and traditionally moose are
49 a critical resource for Federally-qualified subsistence
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1 users in this region. Most moose harvest in Unit 24
2 occurs during the fall hunt but some moose are
3 harvested during winter hunts. These winter hunt
4 opportunities are especially important when fall hunts
5 are unsuccessful and when caribou are not available.
6 Local residents say fall moose hunting is harder now
7 because of increased predators, challenging weather,
8 more non-local hunters and high water events.
9 Federally-qualified subsistence users will travel up to
10 100 miles or more to hunt moose and other large mammals
11 and there is ample documentation the National Parklands
12 have long been used for moose hunting. Access to these
13 hunting areas will likely be more important following
14 the recent loss of Federal public lands particularly
15 for residents who relied on Federal hunting
16 opportunities within the corridor.

17
18 One alternative considered during this
19 analysis was to require a new Federal moose permit for
20 this hunt. This would improve harvest reporting and
21 allow managers to better understand any new harvest if
22 this hunt is established. Adding new harvest data to
23 current permits would distort results making their use
24 impractical.

25
26 Another alternative considered was to
27 eliminate the requested one inch antler requirement.
28 Federal regulations define antlered moose as having at
29 least one visible antler making this requirement
30 unnecessary.

31
32 One final alternative considered was to
33 expand the hunt to all Federal public lands within Unit
34 24A. This would provide more opportunity for
35 subsistence users and allow residents of communities
36 that are ineligible to hunt within National parklands
37 opportunity on the remaining public lands within the
38 unit. This alternative was not further considered due
39 to the limited scope of the special action process.
40 The proposal process is designed to gather necessary
41 public input for such a request and the proponent
42 stated they intend to resubmit this request as a formal
43 proposal during the upcoming wildlife regulatory cycle.

44
45 If this action is approved a winter
46 moose season will be established within Gates of the
47 Arctic National Park for this regulatory cycle. This
48 would offer some opportunity to replace that which was
49 lost when Federal public lands were transferred to the
50

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1 State of Alaska. However, some users who lost
2 opportunity would not be able to regain it as several
3 communities in 24A are not eligible to hunt within
4 Gates of the Arctic National Park. This would allow
5 more opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
6 users as current State regulations for the fall season
7 are more restrictive. Establishing this winter season
8 would allow for the use of firearms and access to NPS
9 lands by snowmachine as recent actions by the DNR
10 indicate.

11
12 Moose numbers in Unit 24A appear stable
13 enough to support limited harvest and conservation
14 concerns are minimal as overall harvest is unlikely to
15 increase. Any harvest from this hunt would simply be
16 shifted from the prior Federal fall hunt within the
17 Dalton Corridor. Winter harvest will likely remain low
18 because antlered bulls are hard to find and access is
19 more difficult. The distinction of a one inch antler
20 is unnecessary as by definition Federal regulation
21 would require one visible antler. The addition of a
22 Federal registration permit will enable managers to
23 better track harvest and make better informed decisions
24 for the future.

25
26 Therefore, it is OSM's conclusion to
27 support WSA26-04 with modification to clarify
28 regulatory language and require a Federal registration
29 permit.

30
31 I thank you for your attention and am
32 happy to answer any questions.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 Thank you, Brian. Any questions from the Board for
36 Staff on this presentation.

37
38 MR. PENDERGAST: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Kevin, you
41 have the floor.

42
43 MR. PENDERGAST: Not a question. Kevin
44 Pendergast, BLM. Just a point of clarification, a
45 common misunderstanding. But the 2.1 million acres
46 that was referred to, almost all that did become State
47 selected land and 1.4 million acres was conveyed to the
48 State of Alaska so that still leaves about 700,000
49 acres unconveyed but still State selected and not
50

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1 available for Federal rural subsistence priority. I
2 think it was mentioned that all 2.1 had been
3 transferred, that's just a little inaccuracy I wanted
4 to clear up on the record there.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
7 Thank you, Brian, we're just -- oh, go ahead, Frank.

8

9 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On
10 '97 there's a map that outlines the opening and
11 closure, the corridor we're talking about, is that --
12 that's the Dalton Highway and that's for conservation
13 of moose in the State arena, that corridor was put in
14 there by the Board of Game, I believe, it'd have to be.
15 I don't know the background on that. And then the
16 RS2477 they reference on those trail systems, those are
17 spurs on that. I see where there's outlining maps and
18 then they list -- a list of communities. First of all,
19 expand on the corridor, that'd be my first question?

20

21 MR. MULLIGAN: Through the Chair. Mr.
22 Woods. The corridor restriction is because TAPS.
23 There is a Board of Game restriction that basically
24 follows the statute that is there because of firearm
25 prohibition that is set down in Alaska State Statute.
26 So it's not merely for moose conservation or hunting
27 per se, the original State statute is because of the
28 proximity to the TransAlaska Pipeline.

29

30 MR. WOODS: Okay, thanks for that. And
31 then the second one would be, listing revised statute
32 of 2477 now repealed, that's some mining laws and the
33 restrictions on access because this proposal is
34 specifically utilizing traditional use of snowmachines
35 and firearms so that's why I'm asking it.

36

37 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair.
38 Member Woods. So my understanding the DNR
39 Commissioner's findings that he put out in April 2026
40 ensured the use of RS2477 trails as they have existed
41 up to this point for access during the winter for
42 snowmachine use to Federal public lands outside of the
43 corridor. Does that clear it up for you?

44

45 MR. WOODS: Yes. I'll leave it at
46 that, thanks, that answers -- and all the villages
47 listed on this for Federally-qualified subsistence
48 users, Hughes, Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville and then
49 Wiseman, are those all the Federally-qualified

50

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1 subsistence users participating?

2

3 MR. UBELAKER: Through the Chair. So
4 Alatna, Allakaket, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Evansville,
5 Hughes and Wiseman are all eligible to hunt within the
6 Parklands. Residents of Coldfoot, Galena, Huslia and
7 Koyukuk will not be eligible for this hunt because they
8 are not resident zone communities.

9

10 MR. WOODS: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any other
13 questions for Staff on his presentation.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
18 seeing none, thank you. Next we'll call on any public
19 testimony we see here in the room or if anybody online.

20

21 MR. REAKOFF: Mr. Chair, this is Jack
22 Reakoff.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes, Jack, you
25 have the floor.

26

27 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 am a member of the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence
29 Resource Commission. And the Commission submitted this
30 proposal, I made the motion to submit.

31

32 This hunt has been in progress since
33 2016 in Game Management Unit 24, it's a concurrent hunt
34 with the State and the Federal lands and so all of Unit
35 24B has this hunt. Since the end of the March of this
36 year we lost eligibility to hunt in the valley that we
37 live in so currently we do not have a real subsistence
38 hunt because there is no subsistence hunt in the Dalton
39 Highway Corridor, there's a lottery draw permit for the
40 fall it has 70 permits issued. No one here has drawn a
41 permit, has no eligibility to hunt here at all. So
42 Unit 24A lapsed into the drainage that we live in so
43 this will give us the ability to access certain
44 portions that are within Gates of the Arctic Park that
45 are within six miles of my house and also in the
46 Hammond River Drainage. This is going to help us be
47 able to locate an antlered bull. This hunt was a
48 negotiation with the State of Alaska back in 2016. We
49 are a resident zone community. There would be other
50

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1 communities that would be eligible but they would not
2 really use this hunt because they would hunt closer to
3 Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville and Bettles. Nuiqsut is
4 a resident zone community, they may actually use this
5 hunt but -- because they do travel the road but that's
6 really highly unlikely because they have other
7 opportunities closer to home.

8

9 So last year there were two bull moose
10 taken in the fall hunt under the Federal registration
11 permit. I didn't take a moose last fall because we
12 have a moose population with deep severe winters has
13 reduced the population plus we have hurricanes or
14 typhoons or whatever you want to call them that cause
15 flooding in the valley and a lot of the moose moved up
16 into the mountains and were inaccessible. So I will
17 need to be able to use this winter hunt more -- I don't
18 really want to take a moose late in the year, I would
19 rather have it earlier but we do have -- I'd have to
20 walk into the Park, I'd have to cache the moose and I
21 am going to intend to do that to try and take a moose
22 in the fall but the habitat within the Park, without
23 using, you know, just a little narrow place that you
24 can actually walk through your success rate is almost
25 going to be really low, so we're going to need this
26 winter hunt for the community here.

27

28 So the moose population, we had an easy
29 winter, this last winter and so the survival rate was
30 really really high for calves and I've seen some really
31 decent calf production this year because the cows are
32 in such excellent condition. So I anticipate this
33 population actually grows.

34

35 And the Western Interior Council will
36 be submitting a proposal for a permanent -- if this
37 special action request is adopted, the Western Interior
38 Council will be submitting a proposal to make this in
39 the permanent regulations and I would concur with the
40 -- we were going to use the State registration hunt
41 because it's concurrent and that was the original idea
42 of this hunt but if the OSM feels that a Federal
43 registration permit, which we do use Federal
44 registration permits for hunting, I would not be in
45 opposition to that for this special action request.

46

47 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.

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1 Reakoff. Any questions for Jack from the Board.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any comments.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate
10 that. Were there any other public online that would
11 like to speak.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Next in the que is Krystal Lapp.

15

16 MS. LAPP: Thank you. Good afternoon,
17 Chair and Members of the Board. And I apologize for
18 not being on video, my wifi is pretty weak right now,
19 I'm out on the land. I'm the Interim Executive
20 Director of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center.
21 And Northern did submit a letter in support for this
22 proposal and it's been submitted for the record so you
23 should have that. If you don't, please let me know.

24

25 So the Northern Center's been engaged
26 with the Dalton Corridor for over 55 years. During
27 this period the Public Land Orders that were being
28 considered and established, which are now rescinded, we
29 advocated for those protections through public outreach
30 and participation in the Federal comment process. We
31 also have a longstanding commitment to protect northern
32 Alaska's public lands, wildlife and subsistence rights
33 of the people that depend on them. So our support
34 letter has over 500 signatures on there from all across
35 the state, from people that we did outreach in the last
36 two months, and our support for this proposal is a
37 continuation of our 55-plus year history working with
38 the lands and the people along the Dalton Corridor.

39

40 We believe that this proposal does
41 provide a practical and narrow response to the sudden
42 loss of the subsistence rights. And we don't feel like
43 it would create an unlimited harvest, we feel like the
44 people in the area, they have lived there, stewarded
45 there for a long, long time and to have your
46 subsistence rights completely taken out from under you
47 in less than a 24 hour period is pretty jarring to most
48 people considering that they don't have a grocery store
49 and the nearest grocery store is hundreds of miles away

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1 on a very, very rough road.

2

3 So, yeah, we just really urge the
4 Federal Subsistence Board to approve this special
5 action because it can take quite awhile, as we all
6 know, on the Federal and State side to get some longer
7 term solutions.

8

9 So thank you for allowing me to have
10 the time to speak today.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
13 calling in. Any questions from the Board.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing and
18 seeing none I appreciate you calling in. Any others in
19 the que Robbin?

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
22 Just a reminder for those of you listening online if
23 you would like to make a comment you can raise your
24 hand, if you're on Teams. If you called in using your
25 phone please press star five to raise your hand and
26 I'll call on you in just a moment. The next person in
27 the que is Ella VanWyke.

28

29 MS. VANWYKE*: Hello. My name is Ella
30 VanWyke. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Members of the
31 Board. My name is Ella and I'm the Northern Alaska
32 Environmental Center's public lands education and
33 outreach summer intern. I go to school at Washington
34 University in Virginia but I'm originally from Oregon.
35 I study environmental studies and politics.

36

37 Learning about what has happened with
38 the Public Land Orders 5150 and 5180 has allowed me to
39 dive headfirst into the issues surrounding public land
40 and access. This summer I have had real life
41 experience of what I have learned about in the
42 classroom, an invaluable learning experience that I
43 never could have expected but am eternally grateful
44 for.

45

46 In June I spent three days in Wiseman
47 where I got to know the residents and had conversations
48 about the area, subsistence and what it exactly takes
49 to be able to live 300 miles from the nearest grocery

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1 store. I was impressed by the residents' knowledge of
2 the land, plants and animals, which are essential to be
3 able to live up there. In a rural village of less than
4 20 people it's no surprise that they know this area
5 like the back of their hand and are able to see in real
6 time how the landscape changes from year to year. When
7 I visited they were in the middle of a major flooding
8 event that made the only road in and out of Wiseman
9 essentially unpassable for 12 hours as well as an
10 eroding part of the airstrip. Damage done by this
11 flood and others is hard to fix especially due to the
12 rural nature of Wiseman. As someone who is not from
13 Alaska I didn't know the extent of what subsistence
14 actually meant to people that rely on it before coming
15 here. Rural residents must be able to hunt in order to
16 live up there. It's really that simple. This is why
17 there must be a solution in response to the revocation
18 of the Public Land Orders for rural residents that have
19 their only grocery store, the land, taken from them.
20 It's about survival for these people and it's necessary
21 for their way of life.

22

23 Because of my direct experience in
24 Wiseman and in speaking with the residents, it's
25 apparent that the issues surrounding public lands and
26 the effects they have on the people that rely on them
27 most needs an immediate solution, therefore, I am in
28 support of Wildlife Special Action 26-04 with the
29 proposed modifications.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. Any
34 questions from the Board.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Appreciate that
39 presentation, thank you for calling in. Were there any
40 more in the que, yes, Robbin.

41

42 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

43 Next in the que is Sean Busby.

44

45 MR. BUSBY: Hi, my name is Sean Busby.
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Board for taking the time to
47 review this special action. And just as the previous,
48 like Jack, Krystal and Ella just said, we appreciate
49 you considering this special action and we hope that it
50

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1 passes with the modifications that need it to happen.

2

3 We live here in Wiseman full-time, so
4 we are residents that have been impacted and
5 essentially had the rug ripped out from underneath our
6 feet so thank you for considering this and for
7 reviewing it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
10 Appreciate you guys calling in, any questions.

11

12 (No comments)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Comments.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
19 seeing none, any further testifiers online Robbin?

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
22 those of your listening online, if you would like to
23 provide a comment to the Board you can do so by raising
24 your hand or press star five on your phone.
25 Additionally, if you're in the room and you wish to
26 make a comment you are welcome to come forward to the
27 public testimony table and provide your information
28 there.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
35 That concludes public testimony on this action item.
36 Next, we'll call on our Regional Advisory Council
37 affected Chairs.

38

39 MR. UBELAKER: Mr. Chair, this is
40 Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator. The Western
41 Interior Council didn't have an opportunity to take up
42 this special action so they don't have a formal comment
43 as a RAC and we did hear from the Chair in another
44 capacity already.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. And
49 we'll take Jack's testimony. Do we want to ask Jack if

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1 he has anything more to add in the regards as the
2 Chair?

3

4 MR. REAKOFF: No. I said my peace, I
5 appreciate the opportunity.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.

8

9 MR. REAKOFF: Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep, thank you
12 for your brevity, Jack. We'll move on to ADF&G. Mr.
13 Mulligan you have the floor.

14

15 MR. MULLIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
16 For the record the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
17 has no position on the special action. The winter hunt
18 will take place in the Hard Park, our State regulations
19 do not apply within that area and so there's no
20 overlap. The one thing I will say is, in all things,
21 when coord -- it'll be important to coordinate just to
22 make sure that we're properly monitoring and conserving
23 the health of that moose population.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
28 Mulligan. Any questions for the State from the Board.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing or
33 seeing none, ISC recommendation.

34

35 MS. LAVINE: The InterAgency Staff
36 Committee found the Staff analysis to be a thorough and
37 accurate evaluation of the request and that it provides
38 sufficient basis for the recommendations and the
39 Federal Subsistence Board action on the proposal.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
44 This is our opportunity as a Board to have further
45 discussion with the liaisons or the Staff.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we've

50

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1 had a pretty good presentation here, hearing or seeing
2 no discussion I'll open up the floor for Board action.

3

4 MR. STRIKER: Mr. Chair, Don Striker,
5 Park Service.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You have the
8 floor.

9

10

11 MR. STRIKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
12 move to adopt Wildlife Special Action 26-04 with the
13 OSM modification to clarify the regulatory language and
14 to require a Federal registration permit. And if I get
15 a second, and this plane behind me stops, I will
16 explain why I intend to support my motion.

17

18 MR. PENDERGAST: Second.

19

20 MR. WOODS: Second.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You got a
23 second, Don.

24

25 MR. STRIKER: Great, thank you. Gates
26 of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission requested
27 this temporary special action due to the partial
28 revocation of Public Lands Orders 5150 and 5180 and the
29 subsequent, I'll say change of classification, of 2.1
30 million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands in the
31 Dalton Highway Corridor from Federal public lands to
32 State selected and/or actually transferred to the
33 State. This change in classification represents a
34 substantial loss of Federal subsistence opportunity and
35 access to Federal lands along the Dalton Highway for
36 Gates of the Arctic National Park resident zone
37 communities.

38

39 The relatively rapid transfer of 1.4
40 million acres and the almost immediate change in
41 designation of the remainder of BLM lands to the State
42 of Alaska, or State selected, makes this action both
43 appropriate and I think very urgent. Approving this
44 request provides for continuation of subsistence
45 opportunity in this region and presents no conservation
46 concerns given the minimal historic harvest pressure in
47 this area and given that harvest would be limited to
48 only one antlered bull. No adverse effects are
49 anticipated as the harvest will only be shifted, as we

50

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1 heard from Staff, from previously accessible BLM lands
2 along the Dalton Highway to less accessible National
3 Park Service lands.

4

5 The winter season will allow for the
6 use of snowmachines to access the areas within Gates of
7 the Arctic National Park for eligible resident zone
8 communities to harvest a moose and I think it provides
9 the best opportunity for Federally-qualified
10 subsistence users in this area given the loss of BLM
11 lands.

12

13 Winter moose hunting opportunities can
14 be especially critical if fall moose harvests are
15 unsuccessful, which residents report have been
16 increasingly common in recent years. I think requiring
17 a Federal registration permit is a smart move because
18 it will enable our managers to track harvest and make
19 informed decisions for administering this relatively
20 new hunt.

21

22 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Striker. Any further Board discussion or deliberation.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing or
30 seeing none, we'll call for roll call, please.

31

32 MS. LEONETTI: All right. Gisela, can
33 we put the motion on the screen so everybody's clear.

34

35 (Pause)

36

37 MS. LEONETTI: Tony's going to sing the
38 Jeopardy song just to put a little more pressure.

39

40 (Pause)

41

42 MS. LEONETTI: No pressure.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 (Singing)

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50

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1 MS. LEONETTI: We have biologist/IT
2 specialist Tom Plank helping out here.

3
4 (Laughter)

5
6 (Pause)

7
8 MS. LEONETTI: Oh, I thought it was
9 going to be the whole motion, okay, I could have done
10 that a long time ago.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MS. LEONETTI: The Park Service moved
15 to adopt Wildlife Special Action 26-04 as modified by
16 OSM.

17
18 Public Member Frank Woods.

19
20 MR. WOODS: Second.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MR. WOODS: Oh, I'm voting right now.

25
26 MS. LEONETTI: Yep.

27
28 MR. WOODS: I support 26-04.

29
30 MS. LEONETTI: Turn your mic on please.

31
32 MR. WOODS: Public Member Woods
33 supports 26-04 with Park Service's recommendations, or
34 comments, and OSM's recommendations with modifications.
35 Thank you.

36
37 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Rhonda
38 Pitka.

39
40 MS. PITKA: Public Member Pitka also
41 supports WSA26-04 with modification as justified by the
42 Park Service. Thank you.

43
44 MS. LEONETTI: Fish and Wildlife
45 Service.

46
47 MS. KLEIN: Fish and Wildlife Service
48 supports as modified by OSM and for the justification
49 outlined by the Park Service.

50

0148

1 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Ray Oney.

2

3 MR. ONEY: Public Member Ray Oney

4 supports.

5

6 MS. LEONETTI: BLM.

7

8 MR. PENDERGAST: BLM supports for the

9 reasons articulated by the Park Service.

10

11 MS. LEONETTI: National Park Service.

12

13 MR. STRIKER: Park Service supports.

14

15 MS. LEONETTI: Public Member Charlie

16 Brower.

17

18 MR. BROWER: Support.

19

20 MS. GREDIAGIN: Microphone.

21

22 MS. LEONETTI: Hold on, mic.

23

24 MR. BROWER: I move to support WSA26-04

25 with modification.

26

27 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you.

28

29 Forest Service.

30

31 MS. GREWE: The Forest Service supports

32 Wildlife Special Action WSA26-04 with modification for

33 the rationale provided by the National Park Service.

34 Thank you.

35

36 MS. LEONETTI: BIA.

37

38 MR. CHEN: The BIA votes to adopt

39 WSA26-04 as modified by OSM. We concur with the

40 justification provided by the Park Service. This

41 action could help the eligible rural residents address

42 the subsistence needs for moose given that the Federal

43 priority on lands along the Dalton Highway Corridor are

44 no longer available to the users.

45

46 MS. LEONETTI: Chair Christianson.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I support as

49 stated on record.

50

0149

1 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair, the motion
2 passes unanimously.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Crystal, next
5 on the agenda, please.

6
7 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair, the next item
8 on the agenda is the delegation of authority for Unit 7
9 and for members of the public, online, you can find the
10 materials on the website under the Board's summer work
11 session page.

12
13 MS. GREDIAGIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 This is Lisa Grediagin, the Wildlife Division
15 Supervisor with the Office of Subsistence Management.
16 And the draft delegation of authority letter is being
17 passed down, you guys should have that in about 10
18 seconds, hopefully.

19
20 So this request came from the Seward
21 Ranger District for Unit 7 caribou to more effectively
22 manage the hunt in that area because there is
23 conservation concerns for that herd. The State has
24 limited their hunt to bulls only. I think they issued
25 five draw permits and so the Seward Ranger District
26 wants to similarly restrict their hunt to bulls only
27 but they need delegated authority in order to restrict
28 it to bulls instead of one caribou. And you guys
29 approved a similar delegation of authority letter last
30 year for the exact same reasons, exact same issue but
31 that letter expired June 30th and so this letter would
32 be a permanent letter. It's effective from the date of
33 approval and continues until superseded or rescinded.
34 And so the scope of delegation is to set sex
35 restrictions, determine a harvest quota and then close
36 the season when that quota has been met.

37
38 Yeah, I guess that's the brief overview
39 and, again, normally this sort of thing is
40 administration and would happen via email but since you
41 guys are all here we're hoping it's a little more
42 efficient and timely because this hunt opens next week,
43 I believe.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
46 Lisa. Any questions from the Board for Lisa on this.
47 I think it's a matter of just clearing house stuff so
48 we can arm our delegated authority people with the same
49 thing.

50

0150

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Nicole.

4

5 MS. GREWE: Thank you. Nicole Grewe
6 with the Forest Service here and I move that we support
7 this delegation of authority to the Seward District
8 Ranger with one modification, that she also be allowed
9 to choose the gender of the caribou. I'll just note
10 that -- hold for a moment here -- I don't even know if
11 I have to put that on -- is it in there?

12

13 MS. KLEIN: It's in there, it says sex
14 restrictions. It's in there.

15

16 MS. GREWE: Okay, great, it's in there.
17 Thank you. I retract the modification. Thank you,
18 okay, I'm just reading the letter here myself. Yes, I
19 move that we support this delegation of authority and
20 I'll ask for a second.

21

22 MR. PENDERGAST: BLM seconds.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. We have
25 a motion on the floor and been seconded to accept the
26 letter of delegation of authority to the Seward
27 District Ranger. Any other discussion or deliberation
28 by the Board on the motion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Anyone opposed
33 to the delegation letter here on the Board.

34

35 (No opposition)

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing and
38 hearing no opposition, motion carries. Do we have one
39 more agenda item?

40

41 MS. LEONETTI: One more special action,
42 yes.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Special action
45 here.

46

47 MS. LEONETTI: Mr. Chair. The next
48 agenda item is Wildlife Special Action 26-08, Unit 18
49 moose and Lisa is going to present that one as well.

50

0151

1 MS. GREDIAGIN: Okay, yep. Lisa
2 Grediagin, again, for the record. And, again, the
3 special action request is being passed down the row
4 here so you should get a copy of that in a few seconds
5 here.

6
7 This request was just submitted by the
8 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, geez, Tuesday
9 morning and it's -- the request is to establish a may
10 be announced antlerless moose hunt from September 1st
11 to October 15th with a harvest limit of one antlerless
12 moose by Federal permit in the Kuskokwim Zone 2 moose
13 hunt area in Unit 18. And so this is just implementing
14 a hunt that you guys authorized in April via adoption
15 of WP26-43 and so similar to the Yukon-Charley sheep
16 special action request, WSA26-07, where you just
17 approved it due to delay of the Final Rule publication,
18 this is the same sort of request, where you already
19 approved the hunt but because the Final Rule
20 publication has been delayed they're submitting a
21 special action so they can go ahead and implement that
22 hunt this season.

23
24 And I believe Spencer Riorden with the
25 Yukon Delta Refuge is online in case you guys have
26 additional questions but I'll also go ahead and read
27 the Board's justification that you provided in April.

28
29 So in deference to the Yukon Kuskokwim
30 Delta Council the Board adopted 26-43, 44 as modified
31 by OSM. The moose population continues to grow in the
32 Kuskokwim Zone 2 moose hunt area in Unit 18 and there
33 are no conservations. Despite increasing population the
34 harvest quota has only been met once as hunting in this
35 zone is more difficult to access requiring specialized
36 boats, longer travel time and more fuel. As the OSM
37 report noted the inability to meet the quota is not due
38 to a lack of need. These proposals continue to provide
39 additional opportunities for subsistence users and
40 achieve the Zone 2 quota and allow for flexible
41 adaptable hunt management responsive to conditions
42 including weather on the ground that optimizes
43 subsistence harvest opportunity.

44
45 So thank you, Mr. Chair. Happy to
46 answer questions or, again, Yukon Delta Refuge Staff
47 are also online.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: One question I
50

0152

1 have, this is one moose per applicant?

2

3 MS. GREDIAGIN: It's one moose per
4 individual, yeah.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay.

7

8 MR. WOODS: So reading the proposal
9 this is a community affected by Typhoon Halong?

10

11 MS. GREDIAGIN: The -- yeah, yeah, the
12 are because it.....

13

14 MR. WOODS: Yeah, because I didn't see
15 a map but I recognize the village in the area that
16 they're asking in and 18 is an affected area, that's
17 why I'm asking.

18

19 MS. GREDIAGIN: Yeah, if you look on
20 the piece of paper you just received the request, that
21 the current Federal regulations and at the end it says
22 Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose
23 except by and they list all those communities and, so,
24 yeah, you can see Kipnuk and Kwig are both two of those
25 listed communities, which I know they're the ones like
26 most affected by Typhoon Halong.

27

28 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any more
29 questions for Staff, again, we're just making sure that
30 we educate the public before our Register comes out
31 that this is already work we've accomplished in April
32 and so I'd entertain a motion at this time to accept
33 the letter.

34

35 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair. The Fish and
36 Wildlife Service has a motion.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Jill, you have
39 the floor.

40

41 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, so we move to support
42 WSA26-08.

43

44 MR. WOODS: Second.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion been
47 made, any further Board discussion or deliberation.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0153

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
2 is there concurrence by the Board here to forward this.

3
4 (Board nods affirmatively)

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Seeing
7 concurrence, motion passes unanimous. Thank you.
8 Appreciate the Staff, thank you guys for that. Thank
9 you to the board for getting that done here instead of
10 on email. We all want to go home fishing.

11
12 MS. LAVINE: This isn't -- this is an
13 emergency special action request so we're not
14 supporting a letter, this is a temporary fix hopefully
15 in time for.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I meant special
18 action, yes.

19
20 MS. LAVINE: Yes, for the special
21 action.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yes.

24
25 MS. LAVINE: So justification for that
26 even if it's a reference to your justification provided
27 in April. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and
30 that's why I made sure I stated that on the record that
31 this was the work we accomplished in April and that
32 we're just clearing the house here. Okay, thank you.

33
34 We're back to correspondence to the
35 Board.

36
37 Oh, boy, take five minutes.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Take five
42 minutes everybody and then we'll do the correspondence
43 because that one could correspondently get long.

44
45 (Laughter)

46
47 (Off record)

48
49 (On record)

50

0154

1 MS. LAVINE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair,
2 while we're waiting for a few more of our Board members
3 to join us, can I ask people to locate their
4 correspondence packages while we're waiting.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yep.

7
8 MS. LAVINE: So the next issue requires
9 action on a number of different correspondence items.
10 Yesterday I handed out, or we handed out correspondence
11 packages. On the first page there is a table and on
12 the subsequent pages there are correspondences, so if
13 everyone can locate those packages when we are ready.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Did we get
16 through two of these yesterday?

17
18 MR. WOODS: Yep.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The first one,
21 we were hung up on the second one, half way through
22 discussion.

23
24 MS. LEONETTI: We didn't even start
25 yet.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, I was
28 just -- I was over here convincing them we're halfway
29 through.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair, can I make a
34 suggestion, since we vetted this first letter really
35 independently and each region had an opportunity to --
36 and agency had an opportunity to weigh in on how thee
37 letters are outlined in our process and our authority,
38 that we go through each letter individually. I don't
39 suggest we vote on each individually but I would -- if
40 we all agree just like we did with the last executive
41 session, if we all agree that we don't have any
42 conflicts, that we approve them unanimously, each
43 individual one and then we approve all the letter of
44 process in a block; can we do that, Robbin?

45
46 MS. LAVINE: Mostly.

47
48 MR. WOODS: Okay. That's why I depend
49 on you to correct me all the time.

50

0155

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay. And if
2 memory serves me yesterday we did the first one, we
3 chopped it up, we talked all the way through it and we
4 decided on a path forward and I think there's some
5 sidebars on the letters that we have today to look at
6 as far as what our Board authority is and then what our
7 Councils are asking us and there's two different
8 mandates and we just respect that our job is to elevate
9 it to the listening post above us. And so I think we
10 all agreed on that yesterday as just process, not that
11 we're endorsing or taking a position, but that we're
12 being good listeners and passing off the information
13 candidly.

14
15 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
16 actually with that guidance and, you know,
17 acknowledgement that you have laid some good ground
18 work I'd like to start you on the Southeast Regional
19 Advisory Council's letter, it's on Page 4 of your
20 package. This is a TransBoundary issue, it's been an
21 ongoing issue and the Council is requesting further
22 action from the Board on this issue. And the best
23 place to kind of look at the action or notice the
24 action they are requesting of you is on Page 5. After
25 summarizing some of the previous efforts on this
26 TransBoundry issue, the Council requests you write a
27 letter to the Alaska Lt. Governor regarding large scale
28 mining development in British Columbia. The Council
29 requests the current Alaska Lt. Governor be asked to
30 advocate for the protection of these International
31 watersheds and fishery resources for subsistence issues
32 and additionally that she engage with the Department of
33 State working in conjunction with the Congressional
34 Delegation to advance this issue at the Federal and
35 International levels.

36
37 And given what they're asking for you
38 to do is to actually write a letter to the Lt. Governor
39 and request her intervention or her action with
40 Department of State and the Congressional Delegation.
41 I seek your guidance.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we
44 heard a long discussion yesterday about the word
45 advocacy and you could see strong language in here
46 about advocacy and then the approach of reaching out to
47 the State in that regard, I mean so I would just say --
48 I mean we heard strong discussion about that and it
49 might be one of those things that reaches into that
50

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1 basket of advocacy. But I don't know if there's
2 another way we could frame what it is their concern is
3 that doesn't state it like that if we were to write the
4 letter.

5

6 So just food for thought, what we
7 discussed yesterday and then what we came up with in
8 contacting the State about was not a comfort level by
9 some Board members.

10

11 Frank.

12

13 MR. WOODS: So I think I remember
14 correctly, maybe someone could recall my memory, we
15 asked to remove that portion of the letter for
16 Delegation to Legislative bodies.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, that was
19 that first one. We made a determination on that one,
20 and now we're on this one.

21

22 MR. WOODS: So I would entertain a
23 motion to approve this letter with the same designation
24 we had for the first letter, is to remove the
25 Delegation.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think there's
28 several parts to this letter that we have to work
29 through, though, yeah, we got to get through the whole
30 thing and then before we could tease out, I think,
31 which portion we're going to maybe act on and which
32 ones we may take the steps we took yesterday. So I'm
33 going to keep saying that. We have it here, we made a
34 decision on how to process it and how do we process,
35 one, two, three, four. So maybe we'll go on to the
36 second one.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 I'll read the four asks, or summarize the four asks and
40 then I would, before you take action, I would note that
41 our Southeast Council representative is here on hand
42 and can speak to some of your questions, okay.

43

44 So the first question -- or the first
45 ask was that the Board write a letter to the Alaska Lt.
46 Governor. The second ask is referencing the previous
47 communications with the Board and the Secretaries on
48 this issue and asking that this Board reevaluate the
49 issue to the current Administration as they did the
50

0157

1 last Administration and that the full package be
2 forwarded on to the current Secretaries. And then --
3 and that, you know, we move the whole package through.
4 Request Number 3 is that the Board provide copies of
5 letters generated from Request 1 and 2 to the current
6 Alaska Congressional Delegation so CC'ing them on that
7 correspondence. And Number 4, they request the Board
8 advise the Council of the status of any letter that the
9 Board sent to the Lt. Governor on behalf of the Council
10 pursuant to its fiscal year 2021 annual report reply to
11 the Council, and any letters from the Lt. Governor
12 received in response.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Is there a way
15 we could just.....

16

17 MS. LEONETTI: Mic.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:a
20 disclaimer for the Board if we're going to elevate
21 issues that are outside of our authority, you know,
22 just a pre-statement that like, you know, we echo the
23 concerns of the Board, it's outside of our authority,
24 we're trying to not advocate but elevate, is there a
25 way that this Board could see that so we're not taking
26 away what it is that our RACs are asking or watering it
27 down to the point where it's an ineffective tool at the
28 point where it reaches, so I'm just asking the Board,
29 is there a process in which we would just be able to
30 say, hey, here's our disclaimer, you know, we've
31 received this information and we're forwarding it on to
32 you as your representative at the Department of
33 Interior in place of the Secretary and we're not going
34 to water down what it is we're hearing. So I'm just
35 trying to say is there somewhere we can approach that
36 subject as a Board?

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair, I'll provide a
39 response and then perhaps your Council member can also
40 provide some context.

41

42 Yesterday we set a bit of a -- some
43 guidelines for ourselves, which is the Board can
44 neutrally elevate with just a, you know, very broad,
45 generalized transmittal letter to the Secretaries and
46 what you said that you would not do is CC the Alaska
47 Delegation. And so if we were to be consistent you
48 would be elevating the package as requested and you
49 would not CC the Alaska Delegation. The next question
50

0158

1 would be and I wouldn't mind some guidance on this
2 action, would be, that you could write to the Lt.
3 Governor and then following that is commit to providing
4 updates.

5

6 So the questions right now does not
7 include a CC to the Alaska Delegation, it may be, you
8 know, the Lt. Governor, which I do believe there has
9 been some commitment to write to the Lt. Governor in
10 the past, and that was from 2021. And then perhaps we
11 can have our representative provide a little more
12 background.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So that's where
15 I just, yeah, we elevate it to our boss and then how he
16 frames it to who he frames it to is probably the safe
17 bet I'm feeling but playing safe hasn't been working.
18 I mean for Southeast, and I mean if I turn it over to
19 Cal here in a second he's going to speak to that
20 clearly and articulately. Is it -- oh, I mean, Nicole,
21 sorry.

22

23 MS. GREWE: Yeah, if I could just make
24 a comment. It strikes me that yesterday's
25 conversation, it's quite a bit different because we had
26 a RAC -- we're going to elevate their issue with a
27 transmittal letter but we're forwarding their
28 communication and now this request before us, it's to
29 draft our own letter with our own voice as informed by
30 the RAC with multiple sub-components here. I just
31 wanted to make -- I mean unless I'm misunderstanding,
32 Robbin.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that's
35 how I see it too.

36

37 MS. GREWE: Okay.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's what I
40 was saying it's the same but a little different.....

41

42 MS. GREDIAGIN: Microphone.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's the same
45 but a little different so that's what I'm saying it's
46 going to take a minute here how do we approach this,
47 this is kind of why we have to have this discussion too
48 as well because the comfort level of who we're not
49 reaching back down to is our RAC Chairs and some of

50

0159

1 them stayed here.

2

3

 So Lisa.

4

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13

 (Pause)

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 MS. DOEHL: So I am going to suggest that maybe a starting point would be to review the powers and duties of -- that were delegated to the Board by the Secretaries in the regulations in terms of the Board's role with respect to whether the Board -- the writing letter to -- for the Board to write a letter to the Alaska Lt. Governor.

 MS. DOEHL: And I can go through that if you want, through the Chair.

 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The two on the end said yes. Go for it.

 MS. DOEHL: Okay.

 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Where one goes we all must follow.

 MS. GREWE: Thank you.

 (Laughter)

 MS. DOEHL: I didn't want to read a lot of regulations if people didn't want it either so.

 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hey, we might as well get you while we got you.

 (Laughter)

 MS. DOEHL: I will -- so this is from Department of Interior regulations at 43 CFR 53.10. The Forest Service has identical ones in their regulations.

 Subsection A. It talks about the establishment of the Board. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture hereby establish a Federal Subsistence Board and delegate it to the authority for administering the subsistence

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1 taking and uses of fish and wildlife on public lands
2 and the related promulgation and signature authority
3 for regulations of Subpart C and D of this part.

4
5 I'm not going to read the whole thing.

6
7 I'm not going to read the membership.

8
9 I'm not going to read some of the
10 liaisons.

11
12 Then there's a Subsection D that speaks
13 to powers and duties. And Section 4 of that says: The
14 Board is empowered to the extent necessary to implement
15 Title VIII of ANILCA to, one, issues regulations for
16 the management of subsistence taking and uses of fish
17 and wildlife on public lands; two, determine which
18 communities or areas of the state are rural or non-
19 rural; three, determine which rural Alaska areas or
20 communities have customary and traditional subsistence
21 uses of specific fish and wildlife populations; four,
22 allocate subsistence uses of fish and wildlife
23 populations on public lands; five, ensure that the
24 taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for non-
25 wasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority
26 over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for
27 other purposes; six, restrict the taking of fish and
28 wildlife on public lands for non-subsistence uses or
29 close public lands to the take of fish and wildlife for
30 non-subsistence uses when necessary for the
31 conservation of healthy populations of fish and
32 wildlife; to continue uses of subsistence uses of fish
33 and wildlife -- of fish or wildlife or for reasons of
34 public safety or administration; the Board may also
35 reopen public lands to non-subsistence uses if new
36 information or changed conditions indicate the closure
37 is no longer warranted.

38
39 I'm -- since there's a lot more I'm
40 just going to maybe summarize.

41
42 There's, seven, relates to restrictions
43 and closings for subsistence uses. And, eight, is to
44 establish priorities for subsistence taking of fish and
45 wildlife on public lands among rural Alaska residents;
46 nine, goes to restrictions or eliminations of taking of
47 fish and wildlife on public lands; 10, is to determine
48 what types and forms of trade of fish and wildlife
49 taken for subsistence uses constitute allowable
50

0161

1 customary trade; 11, is authorize the Regional Councils
2 to convene; 12, goes to the Regional Councils,
3 establishing them and recommending appointees; 13, is
4 to establish Federal Advisory Committees within the
5 subsistence resource regions if necessary and to make
6 recommendations relating to that; 14, is to establish
7 rules and procedures for the operation of the Board and
8 the Regional Councils; 15, is to -- and this one may be
9 very relevant -- review and respond to proposals for
10 regulations, management plans, policies and other
11 matters related to subsistence taking and uses of fish
12 and wildlife; 16, relates to entering into cooperative
13 agreements or otherwise cooperating with Federal
14 agencies, the State, Native organizations, local
15 governmental entities and other persons and
16 organizations including International entities to
17 effectuate the purposes and policies of the Federal
18 Subsistence Management Program; 17, relates to
19 permitting processes; 18, is -- and there's only two --
20 or 19 -- t here's two more -- 18, is to evaluate
21 whether hunting, fishing or trapping activities which
22 occur on lands or waters in Alaska other than public
23 lands interfere with subsistence hunting, fishing or
24 trapping on the public lands to such an extent as to
25 result in a failure to provide the subsistence priority
26 and after consulta -- appropriate consultation with the
27 State of Alaska, the Regional Councils and other
28 Federal agencies make a recommendation to the
29 Secretaries for their action; 19, is to identify and
30 specific -- appropriate specific instances, where there
31 exists additional Federal reservations, Federal reserve
32 water rights, other things and make appropriate
33 recommendations; and, 20, is the catch all, take other
34 actions authorized by the Secretaries to implement
35 Title VIII of ANILCA.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Lisa, would the
38 last one be pretty close to, you know, what we're
39 talking about?

40

41 MS. DOEHL: Uh, 20.....

42

43 MS. LEONETTI: 18.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, that
46 we're identifying.....

47

48 MS. DOEHL: 20 maybe.....

49

50

0162

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:something
2 and it's outside of our.....

3
4 MS. DOEHL: Double X or 18 or.....
5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:something
7 and that we will appropriate -- make
8 recommendations.....
9

10 MS. DOEHL: Yeah, that.....
11

12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:about
13 those interests.....
14

15 MS. DOEHL:but.....
16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:that one,
18 I.....
19

20 MS. DOEHL:that does say to the
21 Secretaries for their ac -- make a recommendation to
22 the Secretaries for the action.....
23

24 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So as far as
25 just the process I'm speaking to, that was kind of what
26 I said to do, was send it to them and maybe not state
27 -- but the request is -- uh?
28

29 MR. GREEN: Not to endorse?
30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Not to -- just
32 -- yeah, not to endorse but not to lose the context but
33 also if we're having a policy, elevating and not across
34 the aisle here, I'm feeling that -- they don't want
35 Robbin today.
36

37 (Laughter)
38

39 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
40 would note that the -- is that 18, evaluate whether
41 hunting, fishing, trapping activities which occur on
42 lands or waters in Alaska other than public lands
43 interfere with subsistence hunting and fishing and
44 trapping on Federal public lands in Alaska, is that the
45 one you're thinking might be.....
46

47 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, that one
48 leads right into the next one.....
49
50

0163

1 MS. LAVINE:a.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:where we
4 don't even have.....

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:fee
9 ownership and -- which we'd make recommendations to the
10 Secretary with -- they're just about interests, I think
11 our interest is our FACA Committee.....

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Right.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:and what
16 they're interested in so.....

17

18 MS. LAVINE: So typically that refers
19 to our role in the Secretaries retained authority of
20 extraterritorial jurisdiction, so that's -- I've always
21 seen that and it has been my understanding that that
22 has been kind of lumped with our role in supporting the
23 Secretaries and their authority to potentially close
24 non-Federal public lands and waters if subsistence
25 priority on Federal public lands and waters is not --
26 is resulting in the failure to provide for the
27 subsistence priority.

28

29 So that's been more of a literal
30 interpretation, that it's paired with ETJ.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's what I
33 was getting at because last time.....

34

35 MS. LAVINE: Right.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON:we went --
38 so, Robbin, I -- what I was kind of getting at in the
39 context of what our job is to identify our boss of what
40 the situation is, we're trying to craft a policy that
41 everyone would know what we're doing. I guess where
42 the Board would be would be that we ask our boss to
43 reach out and do this on behalf of our FACA Committee.
44 Like if we're developing a correspondence policy where
45 we need to have a flow chart so it's understandable for
46 you and the public, that if we hit this roadblock in
47 the future or anywhere that we've developed enough
48 conversation here to know what our role is because
49 we've been educated for a couple days now and then how
50

0164

1 do we create that pathway of information as it flows up
2 outside of our purview and I think, you know, we create
3 that if it -- if it says it has to go above our head
4 and unilaterally to another agency that could spell
5 something, that we request that our boss respond to the
6 Regional Advisory Councils, and put that request in
7 there that we're just asking kindly to do that but we
8 can't expect them to or not to.

9

10 So just a matter of somebody put that
11 here in writing, I'd appreciate that thought.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: One last thing to note,
14 Mr. Chair, and I appreciate that direction, it's clear
15 to me. Additionally if we were to add, you know, as
16 far as delegation of authority, the Secretaries
17 delegated authority to the Councils, their relationship
18 to the Councils, one of the things in regulation is the
19 Board shall provide available and appropriate technical
20 assistance in the Regional Advisory Councils or to the
21 Regional Advisory Councils and this is part of that
22 assistance. So you may, if you're looking at four
23 different asks and two of those asks are about writing
24 directly from the Board to other parties you may decide
25 to defer that action to the Secretary and feel
26 confident in elevating this issue to the Secretary per
27 their request and so that would be -- that would be
28 request two and, then, four, giving them an update.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Frank.

31

32 MR. WOODS: Yep, under 43 CFR 51.10,
33 under Section 4(d), if you go down to number 5,
34 priority -- subsistence priority, anything that
35 interferes with subsistence priority has to be
36 addressed and elevated from this Council. It also goes
37 into Number 14, rules to adopt, we can adopt those
38 rules that Robbin's talking about, we could set
39 criteria and I would suggest in doing a one, two,
40 three, passing on requests is our responsibility, under
41 18 and 19, elevating to a different level, and 19 it
42 says, we have adopt -- alternative permitting -- no,
43 that's not -- that's not even that -- so I wrote down
44 is -- under 18 we can elevate, Number 19 we could
45 consult with public outside this, our authority, and
46 then No. 20 it outlines how we're supposed to do that.

47

48 And we could add to what you're asking,
49 Mr. Chair, is making a check off list that we are to

50

0165

1 pass on requests through our authority, that's our
2 authority, to pass on those requests with no advocacy
3 or no advocacy involved by the Federal Subsistence
4 Board.

5

6 The second we put criteria that we will
7 not pass on to Legislative bodies requests for legal or
8 Legislative action, right.

9

10 So there's -- like Robbin said, she hit
11 on four things.

12

13 I'm just outlining it in this process
14 for the record.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: When she states
17 four things, Frank, she's just talking about the four
18 asks in this letter.

19

20 MR. WOODS: Oh, okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, so the
23 four is a separate number than what it is we're
24 developing as a policy going forward.

25

26 MR. WOODS: So I was hoping we would
27 develop policy and criteria at this meeting, at least
28 begin it, and we are beginning that process. And I
29 just outlined it in a simple one, two, three in
30 regulation, right.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Thank you. Through the
33 Chair. What you are doing in this discussion is
34 providing Staff with guidelines and, you know, kind of
35 like a foundation for how we might clarify your
36 directions in the future.

37

38 I would like to pause just a moment
39 because I know we're -- this is a work session and part
40 of the value of the work session is that you are
41 meeting with and hearing directly from your Regional
42 Advisory Councils and so there is -- I understand that
43 the Chair of the Southeast Council is online and would
44 like to speak to you -- is that -- oh, Don Striker, I'm
45 sorry.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. LAVINE: I'm sorry. Board Member

50

0166

1 Don Striker would like to join the conversation, thank
2 you.

3

4

5 MR. STRIKER: No, I appreciate that.
6 Look at the risk of over simplifying this, and thank
7 you very much Lisa and Robbin for the more detailed
8 deep dive, I think to make things simpler, though, Mr.
9 Chair, I may suggest that our authority by and large is
10 at most to, as a Board, make a recommendation to the
11 Secretaries and then it's up to them to decide whether
12 or not they want to go with our recommendation. So any
13 outreach, you know, beyond our Secretaries, has to be
14 left up to the Secretaries. We can advocate as a
15 Board, in other words we can endorse what one of the
16 Advisory Councils suggests, but we can only advocate
17 that as far as the Secretaries are concerned. So I
18 think the decision in front of this Board is not just
19 do we want to pass the message along, so to speak, but
20 also do we want to say and we agree with their position
21 and then it would be a separate action, in my mind, I'm
22 -- I'm not suggesting that I would be clear in this
23 case concurring with their conclusion on what the
24 Secretaries should do, i.e., reach out to the State and
25 to Canada, but I do think that we have the authority to
26 make recommendations to the Secretaries. That's pretty
27 broad authority if it has to do with things that impact
28 subsistence.

28

29

Thank you.

30

31

32 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you for
33 that Don, that's kind of what I was trying to get to is
34 to simplify it for us in the room and set those
35 sidebars, you know, because we know what they are and
36 not to take away or water down but to just say that's
37 what we're doing, we grabbed it and passed it right
38 through the mail chute, we just touched it at the
39 mailroom kind of deal so.

39

40

Cal.

41

42

43 MR. CASIPIT: Well, I just kind of
44 review the bidding a bit on this issue. I mean I know
45 that the Council has heard testimony about
46 TransBoundary River mining impacts on the TransBoundary
47 Rivers, the Unuk, the Stikine, the Taku, the Alsek, at
48 least 10 years, at least 10 years we've been hearing
49 concerns from the public that come to our meetings and
50 express concerns about these activities and, you know,

50

0167

1 it's -- and, you know, some of those concerns are --
2 there's really good examples of some of those concerns
3 over -- like, you know, the Mt. Polly Mine tailings
4 washout, anyway, that's been a concern brought to the
5 Council for like I said at least 10 years. There's
6 many members on the Council, including me, that share
7 those concerns, especially in terms of planning and
8 ensuring that these mine tailing ponds and all stay
9 where they're supposed to and they don't blow out like
10 that other one did because they would affect these
11 TransBoundary Rivers. And, you know, they're important
12 for subsistence and they're important for our
13 subsistence users but there's some incredible
14 commercial value coming out of those rivers in terms of
15 the commercial fisheries that occur on the Stikine and
16 the Taku.

17
18 So, you know, it's not just
19 subsistence, it's the whole system, the whole
20 TransBoundary River systems that the Council's
21 concerned about.

22
23 And over the years we've heard from
24 folks that come to our meetings, well, you need to, you
25 know, it needs to go to the Department of State or it
26 needs to, you know, Lt. Governor needs to take this up
27 and -- and -- because for some reason the Governor's
28 office has -- and I don't -- again, I'm not really sure
29 about all that upper level stuff, but apparently, you
30 know, the State has some say in how those TransBoundary
31 Mines are operated and there's some sort of
32 relationship that's supposed to occur between the State
33 and the -- I'm assuming it would be Department of State
34 and the Canadians, so -- and I believe -- if I remember
35 right there's parts of the Pacific Salmon Treaty as
36 well that talks about mining and impacts of mining and
37 how that should be addressed and so -- and like I said,
38 all of us on the Council aren't really, you know, tuned
39 in on all that stuff and how you're supposed to work
40 with the Department of State and all so all we're
41 trying to do is -- and we've asked for elevation before
42 in the past and I know -- I think in the past we have
43 heard back from Department of State, I think there's a
44 letter in here somewhere, I'm not sure, but we've heard
45 back on some stuff, but we're just trying to get this
46 elevated and get some attention and try to get an
47 answer back. Just an answer -- I mean if the answer
48 is, we can't do anything about it, it's in Canada and
49 we're just -- we can't do anything about it, well, then
50

0168

1 that's an answer, too, I mean we just want to know
2 what's going on.

3

4 MR. PENDERGAST: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Kevin, you have
7 the floor.

8

9 MR. PENDERGAST: So I appreciate those
10 comments and kind of the perspective of the RAC being
11 at the ground level and hearing this input and not
12 really sure, I mean how do you engage with the
13 Department of State or advocate for these big picture
14 concerns, but I mean what I'm hearing -- and we're not
15 really well positioned -- obviously we're not going to
16 engage directly with the Department of State either, or
17 ask the Lt. Governor's office to do so, that's kind of
18 getting into means and methods, I think when -- when I
19 see these requests I'm looking, okay, what's our scope
20 of authority and ability to act, what's sort of the
21 elements or the concern the RACs trying to elevate and
22 the element is concerns about TransBoundary mining
23 impacts on stuff in Alaska and how that might affect
24 subsistence resources. So that's a concern we can all
25 sort of identify and package that up and communicate
26 that, hey, we're hearing these concerns, it's a long-
27 term thing folks have been hearing about and whatever
28 means is appropriate from the Secretaries level, you
29 know, the RAC encourages engagement at the State level,
30 maybe with the Department of State, whatever's
31 appropriate but to try to focus on this issue but that
32 would be sort of like the scope, I think, of what our
33 authority would allow and it would elevate the concern
34 but not getting into like, hey, you need to call the
35 Lt. Governor's office and tell them to call the
36 Department of State and stuff like that is sort of
37 where we get off track, I think.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and
40 that's where I would just recommend that we pass it off
41 to our boss and say that they're asking that this
42 happen, you know, and then our boss is the one that's
43 saying, hey, yes or no we can do that, then we just
44 wait for the reply.

45

46 MR. PENDERGAST: Yeah, and not try to
47 get into the specific methodology of how that might
48 occur, who contacts who and so forth but elevate it,
49 the issue, yeah.

50

0169

1 MS. JOHN: So, Mr. Chairman. Jolene
2 here with the BIA. I was thinking after hearing the
3 Southeast speak to this issue, let's suppose something
4 individual happened within my agency, the Bureau of
5 Indian Affairs and Central Office was contacted, senior
6 leadership wants to learn more about something that got
7 their attention so -- and then we would be given the
8 task to write a briefing paper, just state the facts,
9 provide the background, the history of what's been
10 going on without any personal feelings placed in it,
11 just educational material that we bring forward to
12 their attention without us stating any position on
13 where we stand as an agency. And so I think if
14 something like that, similar, can be created, to me it
15 would be, at least from my level, a lot easier for me
16 to bring it forward rather than having a position on
17 what my senior leaders need to do back East.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: We kick it up
20 it comes back down, hopefully.

21
22 MS. GREWE: Thank you. I have a
23 question for Staff. I'm looking at the letter again
24 from the Southeast RAC to Chairman Christianson signed
25 by Don Hernandez, and I'm also looking through some,
26 you know, some records here, so my question to Staff
27 is, have we written -- has the Federal Subsistence
28 Board written letters prior around this general topic,
29 you know, rearticulating the Southeast RAC's
30 perspective and distributed that letter or are there
31 just internal drafts of letters that were never signed
32 and circulated?

33
34 MS. LAVINE: Through the Chair, this
35 issue has been addressed by the Federal Subsistence
36 Board before. The Board actually wrote a pretty in-
37 depth cover letter to the Secretaries describing this
38 particular situation. I think it was in 2024. It was
39 elevated to the Secretaries and right before the change
40 in Administration the Secretaries responded, early
41 2025, that communication has been documented and I
42 think is actually in this package and so you can track
43 that and if the Board was to do something similar we
44 would just tack on a slightly larger, you know, another
45 document with the most recent correspondences
46 demonstrating how long and ongoing this particular
47 issue is and then, once, again, forwarding it to the
48 Secretaries.

49
50

0170

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. GREWE: And quick followup, just to
4 say that it would be a different set of Secretaries
5 now, I mean so we're within a two year timeframe but a
6 different set of Secretaries.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And you can see
9 if you move down one or two on the slots here, one of
10 the requests is that we pull all of this stuff and send
11 it to the Secretaries from our Regional Advisory
12 Council. So that's also a standing request here. So I
13 don't know if we build a package that strongly says;
14 here's all the issues again in bold letters, the ones
15 that are newer or what, but I know that, you know, that
16 is also a reoccurring theme that we would also be
17 restating to our Secretaries the top issues so. So I
18 see a couple opportunities there for the same thing but
19 in a different bracket.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: So, Mr. Chair, I would
22 like to clarify that this Board is comfortable with
23 elevating this letter to the current Secretaries
24 including as attachments the previous correspondences
25 and replies from the past. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26

27 MR. WOODS: So moved.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we're
30 comfortable. I think we talked about that, and if
31 they're requesting our boss to make some requests then
32 we would hope they make them and I think our Council
33 would be happy that at least we're getting them to the
34 table and the desk.

35

36 MR. WOODS: So moved.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So moved.

39

40 MR. BROWER: Second.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The motion's
43 been made and seconded to forward this letter. Any
44 further discussion, comments from the Board.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
49 to forward it.

50

0171

1 (No opposition)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
4 the motion carries thank you.

5

6 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
7 would like to direct everybody's attention back to the
8 table and you will note that we have one, two, three,
9 four letters that are considered, at least, in part
10 outstanding from 2024. And the ISC reviewed these
11 correspondences and with the exception of 2457, the ISC
12 recommends the Board approve considering all
13 outstanding correspondence prior to 2025 as requiring
14 no further action from the Board and their reasoning is
15 this:

16

17 Many of these issues in these
18 correspondences are ongoing and they're reflected in
19 continued elevation and transmittal to the Secretaries,
20 replies and annual reports and discussions and
21 presentations at Council and Board meetings. The
22 various avenues of response are really hard to track.
23 And most of these letters, especially the seven Council
24 letter on bycatch has already been elevated to the
25 Board, a number of the individual or unique asks of the
26 Board in that particular letter do involve extra work
27 that you have already set precedent against doing but
28 you can review those three letters and you could concur
29 with the ISC recommendation to approve three letters
30 2438, 2478, 2464 as requiring no further Board action.

31

32 I'll pause and let the Board consider.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair, just to put it
37 on the table I move to approve 2438, 2478 and 2464.

38

39 MR. BROWER: Second.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: There's a
42 motion and seconded by Charlie, now we can discuss it.
43 The recommendation by Staff is that we just forego
44 these ones based on the age or that we pass them?

45

46 MS. LEONETTI: Yeah, I think they've
47 been passed along.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, they've

50

0172

1 been passed along already. So we heard from them that
2 a lot of these have been addressed, if you want to walk
3 through them one by one, it's up to the Board right now
4 -- I'm hearing no -- seeing no.

5

6 (Board shakes head negatively)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Your original
9 motion was to approve them?

10

11 MR. WOODS: Do what you just
12 recommended and.....

13

14 MS. PITKA: Yes.

15

16 MS. LAVINE: Approve no further action.

17

18 MS. PITKA: I'm sorry, this is why we
19 need to state clearly the motion on the record so that
20 we know what we're voting for.

21

22 MR. WOODS: Thank you, Rhonda.

23

24 MS. PITKA: This is why it bothers me
25 when we say so moved and all this other -- so please,
26 please state the motion. Thank you so much.

27

28 MR. WOODS: Thank you. My motion --
29 I'm trying to read the motion numbers but I forgot to
30 include the recommendation to approve to no action.
31 For 24038, 24078 and 24064 with no action, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you,
34 Frank, for saying it for the record clearly. Any
35 further Board discussion on this.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any opposition
40 to the motion.

41

42 MS. KLEIN: Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Comment before
45 we go? Jill.

46

47 MS. KLEIN: Yeah, I just wanted to make
48 a comment recognizing that while the Board may not be
49 writing any additional responses, that these topics are

50

0173

1 still very timely and meaningful if it's related to
2 salmon issues and we are happy to see that that meeting
3 took place on the 3rd to discuss marine related, and I
4 guess freshwater, just kind of life cycle issues of
5 salmon and the importance of that to subsistence
6 fisheries and then also the caribou concerns so just
7 want to make sure that the public understands and the
8 Councils that it's not because these are not important
9 issues, they are ongoing, they are on Council agendas,
10 and we'll continue to talk about it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any further
13 Council comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Everyone's
18 comfortable moving forward.

19
20 (Board nods affirmatively)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So moved.

23
24 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Robbin.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MS. LAVINE: I would like to draw your
31 attention to Letter 2457, 2457, there was a response
32 drafted to the Board that was ready to go right before
33 the shut down and it kind of got lost in the shuffle.
34 So you have a draft response to the 2405 to the
35 Southeast Regional Advisory Council for you to approve
36 and it's ready for your review and approval and
37 signature.

38
39 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40
41 And that is on Page 40 of the package.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 MS. LAVINE: And the record may note
48 extended silence as the Board reviews the letter.
49
50

0174

1 REPORTER: Okay.

2

3

(Pause)

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You guys see anything you want to change as a Board here? I think we've had time to read it, I think we're just approving a letter to send back on this one. I think it's just a matter of answering the request.

10

11

(Pause)

12

13

14

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: It's a response. Jill.

15

16

17

18

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23

24

MS. KLEIN: I appreciate this letter being in here but I don't think it's my latest version if that's what's on Page 40. Not to say that there's not good information that's accurate and contained in here but I think we had a more -- a more specific response to the asks, or a more responsive comments on the asks about our participation recently this past cycle in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. But if the Board likes this letter.....

25

26

(Laughter)

27

28

29

MS. KLEIN:it's possible to use it.

30

31

32

33

34

35

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38

39

MS. LAVINE: I really apologize for that. We -- this was a flurry of last minute collection of meeting materials. I might suggest that we locate the most up to date -- it was updated after last fall, right, so we'll locate the most up to date draft and as we've begun to do, we will send it to all the Board members for approval and if there is no request for changes we can forward it on to the Council.

40

41

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

42

43

44

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Sounds good and no objection from the Board on that.

45

46

(No objections)

47

48

49

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: You'll forward that to our email for our consideration. Thank you,

50

0175

1 Staff. Was that 25032.

2

3

MS. LAVINE: Next are two letters about
4 Prince of Wales Island wolf management from the
5 Southeast Regional Advisory Council. The Southeast
6 Regional Advisory Council wrote 25032 in 2025, May 8th
7 of 2025 and received no response from the Board, they
8 have written a follow up letter as of May this year and
9 if you look in your package on Page 45 -- 42 -- Page
10 42, there is a draft response letter for your approval.

11

12

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14

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CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Cal, do you
have any comments.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
for Cal in regard to this.

MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Members of the
Board. If you are receptive you can ask for some
context from your representative from Southeast.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, this one
basically reflects the action we took at the last
meeting.

0176

1 bigger population you'd be able to allow more harvest.
2 But they raised the population objections and kept the
3 harvest at the same level that it's always been. So
4 that confuses us.

5
6 Also one of the other concerns that
7 were raised by -- and, you know, I am well aware that
8 there is a bunch of people on the Island who view this
9 as predator control, I don't. I've heard plenty of
10 testimony from users at these Council meetings, in
11 fact, I had a discussion with an individual in the
12 hallway on a break, but folks are having a real hard
13 time getting wolf pelts for making and selling of
14 handicrafts and preparing the regalia and when yo have
15 a 30 day season that's only lasting 31 days or whatever
16 and the individual I talked to, he realized, yeah, I
17 own it, I probably should have got out earlier and
18 blah, blah, blah and got out and trapped but, you know,
19 the season closed before I was able to get my pelts.
20 So thinking about that and talking with Don and some of
21 the other Council members at our last meeting, you
22 know, I thought about this idea, okay, I underst -- you
23 know, trapping is where most of the mortality occurs, I
24 agree with that, you know, let's stick with -- in-
25 season manager, okay, if you -- you know, closing the
26 trapping season at 30 days or whatever to stay within
27 these objectives and all that, okay, that's fine I can
28 accept -- fine, I understand the conservation issues,
29 let's let that -- okay, that's fine with me. But why
30 do we have to close the hunting season.

31
32 The amount of wolf harvest by hunting
33 on Prince of Wales is minimal, less than 10 years ago,
34 I mean really small amounts, one or two, nothing more
35 -- nothing like 20, 25 or 30 or anything like that,
36 it's just a couple of wolves every year, three or four
37 or five maybe, over the years, that were taken by
38 hunting. And it seems to me that we can leave the
39 hunting season open, let people get what they need for
40 their handicrafts and their regalia and just -- and,
41 okay, trapping is a 30 day season. And I don't see why
42 the in-season manager can't do that. I don't see why
43 that can't be negotiated with Fish and Game to make
44 that happen. You know, okay, we'll go with the a 30
45 day season, okay, for trapping, that's fine, but leave
46 some opportunity out there for the subsistence users
47 through the hunting.

48
49 And I would hope that that would be
50

0177

1 received positively. We're just trying to make sure
2 people get what they need to do what they've always
3 done. And I don't want to see people made criminals
4 because they have to repair an elder's regalia.

5

6 Anyway, that's all I have to say.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Any questions
9 from the Board for Cal.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, we
14 have a letter before -- go ahead, Nicole.

15

16 MS. GREWE: I do have one question, I
17 feel like I have a lot of questions this afternoon, I'm
18 sorry folks.

19

20 You had mentioned that the State Fish
21 and Game data might not be accurate around wolf
22 population, could you elaborate on that?

23

24 MR. CASIPIT: This came up in public
25 testimony in front of the Council at least for the last
26 two cycles, at least two cycles, where the way they're
27 doing their hairboard samples that, sure, it's really
28 -- the best I can describe it is that they have these
29 hairboards out on this grid, they put scent on it, the
30 wolves are supposed to come up on the hairboard and rub
31 on it, they get the hair off of it, do DNA analysis on
32 the hair and be able to do -- it's basically a mark and
33 recapture project using DNA as the marker. And that
34 works, I guess, if you're going to live with -- there's
35 some assumptions you have to make, is that, there's an
36 equal chance that all individuals get captured. But
37 for wolves that's not the case. And looking at
38 traditional knowledge, talking with one of our members,
39 yeah, young ones, they'll rub on a hairboard and part
40 of it is you put the hairboard up and when you clean
41 the hairboard off, you burn all the hair off of it so
42 that you don't get -- you're not sampling hair from a
43 previous sampling event, so they burn all the hair off
44 the hairboard and put it back up. Well, a wise old
45 wolf is not going to go up on that hairboard and
46 scratch on it if it's been burned and you've got human
47 scent all over the place. The young ones will.

48

49 So that was a TEK that was going on,

50

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1 that people were telling Fish and Game at the time, you
2 know, three or four years ago, well, then they put
3 cameras -- game cameras on these hairboards and sure
4 enough that's what was happening. Sure, the young ones
5 rubbed on it and did their thing but the old ones they
6 stayed way away.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: That's how they got old.

11

12 MR. CASIPIT: That's how they got old.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. CASIPIT: So they reevaluated how
17 they were doing -- they reevaluated what they were
18 doing and ran the numbers and they found that the
19 population, yes, indeed, was higher than what they
20 thought it was. But instead of -- well, you heard me,
21 they raised -- oh, yeah, the population is bigger but
22 we're going to keep the harvest rate the same because I
23 don't -- I wasn't at the meeting, I wasn't allowed to
24 go to the Board of Game meeting so I didn't really get
25 the rationale on what they were talking about on that,
26 I just read it on the little two page, or the two
27 sentence justification, which doesn't give me much, so
28 I didn't get everything so it's kind of secondhand,
29 thirdhand, what I heard, of the rationale.

30

31 Maybe we can get more information from
32 Fish and Game at our next meeting on this but,
33 yeah, it's.....

34

35 MS. GREWE: Quick followup. So you
36 remember though that the State admitted that their
37 counts were an under estimate?

38

39 MR. CASIPIT: Yeah, that's the reason
40 they.....

41

42 MS. GREWE: Okay.

43

44 MR. CASIPIT: That's the reason they
45 changed.....

46

47 MS. GREDIAGIN: Microphone.

48

49 MR. CASIPIT: Excuse me. That's the

50

0179

1 reason they had that proposal in their wildlife cycle
2 was to adjust that population, desired population level
3 and harvest objectives.

4

5 MS. GREWE: It's good to know that
6 wolves have model years too.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: And I think we
9 remember the conversations, Don was pretty frustrated,
10 about just the lack of information sharing in that
11 whole process and I worked the hairboard study for
12 multiple years through the HCA, we were the tribal
13 partner and there wasn't always clear communication on
14 protocol every year and so there was use it or lose it
15 kind of attitude sometimes, which wasn't helping the
16 numbers any so -- but, yeah, there's lots of wolves on
17 POW.

18

19 MR. WOODS: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Frank.

22

23 MR. WOODS: Don [sic], I appreciate
24 your -- I think I was at that Board of Game meeting,
25 they had a lot of inconsistencies. One thing in our
26 area when we have a lack of resource or lack of hunting
27 opportunity, we ask for ceremonial permits and I wonder
28 if that's possible for the Board of Game to issue a
29 ceremonial permit for each village or person or someone
30 that would be able to harvest for their ceremonial
31 practices and their regalia that would limit -- I mean
32 they could get 10, they could get 20, whatever they may
33 need, I think that -- you know, finding options for
34 this. I agree with the letter, this needs to be
35 elevated, but I mean in our area it's a sad case to be
36 in a situation where you have to utilize that whole
37 permit system.

38

39 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Through the Chair. Mr. Woods. I did make that
41 specific suggestion to that person in the hallway, you
42 know, when I was talking to them in the hallway, I was
43 trying to explain to them there's something -- possibly
44 there's something we can do to help you, you know,
45 maybe the agency can help you there. I made that
46 suggestion and, you know, it's kind of -- I hope he
47 takes me up on it if we can't get -- at least get the
48 hunting taken care of.

49

50

0180

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Robbin.

2

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. I might draw
5 your attention to Page 43 of the package and this final
6 section or sentence in the paragraph, path forward, may
7 capture a little bit of this discussion here and
8 wording is: the Board also encourages managers to
9 consider the Council's recommendation to keep the Unit
10 2 wolf hunting season independently from the trapping
11 season recognizing that hunting harvest is limited but
12 may offer additional opportunities during the Unit 2
13 deer season.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That clearly
17 reflects the request from our Regional Advisory
18 Council. That we don't take away that opportunity
19 based off of our counterpart management plan.

20

21 Frank.

22

23 MR. WOODS: (Shakes head negatively)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So I think -- I
26 don't see anything wrong with the letter myself, I mean
27 it just gives a little direction maybe to our area
28 biologist. Other than that I think it's reflective of
29 what our Council is asking to us. There's not an ask
30 in here. It's just an opportunity for subsistence
31 users to continue to engage and that's active on our
32 permit when we get one from the State, we can shoot
33 that wolf during hunting season. So it's kind of
34 consistent with their approach that they've had so.

35

36 Is there any opposition to what we're
37 hearing here?

38

39 (No opposition)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Can I sign this
42 letter, is there concurrence?

43

44 (Board nods affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I hear
47 concurrence, thank you. Thank you, Staff for this one,
48 there's one more to go.

49

50

0181

1 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
2 last letter in your correspondence package begins on
3 Page 45 and this is a draft originating from the
4 Federal Subsistence Board to the Secretaries. You are
5 requesting a standing meeting with the Secretaries to,
6 you know, to make this a regular opportunity to update
7 the Secretaries and make the Secretaries aware of all
8 of the issues impacting the implementation of Title
9 VIII on Federal public lands and waters in Alaska.
10 It's pretty limited. It is a request for that meeting
11 only, right, an annual meeting only, and it could be
12 that the Board may want to amend this letter a little
13 bit, or edit the letter to reflect a specific request
14 that the very first meeting be specifically about
15 fisheries and that the Council Chairs may be invited to
16 it.

17
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So, yeah,
21 basically your recommendation would be to tease out the
22 two you have in here, the top two and prioritize salmon
23 above caribou as far as the request in the letter or to
24 specifically state that our first request would be
25 primarily salmon?

26
27 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Based on the Chairs workshop earlier this week and some
29 of the recommendations the Chairs provided, there was
30 some discussion during that agenda item that possibly
31 the Board could request this meeting with the
32 Secretaries, or we want a standing meeting, we want
33 regular opportunities to brief the Secretaries on the
34 Federal Subsistence Management Program but just add
35 that specifically the very first meeting be about
36 salmon and that the Chairs, as they have requested, be
37 present.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you. So
42 just for the record let it reflect in the letter that
43 we'd also ask our RAC Chairs to be present as they hold
44 the passion for the people.

45
46 Any other discussion about the letter,
47 context, purpose.

48
49 (No comments)
50

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1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing, seeing
2 none, we'll let the record reflect we'll make those
3 changes and seeing or hearing no opposition from the
4 Board here we'll move that letter forward.

5
6 (No opposition)

7
8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Thank you.
9 Rebecca.

10

11 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, thank you. Before
12 you move completely off of correspondence, I was
13 wondering if the RAC Chairs, all two of them, can get
14 an update on the status of the correspondence policy.
15 So as a -- being on a RAC and as a RAC Chair it is
16 helpful to understand, one, what are we supposed to be
17 doing and how we're supposed to be doing it and
18 particularly with communication from a Board
19 perspective, what do you want to see in the annual
20 report, which I understand there's a process discussion
21 on that coming up, what do you want to go in letters?
22 If we're putting something in the letter, do you want
23 it to go to you, do you want it to go to the agency, so
24 I'm assuming those kinds of things, hopefully, will be
25 part of the correspondence policy in addition to
26 everything you've talked about yesterday and today
27 about what the Board can actually, you know, sign off
28 on. But from a RAC perspective it is very helpful to
29 have that guidance and I've been hearing about the
30 correspondence policy, I want to say over -- for over
31 two years now so I'm just wondering is this -- do we
32 have one, when might there be one and when can the RACs
33 get more guidance on correspondence.

34

35 Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and so
38 that's been a big discussion all the way to the
39 briefing until now, so this meeting we basically have
40 been constructing that policy and we directed Staff we
41 draft one for your fall meetings so that you guys can
42 go ahead and look at what it is that we've discovered
43 during this work session that, you know, we've been
44 educating ourselves through so we can get clear
45 guidance to you guys. I think we've got a lot on the
46 record that gives our Staff, you know, some of the side
47 bars and red line that we've been discussing during
48 this correspondence letters and how we're going to
49 respond and what we're comfortable with and not

50

0183

1 comfortable with. So we did direct Staff to go ahead
2 and draft up that correspondence policy for the Board
3 and that way we can educate you guys and give that
4 policy to you guys to give back to us so we can be
5 affirmed that it fits within what your expectation is,
6 also what the parameters are for what we can do and
7 what you guys can do. Because they're a little
8 different, your charters are different all across the
9 board, your charter is slightly different than what we
10 can do. But define that correspondence, like I said I
11 think we have the Staff drafting one for consideration.

12

13 Any other questions.

14

15 (No comments)

16

17 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Comments.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Hearing none,
22 what's the next agenda item.

23

24 MS. LEONETTI: The process.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The process.

27

28 MS. LEONETTI: The annual report

29 replies.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Process.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I think we just
36 went through the process.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let's talk
41 about it one more time.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 (Off record)

46

47 (On record)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Okay, we're

50

0184

1 going to get started again, Rhonda's got to leave.
2 Robbin you have the floor.

3

4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
5 Members of the Board. I just passed out a couple of
6 handouts to help us with this agenda item, annual
7 reports and replies, process discussion. Our goal for
8 this discussion, for this agenda item is to improve the
9 efficiency and responsiveness in annual report replies.
10 I would also argue that, you know, it's responsiveness
11 to the Councils in general, it can be inclusive of
12 correspondence and to highlight the role of ANILCA
13 mandated Regional Advisory Council reports in
14 systematically identifying and addressing issues. You
15 should have an executive summary of your responses,
16 kind of generalized responses to Crystal's query
17 earlier this year, on the value of annual reports and
18 how they're used. There should also be a short history
19 of annual reports and Board replies that basically
20 demonstrate that this Program has been replying to
21 Councils from the very beginning, even before the
22 Program was a Program, even though it's not mandated in
23 ANILCA. And then we have a briefing to kind of give
24 you an idea about some possible solutions or just very
25 simply, you know, to consider, you know, four different
26 options: Not responding, retaining the status quo,
27 deferring everything to the Secretaries, or providing
28 an updated response and guidelines.

29

30 So that's kind of an introduction to
31 the information here. I would be very interested in
32 your responses in reviewing these documents, recalling
33 your responses to the query in February of 2026. And
34 after a lot of discussion and elevation of side bars or
35 redlines throughout this particular Board meeting, is
36 there any direction you want to provide to the Staff?

37

38 I might pause for a moment and let you
39 review the first document and ask Crystal to provide a
40 little bit of a summary.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MS. LEONETTI: Thank you, Robbin.
45 Councils sometimes -- well, a lot of times, Councils
46 ask me really good questions that I don't have the
47 answer to including some of the Council Chairs here in
48 the room, and so your replies to their annual reports
49 sometimes are satisfactory and sometimes not as

50

0185

1 satisfactory and I think -- we tried something new this
2 year so the Council Chairs have been here and had a
3 discussion with you about their annual reports and
4 that's definitely a new -- a different format that
5 we're trying out and I think writing to each other back
6 and forth sometimes leaves people unsatisfied. But the
7 conversation is more -- you can get more detail from
8 each other in those conversations and potentially not
9 as beefy as a reply is needed after that. So we tried
10 that this year and I'm curious from the Council Chairs
11 who are still here, how that felt for you, and then
12 just to have a little bit of discussion between the
13 Board members and the Council Chairs in the room about
14 if we'd like to keep this type of format going forward
15 or if there are other suggestions for going forward
16 with the annual report replies.

17
18 And a big -- a big response from the
19 Board members, from you all is that the annual reports
20 are very important to you, that they provide really
21 critical information that you consider as you are
22 deliberating on your Board actions and for the agency
23 representatives, that you utilize the information in
24 those reports for various agency management planning
25 and activities throughout the year.

26
27 So that was really good feedback from
28 you all.

29
30 But we're curious about how to
31 streamline the replies and make it more meaningful and
32 we're curious about doing it in a way that doesn't
33 require a lot more Staff time. And one of the things
34 you also said to us is that there are less Staff right
35 now and that it is very difficult to find the Staff
36 time to draft replies. So that's -- I'm looking for, I
37 guess, the Council Chairs and Board to have that
38 dialogue now.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'd offer the
41 floor to the RAC Chairs first.

42
43 Rebecca.

44
45 MS. SKINNER: Thanks, I'll jump in
46 first here, and I will be very frank.

47
48 I, over the years have -- I don't see a
49 lot of utility with the replies. The reason is they,
50

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1 for the most part, and this is not a criticism of Staff
2 at all, but for the most part they don't say anything.
3 They say thank you for sharing, okay. Or, that's not
4 within our jurisdiction, you need to talk to the Marine
5 Mammal people, that's fine. Well, we really should
6 have -- and we usually do hear that at the RAC meetings
7 so that we can then appropriately direct a letter to
8 the Marine Mammal people or whoever else. So the
9 information we get back, it's usually -- it's not more
10 information than we had before or it's information we
11 already got at a RAC Meeting or should have gotten at
12 the RAC meeting because then we would be able to do
13 something with it. You know, it is very nice to hear
14 that the annual reports are useful but I don't think we
15 need a reply that says that every year, especially
16 given how lengthy the replies were getting in order to
17 say the Board can't do anything about your issue.

18
19 Over the years I have also wondered,
20 with our annual reports -- so I get in the statute and
21 in the regulations it says, here's what you need to put
22 in your annual reports. It's still not completely
23 clear to me what do you want in the annual reports and
24 how are you using it and so -- and it also usually
25 feels, for us, a little bit rushed in a RAC meeting,
26 when we get to the meeting where we're drafting the
27 report topics and we are told at that particular
28 meeting, that's where we have to identify all the
29 topics, we're not allowed to add topics at a subsequent
30 meeting so it's kind of this pressure of, oh, what are
31 we going to put in our annual report and sometimes it
32 feels like we're just grabbing the hot, you know, oh,
33 well, what came up yesterday or today and it's not as
34 much of a thoughtful process that I would prefer.

35
36 Like, really, what do you guys want to
37 know so that we can, or as Chair, I can help get people
38 thinking more ahead of time about what they really want
39 in that report. Like what are you guys really going to
40 use because it's not clear to me what you guys use out
41 of the annual reports or what is most useful. So that
42 kind of information would be helpful.

43
44 But from a reply standpoint, I do
45 appreciate that, you know, Staff and you guys took the
46 time to send a reply, but substantively I don't think
47 they're -- they're probably not worth the Staff time
48 it's taking to put them together. And when they come
49 in it's always like, oh, there's the reply, they're
50

0187

1 just saying thank you and we can't do anything about
2 your issue, and that is not a criticism of the Board,
3 that's the reality, there's certain things you can do
4 but a lot of the issues we're facing are not things
5 that you can do anything about; that's just the
6 reality.

7

8 So if you want to keep hearing about
9 those things, we're happy to tell you, if you don't
10 want to hear about those things and we need to focus
11 within like the wheelhouse of the Program, tell us that
12 so that we can make better use of our time to help you
13 guys help us. Because sometimes it's not completely
14 clear what that would be.

15

16 MS. PITKA: So what I like to see in
17 the annual reports is things that are not covered
18 anywhere else. Like if you didn't have that in a
19 proposal, if you're having issues with air transporters
20 in your area. That's what we want to see in those
21 reports. Things that don't come up within the meeting
22 itself, that don't have an action item, that don't
23 really have like a specific spot.

24

25 You know like really big overarching
26 issues.

27

28 I've seen the Yukon River salmon
29 crises. I've seen issues with climate control --
30 climate change. Issues with environmental changes in
31 your areas.

32

33 The most useful ones are the issues
34 that don't get covered anywhere else that we usually
35 send back those replies, oh, I'm so sorry, we can't do
36 anything about that but it's really useful to get those
37 things documented or on paper, especially when they
38 affect subsistence uses. Like large scale developments
39 in your area. There's probably not going to be a great
40 answer on those things but those are the things that I
41 like to see, things that aren't really covered
42 necessarily in proposals.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Robbin -- oh,
45 Kevin, then Robbin.

46

47 MR. PENDERGAST: Kevin, BLM. I agree.
48 Like it's that all on the ground perspective and things
49 that may not necessarily come up for formal action but

50

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1 it's -- I mean you're kind of the tip of the spear
2 that's informing the perspective that this Board needs
3 to have to act and that's, to me, the whole point of
4 it. And I've got -- I definitely have a perspective on
5 replies but I just wanted to emphasize what Rhonda
6 said.

7
8 I really appreciate kind of, as always,
9 sort of the frank remarks you make and the candor and
10 clarity you help bring to the situation so thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, I would
13 just ask, too, do the other Regional Advisory Council
14 Chairs feel similar about the replies, I know because
15 we kind of had that same discussion about how it's kind
16 of just, yeah, thank you for your letter and we heard
17 you kind of situation, you know, and I mean if we could
18 save our Staff a little bit of time on that and say,
19 hey, here's the box of -- the take of fish and wildlife
20 proposal mandate you have -- on the take of fish and
21 wildlife and the population -- sorry I'm coughing --
22 but to -- and then the things outside of that box, you
23 would just know that that's what we're going to elevate
24 because you've seen us now today develop that process
25 of saying, hey, yeah, and building trust amongst the
26 Board members that we're not advocates or promoting but
27 we're still willing to elevate what they're saying in
28 that annual report that's outside of our direction,
29 right, or what we can do as an authority as a Board,
30 but bring recognition to the issue in your area because
31 it affects subsistence.

32
33 And so I would, you know, say similar
34 to that, right, like let's save the burden here and
35 streamline.

36
37 Robbin -- oh, Cal and then Robbin.

38
39 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Through the Chair. Cal Casipit of SERAC. I do think
41 that the annual reports do provide a bunch of value to
42 you -- hopefully to you guys. We try to put issues
43 that are coming up in front of us so that you're aware
44 of them. And, you know, I guess as far as the replies
45 go, if there is something in our annual report that we
46 sent you, the Board, that we got wrong, or that we're
47 not seeing -- or there's something that we need to be
48 corrected on, I sure would like to have that response,
49 you know, that helps us do our job better, you know, if
50

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1 we missed something or we misinterpreted something or,
2 you know, I would hope that would come back to us so
3 that we could do a better job next time. I look at
4 some of those replies as I read them and I look at them
5 and I kind of look, well, maybe we should have done a
6 better job describing what our issue was there. You
7 know what I mean. Maybe we should have had a better
8 ask. So I do find value in the replies. It helps us
9 maybe be better in the future.

10

11 And I just have to say this, as far as
12 Staff time goes and what -- and, you know, that's part
13 of the responsibility of the Secretaries under ANILCA,
14 is to provide adequate Staffing, it's right in ANILCA.
15 So if we don't have the Staffing to support our
16 Councils then maybe that needs to be a message to the
17 Secretaries.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: I would like to provide
22 really quickly Staff perspective on some of these
23 things. And the first point I'd like to make is that
24 the Councils are required to provide annual reports to
25 the Secretary through the Board, and, yet, we are
26 framing these reports as containing issues with asks
27 and so it's just a different way of thinking about it.
28 But you have all been vetted and nominated and
29 appointed to the Councils for your expertise and your
30 ability to inform the Board and make recommendations.
31 As Staff to the Board and the Program, I have used the
32 Regional Advisory Council reports exhaustively. We
33 look for information gaps, we look for local
34 traditional knowledge, we look for observations that we
35 can refer to when we are identifying, you know, what
36 the Board might be able to do through regulatory
37 action. So when you're asking in the annual reports,
38 you're asking for a response, I really appreciate you
39 saying, did we get our job wrong, did we get our
40 understanding of, you know, ANILCA, Title VIII, and the
41 regulations wrong. Having correction and support for
42 that. But that the ask for the Board, the real easy
43 ask for the Board is to take regulatory action on fish
44 and wildlife proposals for subsistence that are
45 informed by you.

46

47 So that's kind of all in the one point,
48 you know, that the Council reports, their annual
49 reports should be full of information and full of

50

0190

1 traditional knowledge, I do go through the transcripts
2 and listen to all of the Council member reports and
3 having an administrative record that really highlights
4 that knowledge and those observations in one place
5 rather than trying to scan through the transcripts
6 would be of value to the Staff.

7

8 And I'll stop there because I know
9 everybody has other comments to make, thank you, Mr.
10 Chair.

11

12 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
13 Chair. I agree with Rebecca to some respects and then
14 others as well. I'm trying to think back, one of the
15 things -- yeah, a lot of the thank you for your comment
16 type responses can be a little disappointing. And I
17 think sometimes we are a little hasty slamming stuff in
18 the annual report. But I think in some cases we might
19 even know the answer that, no, we can't help you here,
20 but I think we've also thought we're still going to --
21 that better trickle up to the Secretaries.

22

23 And examples might be it took a long
24 time, kind of telling the Park Service we wanted a red
25 fish fishery in Naknek Lake and that took a lot of
26 pushing and if finally happened. I think another
27 example might be we're still wishing that the Pike
28 Ridge access area, again over in the Naknek area, that
29 Park Service could find a way to resolve that. I've
30 taken the attitude we're just going to keep telling
31 them you got to fix this because sometimes eventually,
32 okay, we got to. I know it's hard but -- especially if
33 you have changes in leadership in some of these CSUs,
34 they might forget what our priorities were and even if
35 we can't do it through our normal system, they hear
36 about it. I think there's times, too, where we can
37 come back -- I've had public say, why the heck don't
38 you fix Pike Ridge, it's like we can't, see, we heard
39 it straight from the Secretary. We keep asking. We're
40 trying. You write your Senator and we can't.

41

42 So there is value but, yeah, we also
43 know -- I got to say the Staff works hard. You know,
44 I've kind of been on the background of that back when I
45 worked with Fish and Game, we ask a lot and that's why
46 we also wanted to emphasize -- I'll bring it up here --
47 that we've got new public members on the Board and do
48 they get the support like the agency people do and
49 we're really concerned that they can -- because it's --
50

0191

1 I call up Leigh, Robbin, whoever, and they're
2 huckleybuck doing whatever they can to help out. I
3 hope that Frank, Ray and Charlie can all have similar
4 access and support and encouragement. But hopefully
5 that doesn't triple the load for some of our other
6 Staffers.

7
8 So with that, that's my peace, thank
9 you.

10

11 MR. PENDERGAST: So, Kevin, with BLM.
12 A little more perspective from, I guess, an agency
13 member of the Board. We talk a lot about OSM Staff and
14 they do provide a lot of support obviously, the key
15 support to keep the wheels on the bus here, the reality
16 of the annual report reply process, and nobody -- I
17 don't think anybody here is debating the value and
18 integral nature of the RAC reports, the annual reports
19 and that's a requirement, but all of those pieces of
20 parts get parsed out and cycled out basically to just a
21 few member entities of this Board. Like it's our field
22 offices, it's our Staff, it's our folks who are helping
23 and then working through the ISC to provide responses
24 back to this stuff. It's just frankly not the public
25 members of the Board. So it's really -- we're equal on
26 the Board but we're not equal in the terms of Staff
27 time required. And I don't have that Staff anymore, I
28 don't, neither does Don Striker, neither does Sara
29 Boario. So that's just the reality we're faced with.
30 So when we look at annual report replies, and that
31 comes in and I got Staff who need to focus on other
32 priorities like that's the piece that has to give and
33 so, you know, it's incredibly value to hear the
34 perspective from the ground the kind of perfunctory
35 replies back or just sort of like having to do back and
36 double, triple check these issues and kind of
37 groundtruth it from our agency perspective and provide
38 that back to the ISC and OSM, you know, it's like
39 process without a lot of impact.

40

41 But I do appreciate, if you're sending
42 stuff in from the field, you kind of want to know it
43 was received and looked at. So I could envision some
44 middle ground where you get affirmative response that,
45 hey, this is received and maybe here's one or two
46 things like this doesn't really translate, why don't
47 you work that a little more before you send it up next
48 time but not like by the point by point by point reply
49 to everything, thank you very much, we can't do
50

0192

1 anything about it.

2

3 So just a few thoughts from my
4 perspective.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Frank.

7

8 MR. WOODS: So sitting here for three
9 days listening to guidelines reporting, the response
10 and the reports are real important. I just came back
11 from a new meeting where they have a Federal program in
12 Forestry and our programs within the Federal
13 government, it's an onboarding program that outlines a
14 one, two, three survey. It's a simple program, you
15 were talking about AI, it's a simple computer program
16 that lists -- so it would be like FSB Board, RAC,
17 Bristol Bay, activities outlined, then Rebecca said she
18 needs a guide on how that -- and then the onboarding
19 program automatically asks all the questions. Like we
20 had two pages of reporting for this process, right. So
21 they give you whatever minimum mandatory guidelines,
22 like if you've had how many meetings, how many in
23 attendance, proposals proposed, areas affected,
24 populations and you could add to that onboarding, a
25 guide that'll automatically help you fill out that
26 report and then on the bottom there would be other non-
27 related impacts to subsistence or letters of request or
28 wolf populations or questions from and/or Staff. That
29 whole -- for me, this one hour lunch hour would have
30 took me two days to fill out. And this -- I understand
31 your heartache, and Rebecca your question is spot on,
32 what is it used for, right. Then we could document
33 that onboard, upload it for the year, quarterly report
34 and then you could, annual meetings, or whatever it may
35 be, those things need to be, because I've been sitting
36 here trying to -- I just like removed like three days
37 of paper and it becomes a big burden and that
38 onboarding program would help and I'm going to go --
39 look -- you know it would be an onboarding survey
40 report, an AI summary of some sort once we get it
41 formatted and then it lists all the action items that
42 we're responsible for like I read in 43 CFR 51.10 and
43 all the A and the D and the 4 and the 1, 2, 3, right. I
44 could regurgitate those left and right but as we don't
45 -- we don't address those here. I'm not familiar and
46 don't breath FSB daily. I mean I'm a volunteer to come
47 here to help you guys to provide activity and access to
48 resource subsistence. This process is -- you were spot
49 on by asking how we could improve it. And the

50

0193

1 Secretary will also enjoy it because our Chairman on
2 this Board and you guys could have direct access.

3

4 I could see it. I'm just walking it
5 through my mind, Mr. Chair, and since I've been here
6 three days complaining.....

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. WOODS:I will shut up now.

11

12 (Laughter)

13

14 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: No, I think
15 there's a lot of merit to what we're discussing and how
16 we can streamline the process. One, I think we've been
17 asked and tasked that from our bosses to streamline the
18 process as a whole, looking at who we have as -- where
19 we are manpower wise, streamlining is just the
20 efficient thing to do. We're hearing from our
21 constituents that we could probably do a better job in
22 responding, that we see your full report and then I
23 almost think that what we did the last two days is how
24 you deal with the annual report. We just done it.
25 That's why I said, we've developed a correspondence
26 policy that took our Regional Advisory Councils in
27 here, we chopped up their report, we gave them what we
28 can do, we took away what we can't do and we kicked it
29 up the chain and we put the ball on the table of the
30 guy who's responsible for it, our boss.

31

32 That's what I'm hearing here and I hear
33 that's the comfort level. As far as how intent it is,
34 I think it's, yes, we received it, you have three
35 issues in there that are within our authority and three
36 of them that we got to pass up, all the rest is
37 information that was -- might be relatable in the
38 future and we appreciate it because those reports are
39 used for historical and traditional context of the
40 meeting and the atmosphere of the time and place and
41 the presence. So I'm hearing kind of that from the
42 Board as a comfort level as we move on this policy.
43 Because that's kind of what we're formulating here and
44 that's what we're being asked, is to develop a clear
45 and articulate path for the information we receive and
46 not regurgitating back information back to them in a
47 long drawn out format.

48

49 And it's our job.

50

0194

1 MS. LAVINE: Can I ask a question, Mr.
2 Chair of everyone here, Council Chairs as well as Board
3 members.

4
5 How do you find this format and is it
6 worth actually extending the work session just a little
7 bit longer so that you can have these face to face
8 conversations about what's happening in your Councils'
9 regions.

10

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: This is 10
14 times better than looking at a report. I like seeing
15 who I work for and to hear it in realtime and then to
16 get them to see what it is that they're struggling with
17 and what we have to struggle with and then we find
18 commonality to erase struggles and find, you know,
19 valid pathways for our work force, you know, that's
20 what we're trying to do is create something that
21 they're comfortable with and feel like they're being
22 heard and elevated.

23

24 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I'll just note that
25 this is a time commitment. You can look at this side
26 of the table and see the cost of the time commitment.
27 We started out on Monday with a big group of Chairs, by
28 Tuesday it was less and today it's even less. So I do
29 think there was a lot more utility to this meeting than
30 getting the replies but I guess I think we need to be
31 really thoughtful about I -- I don't know that adding
32 another day on to a meeting that everybody can't attend
33 anyway is the best solution, but I do like the
34 interaction. So however we can make that work and as
35 you know summertime is a hard time anyway. But, yeah,
36 this is better than reply documents.

37

38 MR. PENDERGAST: I second.

39

40 (Laughter)

41

42 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Like I said,
43 over the course of these days I was really hoping we
44 were doing exactly what we're doing is whittling
45 something into a corner far enough that there's comfort
46 on both sides. Any other comments, questions about
47 this. I think we've put a lot on the record.

48

49 Brooke and then Cal.

50

0195

1 MS. MCDAVID: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 Just a couple thoughts since I'm acting in this role,
3 the annual reports for Katya this year, and since
4 neither of my Councils are here, I think that -- and we
5 actually only have four Chairs representative here. If
6 something could be prepared that the Councils could
7 provide feedback on based on this discussion just to
8 make sure that everyone is aware and before like
9 something is 100 percent set in stone, this is the way
10 we're going to do it, just since we haven't been able
11 to get feedback from all of our regions about this
12 today just because of the time constraints, I think
13 they would appreciate that opportunity.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and I
16 think we directed Staff to kind of summarize this
17 meeting and draft correspondence to be presented to our
18 RACs so that they can say, yeah, it's reflective and
19 then give us back feedback.

20
21 MS. MCDAVID: One more comment, if I
22 may. I also think that when the Board does review the
23 comments that came from the Councils in the Secretarial
24 Review, hopefully some more guidance on how the Board
25 and the Secretary's offices interact to and maybe a
26 little more transparency. I think that's the main
27 thing that the Councils have been concerned about, is
28 not being heard, especially on these big issues and I
29 heard people were so thankful that Kara was here
30 listening and taking notes and, you know, she's going
31 to be able to communicate some of those things and so I
32 think as we continue to go, not only through this
33 process and, you know, but also the Secretarial Review
34 process, that it might result in some positive changes
35 on all levels.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, and I
40 think the Board is also entertaining other actions, you
41 know, in requesting audience with the Secretary and
42 other steps that we would try to ensure that we're
43 getting, you know, briefing our bosses on what their
44 issues are and, you know, so hopefully we can get that
45 audience like we did in the past, that's not a promise
46 but then also, you know, that we continue this process.

47
48 I seen a hand up somewhere?

49
50

0196

1 MS. LEONETTI: Cal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Cal.

4

5 MR. CASIPIT: I just -- real quick, I
6 just wanted to say that I really appreciated the way
7 these reports were handled this time around. I've
8 particularly appreciated being able to see the other
9 Councils' reports and replies because I found out we
10 have a lot more in common than I thought. You look at
11 how you grouped all those things up, you know,
12 basically all our comments went into six categories and
13 that's pretty powerful when you can go across and say,
14 hey, we got these things in common and just makes me --
15 I don't feel so alone.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, I loved the
20 graph when I seen it.

21

22 Rhonda.

23

24 MS. PITKA: I think we should thank
25 Katya Wessels for her excellent spreadsheet skills,
26 honestly, like she's the one that keeps those
27 spreadsheets together for us and makes sure that if we
28 have similar issues they're all in one place, it's
29 fairly impressive and I really appreciate that. And
30 I'd like to thank Brooke also for really filling some
31 big shoes this meeting, thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Jill.

34

35 MS. KLEIN: Through the Chair. So just
36 in terms of the options for the Board to consider,
37 maybe I missed this, but are we just reviewing this now
38 as kind of informational, it's going to go to the
39 Councils in the fall or are we taking some action now
40 to help guide what the Councils do this fall with their
41 reports?

42

43 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I mean I think
44 we would be comfortable, like you heard from our RAC
45 Chairs, half of them are here, you know, that they're
46 not in on this -- part of the substantive conversation,
47 I'd probably want to include them to the degree to
48 where we probably draft something of the language we've
49 gotten in here to the point where we're pretty much all
50

0197

1 in agreement. I'd be comfortable with that. And then
2 once they've seen it this fall cycle, we have a January
3 meeting where we can take these recommendations back up
4 based off feedback and then maybe develop that
5 correspondence policy, firm, would be my recollection.
6

7 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. My thought is
8 that the materials that, you know, we put before you,
9 have provided some options. They were just there as
10 starter, right. Starter fodder. Discussion fodder. I
11 think that what's been said on record and the guidance
12 and precedence you all have set so far, it will be
13 enough for Staff to summarize and share with the
14 Councils for their responses and recommendations.
15

16 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Everyone
17 comfortable with -- oh, Rebecca.
18

19 MS. SKINNER: Yeah, I was just going to
20 say that from a RAC perspective, so understanding not
21 everyone's here, I'd still rather get some decision, or
22 some changes out of this meeting so that in the fall,
23 at our fall meeting we can start with the newish
24 process. And I'm assuming this is iterative so you're
25 going to get feedback and you can always adjust it as
26 you go. I did have a question, do our annual reports
27 get sent up to the Secretary or do they go to the Board
28 and that's it?
29

30 MS. LEONETTI: They just go to the
31 Board and that's it and then -- so, you know, one of
32 the things the Board could do if they get a meeting
33 with the Secretary, is, talk about these categories and
34 how much the Councils have in common and what those
35 issues entail. So that hasn't been done and in ANILCA
36 it does say that the Regional Advisory Councils will
37 report to the Secretaries annually on, I think there's
38 four categories or maybe more than that, but because
39 the Board was appointed by the Secretaries, since that
40 happened those reports have only gone to the Board.
41

42 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. And that is
43 why the Board has asked to meet with the last Secretary
44 of Interior in 2003 -- or 2023. It is also why you
45 have written this new letter requesting an annual
46 meeting with the Offices of the Secretaries, even if it
47 can't be exactly with the Secretaries themselves all
48 the time, but just a way of communicating to the
49 Secretaries what's happening in the Federal Subsistence
50

0198

1 Management Program because they are ultimately the
2 authority over this Program. So you're asking for more
3 contact, thank you.

4

5 MR. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Reflecting on a situation in the past on a Board, there
7 was a discussion about this branch of our business out
8 there and the COO was taking care of it and then I
9 finally asked the COO, have you been there and he goes,
10 no, my reaction was maybe you should pack your bag and
11 go down there and see what's going on for yourself so
12 you can be a part of the process. So that brings me to
13 the point of if we're bringing things to you and you're
14 delivering what you can to the Secretaries and we're
15 talking about three of them now, we're talking about
16 Commerce, Agriculture and the Interior. I think we
17 need to send a clear message to them that they need to
18 be involved because they're making decisions at the
19 National level that affect us down here and to me
20 they're getting, maybe it's bits and pieces, maybe they
21 should be at the table and we can talk face to face
22 sometimes.

23

24 I like this process that we've done
25 here in the last few days here, being able to discuss
26 across, back and forth, so I think it's important to
27 them to the fact that this process needs to be -- they
28 need to be part of it, not just up there going, yeah,
29 thank you, we'll do what we can, they need to feel the
30 pain.

31

32 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So they would
35 like a policy but I don't know what the Board's comfort
36 level is right now adopting anything here. I think
37 we're at the point where we want the reports, we need
38 the reports, what we do with the reports just needs to
39 be clearly defined, how we reply to them is -- I think
40 we said to minimize that down to points of our
41 interests and then if it's outside of our interest to
42 elevate and more face to face meetings like this so the
43 interaction with our RAC Chairs is personable and not
44 paperable [sic] and am I missing anything, I'm just
45 regurgitating this for the fact of the record so that
46 we can give our Staff that direction. I don't know
47 that we're going to draft a policy today. I'm not
48 seeing that happening but I could probably be assured
49 we'll direct Staff to get that to our Regional Advisory
50

0199

1 Councils for next to consider, but I think we can also
2 maybe come in with a little front end, here's what
3 we've discussed at the Board level and we're working on
4 these and educate the RACs as we go. We do have RAC
5 appointed liaisons that we can task with the small task
6 to say, update on the policy we're developing.

7

8 Just food for thought.

9

10 And then from there, Robbin, it would
11 be your job.

12

13 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Well, as Chair of the InterAgency Staff Committee, I
15 could say that the ISC, in collaboration with OSM
16 Staff, could draft, hopefully, a real brief outline of
17 the points you just discussed and we can share that
18 with you, the Board members, for your confirmation,
19 yep, that looks pretty accurate about what we discussed
20 during the work session and once we get your
21 confirmation we would have a draft ready to share with
22 the Councils. That's my suggestion.

23

24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Everybody
27 comfortable with that.

28

29 Louis.

30

31 MR. GREEN: Just one last comment.
32 Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm trying to get my train of
33 thought here. And I brought it up in my comments the
34 other day, was, everybody thinks this is the land of
35 plenty and right now the Administration is talking
36 about the seafood, we're going to be the seafood leader
37 of the world, okay, maybe Doug should come here and
38 hear from us what's really the situation, we're not the
39 -- and maybe our Congressional can get the message that
40 we're feeling all the pain here and you're missing
41 something and you're making your decisions like at the
42 National level, so.

43

44 Just wanted to make sure I got that
45 out.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I guarantee

50

0200

1 there's a lot more tears in the Federal Boardroom than
2 the State. I'm talking about the people we serve.

3

4 Any other discussion.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Are we
9 comfortable as a Board with the direction to Staff?

10

11 (Board nodding affirmatively)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Let it be
14 reflected. Thank you guys, we appreciate your feedback
15 on this one.

16

17 Next meetings.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. This
20 agenda item is just to confirm that the Fisheries
21 regulatory meeting has been set for the week of
22 February 2nd through the 5th and that's -- this is just
23 an opportunity to get it on the record and to remind
24 you all that this is what we have collectively agreed
25 to. And then for the next summer work session, we've
26 given you kind of three dates that cluster around the
27 same time as we've held this work session in the past
28 and I'm hesitating now because I'm beginning to think
29 that perhaps we may want to consider some significant
30 modifications. So I'm going to pause for a moment and
31 take direction from the Board on this agenda item,
32 thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: The February
35 meeting, was this the timeline for you guys, was the
36 only thing we discussed here but.....

37

38 MS. LEONETTI: February, is, I think,
39 fine.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: That's fine,
42 yeah. So the summer.....

43

44 MS. LEONETTI: But the summer is
45 expensive and difficult.....

46

47 MS. PITKA: Can you please use your
48 microphone.

49

50

0201

1 MS. LEONETTI: Oh, yeah. I was just
2 trying to like telepathically tell Tony what to
3 say.....

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MS. LEONETTI:but I'll just say
8 it. The summertime is very expensive. So hotel rooms
9 are astronomical in Anchorage in the summertime. And
10 now that we're talking about the whole 11 member Board
11 plus Council Chairs it's more than normal. So I guess
12 I'd ask the Board to consider is there another time,
13 like November or something, and I know this is -- Staff
14 is -- we're used to this summer work session for
15 certain reasons so we have to talk about that but I'm
16 curious, Board thoughts, yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: When does the
19 RAC meetings end, what's the end of their cycle?
20 What's the last meeting they have?

21
22 MS. MCDAVID: October.

23
24 MS. LEONETTI: End of October. It goes
25 mid-September to end of October.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Robbin.

28
29 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
30 this year, the beginning of the fall meeting cycle is
31 September 15th, so that's -- I think our first Council,
32 the Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council meets in
33 mid-September and the last Councils are held the last
34 couple of days in October, and that's the usual
35 timeframe. And we have a similar window, like mid-
36 February through the end of March for our winter
37 meetings.

38
39 MS. MCDAVID: And, Mr. Chair, if I can,
40 this is Brooke. That window has shifted a little bit
41 over the years, sometimes it's a little bit larger,
42 sometimes a little bit shorter, it's not something
43 that's necessarily like set in regulations, it can be,
44 you know, adjusted. We've tried to make it a little
45 more compact because when we start bleeding too far
46 into the late fall we get, you know, too close to the
47 next meeting cycle and when we start early people are
48 still busy, so this is kind of where we landed as a
49 happy medium as of late.

50

0202

1 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I'm kind of
2 thinking, though, that they don't necessarily all have
3 to be at a work session, why aren't they all at our
4 Federal Board meeting and we have a day there where
5 we're doing this, because we have a pre-briefing day
6 and we have a half a day there and there's an
7 opportunity for us then and they're here anyway and so
8 they've already done their cycle of meetings, they got
9 their topics, they're fresh and we're going into a
10 cycle and it's just -- I'm looking at the timeline
11 there as an opportunity as well. Just food for
12 thought.

13
14 Rebecca and then Louis.

15
16 MS. SKINNER: Yeah. I totally
17 appreciate the efficiency and the financial efficiency
18 and we're already at Board meeting. To me, one of the
19 big differences with the work session is the kind of
20 stuff you're working on, so like the annual report
21 policy discussions, the correspondence discussions. If
22 I recall you don't really have that at the regulatory
23 meeting because you're doing all the regulatory stuff.
24 And I think -- in my opinion, it can be really
25 important that you get feedback from the RAC Chairs on
26 some of that stuff, even if it's, you know, Board
27 policy, how the Board's going to do stuff, it does
28 impact how -- like how we're doing what we're doing, or
29 we might have information to share that might change
30 how you're thinking about how you want to set those
31 policies.

32
33 So for me there is a difference with
34 the topic.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Oh, and that's
37 why I thought that might be a good time, preempting our
38 meeting, you know, with the RAC Chairs, you know,
39 either that or in November, but I'm just saying, you
40 know, that would be a whole 'nother situation. I'm
41 just looking at it as, you know, what we're seeing.

42
43 MS. MCDAVID: Or April.

44
45 MS. LAVINE: Every other year instead
46 of.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: I guess we'll
49 get to that horse when we get there. Right now, firm,
50

0203

1 February 2nd to the 5th. Summer work session is up for
2 debate, you guys could just monkey poll us and we'll
3 figure that out. Later is better for me. I mean I'll
4 just throw that out there.

5

6 MR. WOODS: Same here.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Yeah, later is
9 later for me, August 5th through 6th, is -- further
10 down the summer you can get is better for me and
11 September is awesome.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: So we'll throw
16 that date up for chop up, go ahead, Glenn.

17

18 MR. GLENN: So, Mr. Chair, I think
19 delaying the annual report work session to the fall
20 would be fine, counterwise, but the other thing that we
21 cover during our summer session is these RAC
22 nominations and they have to be dealt with in mid-
23 summer in order to have those folks seated by the first
24 of the year so that's a consideration that we have to
25 keep in mind.

26

27 MS. LAVINE: Mr. Chair. Glenn, that's
28 a great observation. We usually tie, all Council, kind
29 of business together with the work session, however,
30 the Council nominations are held in an executive
31 session, off the record, and that is -- and it's very
32 limited in who attends so it would be only for the
33 Board members, we wouldn't be looking at Council member
34 attendance and so we could, if we needed to, separate
35 public Council business from the appointment session.
36 It's another option to explore.

37

38 MS. LEONETTI: So Staff will look into
39 options for down the road for the summer --
40 quote/unquote, summer work session, and float those to
41 the Board via email and we'll discuss it at the next
42 meeting -- okay.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Well, I just
45 want to thank the Staff for your hard work. I
46 appreciate the Regional Advisory Councils for all their
47 input this week. Like I said, I think we gave the
48 record enough for direction for us, as a Board, to
49 develop what we need to, I mean that was the work
50

0204

1 session -- probably one of the better work sessions
2 that we've had as far as being able to interact face-
3 to-face and hear what it is that we do so I appreciate
4 this venue that we had, and a motion to adjourn.

5

6 MR. BROWER: So moved.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: Motion been
9 made, seconded.

10

11 MR. PENDERGAST: Second.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CHRISTIANSON: All right, no
14 opposition, motion to adjourn carries.

15

16 (Off record)

17

18 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

19

20

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing, contain a full, true and
12 correct Transcript of the FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD
13 MEETING WORK SESSION taken electronically by our firm
14 on the 5th day of August 2026;

15

16 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
17 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
18 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print
19 to the best of our knowledge and ability;

20

21 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
22 interested in any way in this action.

23

24 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 11th day of
25 August 2026.

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